



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Victoria Venable, Legislative Director

HB 84 – Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers – Sepsis Protocol (Lochlin’s Law)

DATE: February 15, 2024
COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give HB 84 – Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers – Sepsis Protocol (Lochlin’s Law) a favorable report.

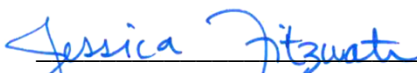
This bill will require that all hospitals and urgent care centers in the State implement a protocol for the early recognition and treatment of a patient with sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock.

Currently, the State does not have a requirement, or uniform protocol, for the early detection and treatment of sepsis. This lack of regulation has led to the loss of life that was preventable had there been clear detection guidelines in place. 87% of sepsis cases begin in the community, leading to 1 out of 3 deaths in hospitals caused by sepsis. This legislation has the potential to significantly improve patient outcomes, reduce the mortality rate associated with sepsis, and enhance the overall quality of healthcare in Maryland.

HB 84 is incredibly important to preventing loss of life in Maryland. The requirement for hospitals and urgent care centers to implement these protocols by January 1, 2025, provides a clear timeline for action, while the detailed components of the protocol ensure a standardized approach to sepsis treatment across the state. This includes the screening and early recognition of sepsis, hemodynamic support guidelines, fluid resuscitation for infants and children, early antibiotic treatment, and the use of vasoactive agents, all of which are crucial for the effective management of sepsis. This bill will also require refresher trainings on sepsis detection, further ensuring that all relevant hospital and urgent care staff are prepared to stop preventable loss of life.

I am proud of the community effort around this initiative and the ongoing advocacy from the Love for Lochlin Foundation. Brooke and Bill DeSantis started the Foundation to spread awareness and protect as many people as possible from the deadly impacts of the Influenza virus and sepsis following the tragic loss of their 5-year-old son to flu-sepsis. The service and education provided by this organization has greatly benefited Frederick County and passing this legislation would expand that impact across the State.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 84. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD