

HB 178

Support

DATE: February 5, 2026

TO: Maryland General Assembly – Health Committee

FROM: Betty Johnson

RE HB 178 --Support

I am Betty Johnson, resident of Cecil County, MD. I am urging you to vote favorably for HB 178. This bill addresses a critical and overlooked health disparity in many of the rural areas in Maryland such as Cecil County. By having clinics in rural and underserved areas:

- It will ensure geographic equity and reduce travel burdens for sickle cell patients and their families.**
- A model of comprehensive and patient center care will be created that will ensure accessible and expert care close to home via telehealth and onsite visits.**
- Additionally, it will be an investment in our future workforce. Scholarship recipients will be committing to practice in Maryland.**

Therefore, supporting this bill will be a tangible step toward rectifying long-standing disparities in our healthcare system. Also, it will save money by preventing expensive emergency room visits and hospitalizations through proactive managed care.

Henceforth, it will save and improve the lives of Marylanders with Sickle Cell Disease.

Again, I urge your support for HB 178.

Thanks

Betty Johnson

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