



TESTIMONY FOR HB1143

Emergency Medical Services - Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission and Standardized Protocols - Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Bhandari

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1143 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland has the worst emergency room wait times in the nation. It is a disgrace that we make patients wait 8 hours or more just to see an emergency room doctor. Even people who come in by ambulance can often wait hours. Clearly, we are not efficient and have not even learned the lessons that our neighbor states have learned.

This bill, if enacted, would create the Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission in the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems to review the problem and develop strategies to correct it. They would determine best practices and work on development and implementation of standardized protocols and operational efficiencies in hospital emergency departments.

We need this! We should not be proud that we are number one for the worst wait times of any hospital emergency room in the country. We should be embarrassed and try to fix the problem.

Our members support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.