

Bill No. HB 274 **Committee: House Health and Government Operations**
Title: Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times
Hearing Date: February 21, 2023 **Position:** Support with Amendment
Witness: Shirley Devaris, RN, BSAD, MSA, JD (shirleydevaris@yahoo.com)

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the committee.

Thank you Delegate Bhandari for sponsoring this bill.

I am offering testimony in support of this bill based on first hand knowledge of an excessive wait time in a local Emergency Department (ED). My daughter was told to take her 92 year old father to the emergency department for admission because his surgeon could not direct admit. They waited in the reception area for 12 hours before being admitted to an ED bed and then an additional 10 hours before he was admitted to an inpatient bed, This is the United States of America: not a developing country. We should be doing better.

The study is needed. My suggestion is that the bill be amended to add a consumer member. Someone who is not involved with providing medical services would lend a balanced perspective to the task force.

Amendment: On Page 1, Paragraph (b) (4) add, **(IV) A CONSUMER MEMBER.**

Thank you.