

TraumaNet



HB 675
Favorable

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Raymond Fang, MD, FACS
Chair, TraumaNet

DATE: March 9, 2023

TraumaNet supports **HB 675 – Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland**. We appreciate the interest of the sponsors to support our state's trauma care system to deliver emergent care to our fellow Marylanders after injury.

TraumaNet is a multidisciplinary advocacy group focused on optimizing trauma care within Maryland with representation from each of the State's designated trauma centers and specialty referral centers. TraumaNet develops and promotes excellence in trauma care in Maryland by focusing on issues related to clinical care, research, education, injury prevention and healthcare policy. TraumaNet works closely with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) to foster a collaborative statewide approach to trauma care.

In 2003, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation to create the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund ('Trauma Fund') to financially assist Maryland's trauma centers by providing: (1) payments for uninsured and underinsured trauma care, (2) biennial equipment grants for Level II and III trauma centers, and (3) reimbursement for the 24/7 availability of trauma surgery, neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery at the Level I, II and III centers as well as anesthesia at the Level III centers. The Maryland Health Care Commission has been an excellent steward in administering the Trauma Fund. However, State support of the trauma care has not been comprehensively reviewed in the subsequent 20 years beyond regular monitoring of the Trauma Fund.

Maryland has historically led the Nation in trauma care innovation. With the launch of MIEMSS in 1973, Maryland created the first organized statewide trauma system. Increasing trauma care costs in a challenging medical economic landscape hinders continued excellence. The proposed Commission would study trauma center funding to not only provide an assessment on its adequacy but also potential recommendations for action.

Maryland's trauma centers and trauma system only exist to care for our fellow citizens at time of potential life-saving and life-changing need. TraumaNet urges a favorable report on HB 675.

cc: Members, House Appropriations Committee