



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 332 – Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers Sepsis Protocol (Lochlin's Law) – Letter of Support as Amended

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 332 – Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers - Sepsis Protocol (Lochlin's Law), which requires hospitals and urgent care centers within the State of Maryland to implement a specific protocol establishing treatment for and early detection of sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock in patients. SB 332 mandates that hospitals and urgent care centers provide regular staff training to implement sepsis protocols appropriately.

The Department supports the critical health initiative of this bill which requires professional training for sepsis detection and treatment protocols for hospitals and urgent care centers. The Department worked with the sponsors on an amendment to the bill to require specialty psychiatric hospitals to identify sepsis and transfer the individual to a hospital that can provide the appropriate treatment. The Department believes this clarifying amendment ensures patients within a special hospital or urgent care center receive care at an appropriate level of care for treatment of sepsis. The Department supports SB 332 as amended and urges a favorable report.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at Sarah.Case-Herron@Maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary