



MARYLAND
CHAPTER

**AMERICAN COLLEGE
of CARDIOLOGY®**

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Esq.
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Via email: joseline.pena.melnyk@house.state.md.us

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 288 AED PLACEMENT

Dear Delegate Pena-Melnyk:

I am writing to you to encourage you to pass HB288, the bill that would require certain owners and operators of food service facilities to have an automatic external defibrillator (AED) program in place. As the President of the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, a society of just over 1000 cardiovascular specialists from all over the state, we strongly support this bill that will help save lives.

AEDs in community settings have been proven to be of great value – all of us vividly saw the impact on an NFL field only a few weeks ago. In Damar Hamlin’s cardiac arrest, timely resuscitation can help in preventing cardiovascular death and can restore circulation while CPR is performed. Timely resuscitation and shocking of treatable rhythms can help in any case- in malls, in restaurants, in schools etc. Damar made a complete recovery and his life was saved as CPR was performed. The same can be true for potential sudden cardiac arrest patients our state.

In closing I again strongly urge you to support HB 288. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out.

Sincerely,

Garima Sharma, MBBS, FACC
President