

EDITH J. PATTERSON, ED.D.
Legislative District 28
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Local Revenues

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Chair, Southern Maryland
House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 429
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3247 · 301-858-3247
800-492-7122 Ext. 3247
Edith.Patterson@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 1188:
Public Health - Sickle Cell Disease**

April 1, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Kelley, Vice-Chairman Feldman and Committee Members of Finance Committee:

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is one of the world's foremost potentially lethal, genetic diseases, that has severe physical, psychological and social consequences for those affected and their families. SCD can be treated but not easily cured, so lifelong care to prevent or treat problems from SCD is critical. Data show it occurs among approximately 1 out of every 767 births in Maryland and 1 out of every 256 African American births in Maryland. The estimated number of patients in MD include: 2880 adults and 1920 pediatrics with a total of 4800.

House Bill 1188 - Public Health - Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a compilation of ideas presented in four Sickle Cell bills – HB1188, HB1170, HB1176 and HB1192. The bill asks the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to:

- establish and implement a system of providing information on the sickle cell trait or the thalassemia trait to individuals diagnosed with those traits;
- requires MDH to enhance access to online resources and community events for individuals with SCD as well as health care practitioners;
- study and make recommendations on the idea of a registry;
- enhance services for individuals transitioning from pediatric to adult care;
- and, identify a timeline for the submission of the report and recommendations.

All of the stakeholders worked carefully to ensure that HB1188 is a strong bill that will increase awareness, provide critical resources and bolster our abilities to advocate for Sickle Cell services.

I am seeking favorable report for this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith Patterson".