



L.E.G. Alert

Legislative Education Group (L.E.G.)

SERVING MARYLAND'S VULNERABLE POPULATIONS FOR OVER 30 YEARS

March 2009

KEEP SENIORS SAFE

Dear L.E.G. Member:

We write asking you to **support** legislation that requires the Maryland State Police to establish a Silver Alert Program which will help locate missing seniors who suffer from cognitive impairments including Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The proposal is **HB 317 / SB 303 – Silver Alert Program – Establishment**.

Background:

- Maryland currently uses an AMBER Alert system which activates urgent bulletins to help locate children who have been abducted.
- Currently, Maryland *does not* have a similar alert system to locate missing vulnerable adults.

HB 317 / SB 303 Would:

- Require the State Police to establish a Silver Alert Program to quickly disseminate information to help find a missing person who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or other cognitive impairment.
- Require the State Police to develop procedures for issuing a Silver Alert when there is a threat to the health and safety of the missing person.
- Require the State Police to provide training and assistance to local law enforcement agencies to help in the safe recovery of a missing vulnerable adult.
- Require the State Police to work with the State Highway Administration, television and radio broadcasters, local volunteer groups, and other members of the public to develop and implement the Silver Alert Program.
- Require the State Police to consult with the Maryland Department of Education to develop a program allowing high school students to assist in the search for a missing person as part of their required student service learning.

Why Support HB 317 / SB 303?

- HB 317 / SB 303 would help the police find missing adults whose health and safety are at risk due to their age and / or health.
- As the population of older Marylanders is rapidly increasing, HB 317 / SB 303 will provide a much-needed system to assist with the safe return of vulnerable adults who may become lost and confused as they navigate their daily lives.



What Can I Do?

Write or Send an Email

We have an opportunity to support this legislation to require the Maryland State Police to establish a Silver Alert Program, like the AMBER Alert system for abducted children, to help locate missing vulnerable adults. Your action is particularly important to older Marylanders who suffer from dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or other cognitive impairment and their families and caregivers. These bills can help save lives.

Write or email a brief note to the legislator from your jurisdiction on the House Judiciary Committee and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee (*List follows*). If your legislator does not serve on the House Judiciary or Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, please send a note to the Chairpersons.

A "Sample Alert Letter" is enclosed on the following page to help you with your letter.

Thank you for your willingness to speak out in support of this very important legislation which will assist with the safe recovery of older Marylanders who are missing and at risk due to their age, health or other condition. A quick response system is necessary to protect missing vulnerable adults from threats to their health and safety. When writing or emailing your letter please be sure to include the House Bill Number and the Senate Bill Number (HB 317 / SB 303).

Sincerely,

Joan Marie Stief, OGB

Sister Joan Marie Stief
L.E.G. Coordinator
Parish Social Ministry

"The signs of humanity frailty which are clearly connected with advanced age becomes a summons to the mutual dependence and indispensable solidarity which link the different generations, inasmuch as every person needs others..."

**~ To The Elderly" 10/1/99 letter
Pope John Paul II**

S A M P L E " A L E R T " L E T T E R

Delegate's Name
House Office Building, Room #
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator's Name
Miller Senate Office Building OR James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SUPPORT of HB 317 / SB 303 – Silver Alert Program – Establishment

Dear Delegate OR Senator OR Chairman:

As a Maryland resident who cares about the health and safety of our vulnerable adult Marylanders, I support HB 317 / SB 303.

With a rapidly increasing senior population, more and more Marylanders are suffering from Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other cognitive impairments. Due to their cognitive impairment, they are at greater risk of becoming disoriented and lost. If they become lost, their health and safety will be at great risk. Maryland needs a system, similar to the AMBER Alert for abducted children, to ensure a quick response by police and a rapid dissemination of information to help locate the missing adult.

HB 317 / SB 303 which requires the State Police to establish a Silver Alert Program will help ensure the safe return of vulnerable adults who are missing and need supervision.

I urge you to vote **FOR** HB 317 / SB 303!

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Your Address

Senate Judicial Proceedings

Chair: Brian E. Frosh

brian.frosh@senate.state.md.us

Vice Chair: Lisa A. Gladden

lisa.gladden@senate.state.md.us

James Brochin

jim.brochin@senate.state.md.us

Jennie M. Forehand

jennie.forehand@senate.state.md.us

Larry E. Haines

larry.haines@senate.state.md.us

Nancy Jacobs

nancy.jacobs@senate.state.md.us

Alexander X. Mooney

alex.mooney@senate.state.md.us

C. Anthony Muse

anthony.muse@senate.state.md.us

Jamie Raskin

jamie.raskin@senate.state.md.us

Bryan W. Simonaire

bryan.simonaire@senate.state.md.us

Norman R. Stone, Jr.

norman.stone@senate.state.md.us

To find out who your legislators are go to <http://mdelect.net/>.

If you do not have web access, call me at 410.261.6782.

House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.

joseph.vallario@house.state.md.us

Vice Chair: Samuel I. Rosenberg

samuel.rosenberg@house.state.md.us

Curt Anderson

curt.anderson@house.state.md.us

Ben Barnes

ben.barnes@house.state.md.us

Jill P. Carter

jill.carter@house.state.md.us

Frank M. Conaway, Jr.

frank.conaway@house.state.md.us

Kathleen M. Dumais

kathleen.dumais@house.state.md.us

Don H. Dwyer, Jr.

don.dwyer@house.state.md.us

William J. Frank

william.frank@house.state.md.us

J. B. Jennings

jb.jennings@house.state.md.us

Kevin Kelly

kevin.kelly@house.state.md.us

Benjamin F. Kramer

benjamin.kramer@house.state.md.us

Susan C. Lee

susan.lee@house.state.md.us

Gerron S. Levi

gerron.levi@house.state.md.us

Susan K. McComas

susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us

Tony McConkey

tony.mcconkey@house.state.md.us

Victor R. Ramirez

victor.ramirez@house.state.md.us

Todd L. Schuler

todd.schuler@house.state.md.us

Luiz R. S. Simmons

luiz.simmons@house.state.md.us

Michael D. Smigiel, Sr.

michael.smigiel@house.state.md.us

Kriselda Valderrama

kris.valderrama@house.state.md.us

Jeffrey D. Waldstreicher

jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us