

SB 493 - TidalHealth Testimony in Support - House

Uploaded by: brian quinn

Position: FAV

March 27, 2023

On behalf of TidalHealth Peninsula Regional trauma center, this is written to express our strong **support** for Senate Bill 493 – Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland.

TidalHealth is the oldest, largest, and most complex healthcare system on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Founded in 1897, TidalHealth has hospitals in Maryland and Delaware, with 30 different sites of services and joint ventures across seven counties.

At TidalHealth's flagship hospital is located in Salisbury, and we provide complex services in a rural setting. In addition to being one of a handful of dedicated trauma providers, we are the only trauma center on Maryland's Eastern Shore. With that said, our trauma service is in jeopardy, and this bill is one avenue to ensure proper care remains for all of Maryland.

TidalHealth Peninsula Regional is the second busiest trauma center based on activations behind Shock Trauma. In the past four years, residents from every single one of Maryland's 24 counties were treated at our trauma center. In the summer, more than 8 million people visit the Shore. Accidents do happen, therefore trauma services at TidalHealth Peninsula Regional are not just an Eastern Shore concern; this should be on the radar for every single elected representative as their constituents have used our trauma center in Salisbury. It is greater than a two-hour ambulance drive to the nearest trauma center. This drive time will impact lives saved, disabilities, and access to timely care.

TidalHealth is advocating for proper trauma funding through several avenues, including SB 493. As you know, the trauma fund was developed during the 2003 legislative session as a mechanism to aid Maryland's trauma program. Since that time, a comprehensive review of the Maryland trauma system and the fund has not occurred — even as the needs of the system have grown and the cost of operating a trauma program has significantly increased. At TidalHealth, it costs more to run the trauma program than we receive from the fund. There is a significant delta.

At TidalHealth, we fully support SB 493 and encourage you to pass it. We want to ensure Maryland has the most contemporary trauma funding program, and this can only happen

through the establishment of a task force to study the adequacy of trauma funding across Maryland for operating, capital, and workforce costs.

The only trauma center on the Eastern Shore is in jeopardy and, without your support, residents across Maryland are at risk. We urge you to pass this bill, allowing us to continue our excellent care on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Leonard".

Steven E. Leonard, PhD, MBA, FACHE
President/CEO
TidalHealth, Inc

SB 493 Testimony - House - Carozza_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3645 · 301-858-3645
800-492-7122 Ext. 3645
Fax 410-841-3006 · 301-858-3006
MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2023

The House Appropriations Committee

SB 493 – Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you, Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the distinguished House Appropriations Committee for allowing me to present Senate Bill 493 – Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland. SB 493 was approved unanimously by the full Senate with all of the members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee cosponsoring the bill.

Senate Bill 493 would establish a task force to study the adequacy of trauma funding across Maryland for operating, capital, and workforce costs, which according to the fiscal note, can be managed with existing resources and has no State or local impact. Typically, hospitals do not have the ability to adequately manage all forms of traumatic injury or staff the required sub-specialists needed for such intensive care. When a hospital commits to being a trauma center, they are required by statute to be staffed and equipped to swiftly treat severe life-threatening conditions such as falls, motor vehicle crashes, or gunshot wounds and provide resuscitative care. Trauma surgeons, other specialists, and ancillary support staff are required to be in-house or on-call 24 hours a day in a trauma center. All of this means that trauma centers require significant resources to operate effectively.

For background, in 2003, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that created the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund to aid Maryland's trauma system by reimbursing trauma physicians for uncompensated care losses and by raising Medicaid payments to 100% of the Medicare rate when a Medicaid patient receives trauma care at a designated trauma center. In the twenty years that have passed there has been no comprehensive review of this Fund despite the industry growing and evolving.

Unfortunately, the reason this legislation is before you is because we know the Fund is not as effective as it was intended to be. TidalHealth Peninsula Regional is the Eastern Shore's only trauma center and serves 500,000 residents and three million visitors each year, playing an integral part of Maryland Trauma Center System. It is critically underfunded. At last estimate, TidalHealth receives from the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund less than 10 percent of the total cost it requires to remain a trauma center. Many other trauma centers are experiencing similar funding challenges and it has been decades since this issue has been comprehensively studied.

This legislation is supported by the Maryland Health Care Commission, the Maryland Hospital Association, the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Institute for EMS Systems, the

University of Maryland Capital Region Health, Lifebridge Health, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Western Maryland, TraumaNet, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission, TidalHealth Peninsula Regional, and Johns Hopkins.

The State of Maryland is home to ten trauma centers that provide vital, lifesaving care every day. A thorough review of the trauma system is needed. I truly appreciate your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully ask for a swift and favorable report on SB 493.