

Testimony of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters
SB 527 - Elderly Individuals - Howard County and Montgomery County Adult Day Health Care Services Pilot Program and Task Force
Position: Favorable with Amendment

Chair Kelley and Vice-Chair Feldman

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 527, which establishes the Howard County and Montgomery County Adult Day Health Care Services Pilot Program in Howard County and Montgomery County to integrate the provision of medical adult day care services, home health care services, and medical services provided under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; it also authorizes Howard County and Montgomery County to jointly authorize the operation of one or more integrator entities to coordinate services provided under the pilot program.

Adult day centers offer people with Alzheimer's and other dementias the opportunity to be social and to participate in activities in a safe environment, which provides relief for Maryland's 238,000 adult dementia caregivers. If you are a caregiver that works during the day, an adult day center can be very helpful as you try to balance a job with caregiving duties. For people with Alzheimer's and dementia, adult day centers provide a chance to be social and to participate in staffed activities such as music and exercise programs. Across Maryland, as we face an extraordinary need for home and community-based services—which come at a less expensive cost than institutional care—coupled with an aging population, including a projected 18 percent growth in the number of residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, these facilities are fundamentally important.

REQUESTED AMENDMENT

The Alzheimer's Association supports this legislation, but requests an amendment, to increase the consumer voice on the proposed task force. Following page 6, line 13, add a sentence which reads, "Two Maryland residents, from Montgomery or Howard County, which represent the caregiver and consumer perspective of adult day services."

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony. We ask for a favorable report, with this amendment included to the existing text of Senate Bill 527. We believe this presents an important necessary addition to strengthen adult day services in Maryland.