



## WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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### WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL

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February 21, 2023

Appropriations Committee  
Attn.: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 675-Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland

Dear Honorable Chairman Barnes and Committee Members:

We are writing this letter in support of House Bill 675, as introduced, to establish a Commission to study trauma center funding in Maryland. Trauma Centers are a valuable resource for our communities but they require substantial financial expenses, and unfortunately, traditional billing systems do not fully recoup the costs. It is important to understand the need for funding mechanisms and the importance of the nature and makeup of trauma centers.

The TidalHealth Peninsula Regional Trauma Care Center in Salisbury, Maryland is the only facility on the entire Eastern Shore and is the second busiest in Maryland due in part to those who vacation in our beach towns.

The trauma center costs over \$22 million per year to operate and is a substantial part of the total operating deficit of TidalHealth, which is projected to be about \$30 million this year and was \$50 million last year. The trauma center is in jeopardy and, if additional funding is not forthcoming, it will need to be reevaluated.

TidalHealth has been working with the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), which is the State's hospital rate-setting authority, in submitting a full rate application, but they were not able to obtain the full trauma care funding needed for its current operations.

Funding trauma care centers in Maryland is a challenge, as it requires an assessment of local, regional and statewide needs. There needs to be a collaboration with legislative teams and trauma leadership to maintain system-level funding.

We thank you for your time and consideration of House Bill 675 as introduced. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Council Office at 410-548-4696.

Sincerely,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



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Julie M. Giordano, County Executive



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John T. Cannon, Council President

cc: Wicomico County Council  
Wicomico County State Delegation