

2021 MARYLAND STATE PRIORITIES

1

HB 119/SB 313

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS, EARLY DETECTION, AND DIAGNOSIS

This legislation mandates that the Maryland Department of Health, in partnership with the Department of Aging, the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council, and the Alzheimer's Association, must incorporate information in its relevant public health outreach programs to educate health care providers and the public.

This education includes the importance of early detection and timely diagnosis, the value of an annual wellness visit, and increased awareness about early warning signs of Alzheimer's and related dementia (ADRD). It also requires specific outreach to Black and Latino communities, who are at greater risk of developing ADRD.

2

HB 141/SB 275

BUILD A DEMENTIA CAPABLE WORKFORCE

This legislation requires initial and annual continuing education training for residential service agency (RSA) staff about Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. In Maryland, there are over 1200 RSAs who provide supportive home care services, and they are not required to be trained (on hiring) about how to work with the individuals experiencing Alzheimer's and other dementia who they aid.

This legislation mandates that training on issues including: person-centered focus, assessment and care planning, medical management, and dementia-related behaviors.

3

HB 416/SB 204

ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF CARE IN RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

This legislation requires the Maryland Department of Health to issue regulations for memory care units at assisted living facilities, and to address specific areas through that process, which include: admissions and discharge criteria, staff training requirements, and procedures to reduce social isolation among residents. Assisted living facility regulations have not been updated since 2008. Updated, clear regulatory guidance is essential as memory care units hold themselves out as providing additional or specialized care to people with a diagnosis of probable Alzheimer's or other dementia.

4

COALITION PRIORITIES

Health Equity Resource Communities

This legislation, via a one cent per dollar increase in the alcohol tax, will provide grants, tax initiatives, and health care provider loan repayment assistance to locations in the state with poor health outcomes that contribute to health inequities.

Essential Workers Protection Act

This legislation mandates worker rights including: access to personal protective equipment, emergency action plans, and the right to refuse dangerous work.

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