



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

**Marc Elrich**  
*County Executive*

March 24, 2022

TO: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich  
County Executive

RE: SB 27, Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia – Council and Coordination of  
Services (Dementia Services Act of 2022), Support

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Montgomery County seeks to ensure a high quality of life for all residents throughout their lifetimes. The County has committed to being designated as both an Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly community. We recognize that some residents and their families will be affected by dementia and that they may need extra support to live well in the community.

I encourage the State to create the infrastructure necessary to support people with dementia and their caregivers. One way to do that is by designating a State Director of Dementia Services and Brain Health in charge of implementing the State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease, as would be required by enactment of Senate Bill 27. The bill also details the composition and work of the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Council. As we know, the best laid plans go astray or can be neglected when personnel are not specifically assigned to implementation, and Senate Bill 27 would ensure that the State's plan is fully realized and able to benefit as many Marylanders as possible.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report.