



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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March 31, 2022

Delegate Shane Pendergrass  
Chair, HGO

Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
Vice Chair, HGO

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland (LBCM) has voted to offer **favorable** support for HB1188- Sickle Cell Disease. This legislation requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to conduct studies: on individuals who provide medical services in emergency departments and their knowledge of SCD.

In addition the bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to establish and implement a system of providing information on the Sickle Cell Trait to certain individuals; the Department to maintain a website of resources and update the resources; requires the State Board to include certain information and resources in the renewal notices sent to licensees; and general information for individuals and health care practitioners on SCD and trait. It also requires physicians/medical providers to refer minor patients who has SCD to a hematologist for a transcranial doppler ultrasound to monitor the effect of the lack of blood flow to the brain and allow hematologists to initiate therapies to negate strokes.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is one of the world's foremost, potential lethal, genetic diseases that has severe physical, psychological and social consequences for those affected and their families. Sick Cell Disease is largely found in the African American communities. It occurs among about 1 out of 365 African-American births. About 1 in 13 African American babies is born with the Sickle Cell Trait. SCD can be treated but not easily cured so lifelong care to prevent or treat problems from SCD is critical. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, Inc. supports HB 1188. Respectfully,

*Darryl Barnes*

Darryl Barnes  
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus  
of Maryland

*Melissa Wells*

Melissa Wells  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Legislative Black  
Caucus of Maryland