



March 9, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 493 – Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) supports the passage of Senate Bill 493, to establish a Commission to study trauma center funding in Maryland. Access to high quality trauma care is crucial for the health of the people of Maryland. HSCRC believes that it is appropriate to conduct a comprehensive study of funding for trauma care in Maryland to ensure that this access to care is maintained for all regions of the State.

The Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund in 2003 to aid Maryland's trauma system. The Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund ("Trauma Fund" or "Fund") covers the costs of medical care provided by trauma physicians at Maryland's designated trauma centers for uncompensated care, Medicaid-enrolled patients, trauma related on-call and standby expenses, and trauma equipment grants. The Fund is financed through a \$5 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations and renewals. This fee has not been increased in at least 16 years. The Maryland Health Care Commission manages the day-to-day administration of the Trauma Fund and publishes an [annual report](#) on the status of the Fund, which includes policy recommendations. Trauma hospitals in Maryland also receive funding for hospital trauma services through their respective global budget, in accordance with the all-payer rate setting system for hospital services.

HSCRC looks forward to working with the other members of the Commission to review the adequacy of operating, capital, and workforce funding costs for trauma centers. The Commission urges a favorable report on SB 493 to establish a Commission to study trauma center funding in Maryland. If you have any questions or if we may provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at me at katie.wunderlich@maryland.gov or Megan Renfrew, Associate Director of External Affairs, at 410-382-3855 or megan.renfrew1@maryland.gov.

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Sincerely,



Katie Wunderlich
Executive Director