

Rudolph Williams
Sickle Cell Communities in Maryland
District 34B
Harford County, Maryland

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1176/SB 859 Sickle Cell Disease Registry**

Dr. Sophie Lanzkron, Director of SC Center at Johns Hopkins and Co-Chairman of the Maryland Statewide Steering Committee on Services to Adults with Sickle Cell Disease is a Hematologist whose practice is predominantly treating those suffering from SCD. As such, she agrees that a Registry of those suffering from SCD would identify where our “Warriors” live in Maryland and report that such patients are often in remote or rural areas in Maryland.

Sadly there are NO SCD trained hematologists in Harford and Cecil counties or the rural counties of the Eastern Shore. Shockingly, the Eastern Shore has more than double the population of SC Warriors than Harford/Cecil combined. There is a minimum of four times the number of positive Sickle Cell Trait tests on the Eastern Shore than Harford/Cecil combined based on infant screening results.

The vast majority of SC Warriors are traveling to Baltimore, Delaware, Washington, DC and Virginia for expert health care. A Sickle Cell Registry would identify where there needs to be expert SC care and the proper health facilities for the care of our SC Warriors.

The Association for the Prevention of Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc. of Harford, Cecil Counties and Eastern Shore are only aware of eighteen Warriors in Harford County, two Warriors in Cecil County, and 5 on the Eastern Shore. Most certainly there are many more and they too need expert care.

Just last week at the Sickle Cell Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital, a pastor had to drive a Warrior in a painful crisis to the Center from the Eastern Shore because the infusion center on the Eastern Shore could not provide expert care. We must rectify this horrific lacking in medical care in our great State.

I URGE YOU TO ENTER A FAVORABLE REPORT FOR HB 1176. The bill is also cross filed as SB859.