



## Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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### House Bill 0274

#### In Support Of

### Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times

### Health and Government Operations Committee

Hearing: February 21, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Ariana Kelly, Vice Chair, and distinguished Health and Government Operations Committee members,

### Maryland Retired School Personnel Association strongly supports House Bill 0274 Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times.

We strongly support this legislation as we believe it will benefit all seeking care in our state's emergency rooms as well as the personnel working in emergency rooms and hospitals. With the average wait time in Maryland emergency rooms reaching almost four hours, something must be done. Setting up a task force that includes many of the stakeholders, specifically medical staff in an emergency room, patient advocacy organizations and a member of the Maryland Hospital Association, in addition to the Secretary of Health, is the first step to reducing wait times in emergency rooms. As has been publicized in the press, wait time in Maryland emergency rooms is untenable. Swift action is needed.

The goals for this Task Force are to identify potential solutions and to study best practices speak to the need to protect all our citizens right now. Patients who come to the ER are often in desperate need of immediate help sometimes with life threatening conditions. We need to reduce the risk to vulnerable patients of all ages and help the overburdened ER staff. Understanding the underlying causes of the long wait times and seeking best practices from other states will be crucial to finding solutions.

On behalf of the over 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we strongly urge a favorable report on HB 0274.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Duls  
President

Virginia G. Crespo  
Legislative Aide