



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Senator Beidle, Chair
The Honorable Senator Klausmeier, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, MD

February 15th, 2024

**Testimony in Support of SB332: Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers - Sepsis Protocol
(Lochlin's Law)**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and esteemed members of this committee,

I bring SB332 Lochlin's Law before you today to address a very solvable issue: sepsis testing and training. This bill will do two things: First, require hospitals across the state to perform an inexpensive, noninvasive test for sepsis, and secondly, require staff to be trained in recognition and treatment of sepsis.

What is sepsis? Sepsis is the body's immune system attacking its own organs in response to an infection. Sepsis can be caused by *any infection*, and infections can be caused by viruses, wounds, bacteria, and fungus. Sepsis can quickly cause organ failure, hypertension, septic shock, and death.

Every hour treatment is delayed, mortality rates increase 8 percent¹. According to the Centers for Disease Control, millions of Americans get sepsis each year and Maryland ranks below 34 other states² in sepsis deaths. Indeed, sepsis is the ninth leading cause of death in Maryland. Sepsis has a 20% mortality rate.

How do we stop it? Sepsis is easily identified through a blood sample. With timely identification it can be treated with antibiotics. Anyone can get sepsis, young or old. According

¹ Sepsis Alliance, "Sepsis Fact Sheet"

https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=AwrJ.VhIksZI3E0fzI8PxQt.;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZANMT0NVSTExNFRfMQRzZWMDc3I-/RV=2/RE=1707541193/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fsepsis.org%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2019%2f08%2fSepsis-FactSheet-v2.pdf/RK=2/RS=Lmlt_Xpl.M7yZfEiKp.SCPzJKE-

² Centers for Disease Control.

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/septicemia_mortality/septicemia.htm. Accessed February 9th, 2024.

to the Maryland Hospital Association, hospitals that voluntarily implemented sepsis protocols saw a 26% reduction in deaths due to sepsis³. Other states suggest that number may be even higher — New York’s pediatric mortality rate improved by 40 percent, saving over 16,000 lives over five years. Regional healthcare systems have also seen positive results from sepsis protocols such as Intermountain Health Care which reduced the sepsis mortality rates from twenty-five percent to nine percent.⁴

What is the cost? In a tight budget year, that is a question many of us are asking ourselves. According to the National Institute of Health, the costs of treating sepsis after early identification range as high as \$16,000 and over \$50,000 when identification and, therefore, treatment are delayed⁵. Intermountain Health Care’s initiative saved \$38 million annually.⁶

This legislation will save lives. It will save money. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I urge the committee to return a favorable report.

Sincerely,



Senator Karen Lewis Young

³ Maryland Hospital Association. 2018 Annual Report.

https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/publications/mha's-2018-annual-report.pdf?sfvrsn=f969db0d_0. Accessed February 9th, 2024.

⁴ McCaffery et al, “Sepsis-review of screening for sepsis by nursing, nurse driven sepsis protocols and development of sepsis hospital policy/protocols.”

“<https://www.oatext.com/Sepsis-review-of-screening-for-sepsis-by-nursing-nurse-driven-sepsis-protocols-and-development-of-sepsis-hospital-policy-protocols.php#:~:text=Similarly%2C%20Regions%20Hospital%20in%20Minnesota,%2438%20million%20annually%20%5B17%5D>.”

⁵ National Institute of Health. “Epidemiology and Costs of Sepsis in the United States—An Analysis Based on Timing of Diagnosis and Severity Level”. National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6250243/>. Accessed February 9th, 2024.

⁶ McCaffery et al, “Sepsis-review of screening for sepsis by nursing, nurse driven sepsis protocols and development of sepsis hospital policy/protocols.”

“<https://www.oatext.com/Sepsis-review-of-screening-for-sepsis-by-nursing-nurse-driven-sepsis-protocols-and-development-of-sepsis-hospital-policy-protocols.php#:~:text=Similarly%2C%20Regions%20Hospital%20in%20Minnesota,%2438%20million%20annually%20%5B17%5D>.”