



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bonnie Cullison
Vice Chair, Economic Matters Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison

I would like to express my full support for *House Bill 84 - Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers - Sepsis (Lochlin's Law)*, named after 5 year old Frederick County resident Lochlin DeSantis, who passed away tragically after a rapid-onsetting sepsis infection that was not properly diagnosed.

Sepsis is one of the leading causes of death in U.S. hospitals. Each year 6,800 children die from severe Sepsis. In Maryland, this condition claims the lives of about 1,100 Marylanders. The risk of mortality from this life threatening condition increases 4-9% every hour that treatment is delayed. As many as 80% of Septic Shock patients can be saved with a rapid diagnosis and treatment.

In order to prevent further tragedies at the hands of Sepsis, Maryland needs proper protocols for medical facilities like those laid out in HB84. It lays out a proactive approach that has hospitals and urgent care centers implement evidence based protocols for the early recognition and treatment of patients with Sepsis.

Similar practices have been implemented in New York State. Dr. Jeremy Khan, who published a study on the effect of the regulations said; "these regulations had their intended effect of reducing mortality." The results were published in JAMA, the journal of the American Medical Association. Furthermore, the NIH published an article praising New York's regulations, stating the state's sepsis policy demonstrates that "it is possible to design these policies in ways that are acceptable to hospitals and achieve substantial positive results."

Maryland should not wait any longer to enact policies that can save lives. It is time for all medical facilities in Maryland to use generally acceptable standards of care to recognize and treat Sepsis. The time is now to pass HB84.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone", is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

David Trone
Member of Congress