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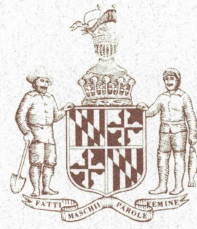
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1170/SB 883 Sickle Cell Disease Health Fair

The Maryland Statewide Steering Committee on Services to Adults with Sickle Cell Disease was established with statutory authority in October 2007. *See Health General Md. Ann. Code §18-507.* In December 2008, the Committee issued its report advising the public and its officials of the situation in Maryland: Expanding Comprehensive Services for Adults with Sickle Cell Disease. After the report was issued, the Committee went dormant until it was reactivated in 2019 by Governor Hogan. Dr. Lanzkron, Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee opines the lack of funding to support sickle cell outreach programs as proposed in HB1170, but that doesn't lessen the need for such outreach.

Although testing for SCD is done at birth in Maryland, many mothers do not remember the results of such tests. This is somewhat underscored by the lack of counseling that should be provided at the time that such test results are disclosed. Counseling is in fact an important component of treatment. Health care fairs are an excellent way of providing information as to the resources for treatment and counseling as to psychosocial issues and genetic considerations.

Health Care Fairs are not the fix all solution to the medical needs of the SCD Warriors. However, this is a step in the right direction in an effort to determine and treat those already afflicted, while distributing information that is shrouded by the lack of service providers that are trained in diagnosis and treatment of the chronic illnesses as a result of the disease.

Testing and subsequent counseling will aid those in the future to make decisions in family planning and treatments to be sought to address the catastrophic and painful effects of the disease.

Health Fairs could be conducted in those areas that have a concentration of SCD cases in Maryland at the outset and expanded as the results and concentration of patients are determined. Let's provide the support for these outreaches to our fellow Marylanders.

PLEASE ENTER A FAVORABLE REPORT FOR HB 1170. The bill is also cross filed as SB883.