

HB0084_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

2/15//2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0084 – FAVORABLE

Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers - Sepsis Protocol (Lochlin's Law)

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0084, Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers - Sepsis Protocol (Lochlin's Law)

Health care facilities in Maryland have a responsibility to provide an appropriate level of care. The failure of a hospital to recognize and diagnose a case of sepsis in a young child's visit to that hospital resulted in the loss of that child's life. This was a preventable death had there been a protocol in place to have evidence-based protocols for early recognition and treatment of a patient with sepsis of any degree.

This bill will require hospitals and urgent care centers to conduct periodic staff training on protocols for diagnosis and recognition of possible sepsis in a patient. Patient care should always seek to recognize and develop treatment for any patient they are seeing in any possible condition that could degrade the patients' health or result in possible death if untreated. This bill is a good faith attempt to ensure no other parent is faced with the loss of their child when sepsis was present but unrecognized and treated.

My Jewish faith teaches me, in Psalms 82:3-4, "Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." This bill will retain the rights of the afflicted to access a level of care from whatever medical facility or personnel they encounter. It is both an ethical and moral thing to do and this bill will ensure that it happens; no other child need die from untreated sepsis.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0084.