

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 274

Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times
Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee

By Anna Trejo

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Honorable Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 274 which would create a task force on reducing emergency department wait times. Last week I waited in an emergency room for 15 hours before I was offered a room with a bed in the middle of the night, and that bed was still in the emergency department. I am grateful that I was eventually admitted to the hospital, but nobody should have to wait in an emergency department that long. I have cancer and an autoimmune disorder. I was exhausted and worried about being exposed to viruses while waiting for such a long time in the emergency department, but had no choice but to be there because I urgently needed health care. Maryland has some of the longest wait times in the nation, and a task force is needed to examine this issue. I urge you to give a favorable report to House Bill 274.

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