



# Randallstown

**P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133**

February 22, 2023

Finance Committee  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT SB 0387-Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times

Dear Chair Melony Griffith, VC Katherine Klausmeier and Finance Committee Members:

May it be known the mission of the Randallstown NAACP is to secure equal rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and wellbeing of all persons in Baltimore County and the State of Maryland.

In 2022, Maryland was determined to have the longest Emergency Room wait time in all 50 states. Maryland has sustained this low ranking since 2014 — years before the COVID pandemic began. Patients waited an average of 228 minutes in Maryland before they were seen by a healthcare professional. Randallstown NAACP members lament wait times at Northwest Hospital in Randallstown of over 5 hours.

Longer wait times are more than an inconvenience for emergency room patients. According to a 2011 article by the British Medical Journal, longer wait times can lead to greater risk to patients and poorer health outcomes. Researchers estimated that reducing wait times by even an hour would have decreased deaths in lower risk patients by 12.7%. Long emergency wait times were linked to increased risk of adverse events (hospitalization or death within seven days) among non-admitted patients. Other states have found ways to improve wait times in their hospitals. The Maryland General Assembly must take action to protect the most vulnerable citizens who use these hospitals.

**The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on SB 0387..**

yours,

Ryan Coleman  
Randallstown NAACP, President  
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