

EDITH J. PATTERSON, ED.D.

Legislative District 28
Charles County

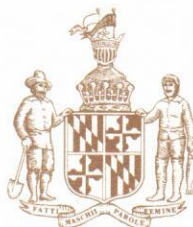
Ways and Means Committee

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 and Trait - Information for Individuals and Health
Care Practitioners**

March 7, 2022

Dear Chairman Shane Pendergrass, Vice-Chairman Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members of Health and Government Operations:

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) and Trait - Information for Individuals and Health Care Practitioners requires the Maryland Department of Health to establish and implement a system of providing information on the sickle cell trait or the thalassemia trait to individuals diagnosed with the sickle cell trait of the thalassemia trait or an individual's family.

The Bill further requires the Department to maintain on its website a certain list of resources for health care practitioners and establish a plan for updating its website to meet certain requirements. House Bill 1188 provides specified services for the individuals through the Maryland Department of Health.

I am seeking favorable report for this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Edith Patterson