



Commission to Study Trauma Funding in Maryland

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair

Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

March 9, 2023

House Appropriations Committee

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair

Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair

March 9, 2023

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Kristie Snedeker, Vice President of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland Medical Center. I am pleased to be here today in support of HB675 / SB493 the Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in our great state of Maryland. We are also partners along with you, our elected officials in ensuring safety and care of Maryland citizens.

As established by State law, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center is the core element of the State's Emergency Medical Services System and serves as the State's Primary Adult Resource Center (PARC) for the treatment of trauma. Specifically, the law mandates Shock Trauma to serve as (a) the State's primary adult trauma center, (b) the statewide referral center for the treatment of head, spinal and multiple trauma injuries, (c) the regional trauma center for Region III and the southwest quadrant of Baltimore City, and (d) the statewide referral center for patients in need of hyperbaric medical treatment.

The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center is the State's only freestanding trauma hospital and takes care of upwards of 6,000 patients annually and maintains a 97% survival rate. It serves as a vital statewide clinical resource and uniquely maintains an around-the-clock state of readiness in its dedicated trauma resuscitation unit (TRU), operating rooms and recovery rooms. Shock Trauma is the State's safety net for the most seriously injured and ill, receiving at least 30% or more of its volume as transfers from other trauma centers .

Over the past ten years, Shock Trauma has diverted zero patients seeking access directly from the scene. The facility and its staff are organized for on-demand access and treatment of the State's most critically ill and injured patients to a degree unparalleled anywhere. The MIEMSS PARC designation represents the State's highest level of capability and readiness. As a result, the Shock Trauma Center has unique operating and financial requirements that distinguish it from any other Maryland trauma center and are the basis for continued State operating support through the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund (MEMSOF).



The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center is proud of its statutory designation as the core element of the State's Emergency Medical System and grateful to be a recipient off MEMSOF funding alongside MIEMSS, MSP Aviation Command, MSFA and MFRI. Having said that, while MEMSOF funding for Shock Trauma has remained relatively flat over the course of the past 30 years, the costs associated with running the PARC have gone up exponentially.

Maryland's Trauma and EMS System serves as a model for emergency medical care both nationally and internationally. The State's historical investment has meant that lives are saved in Maryland that would be lost elsewhere. However the system has reached an inflection point as hospitals have become less able to subsidize trauma operations. We are collectively looking to this committee and to the General Assembly as a whole to help identify a path forward that will preserve Maryland's world renowned trauma system for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.