



City of  
**Salisbury**  
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

30 March 2022

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Testimony on:** SB 295

**Position:** Favorable

**Re: Favorable support for SB 295 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters – Reimbursement**

Dear Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

As you consider the merits of **SB 295**, I ask that you vote to give this legislation a **Favorable** Committee report.

If enacted, SB 295 would increase the emergency transport reimbursement rate by \$25 each fiscal year until the EMS reimbursement rate is at least \$300. This EMS reimbursement rate increase is vital as our City currently forgoes much-needed funding due to the disparity in the Medicaid reimbursement rate, which often does not cover the cost of providing EMS services. In addition to increasing reimbursement rates, this bill will also provide reimbursements for services provided through a community-based mobile integrated health service.

Here in Salisbury, our Salisbury Wicomico Integrated First Care Team (SWIFT) continues to make great strides in reducing non-emergent emergency department visits by working with individuals who frequently utilize EMS services and helping them to better manage their chronic conditions. In addition to providing preventative care, SWIFT patients are also connected with primary care services and other community resources. Thanks to the continued partnership between our Salisbury Fire Department, Wicomico County volunteer fire companies, and TidalHealth, our SWIFT program has enrolled over 170 patients. While local partnerships have allowed us to positively impact our community and reduce the volume of non-emergent 911 calls, the success of SWIFT has primarily relied upon grant funding.

If enacted, SB 295 will allow SWIFT and other mobile integrated healthcare services throughout Maryland to continue providing crucial community-based care. By enabling the growth of community-based care, in addition to reducing the burden on already strained hospital emergency departments, we will be empowering Marylanders to live healthier lives by offering preventative and primary care.

Considering the many benefits of SB 295, which will help cities such as Salisbury as we continue to meet the healthcare needs of our communities, I ask that you support **SB 295** and pass the bill out of Committee with a **FAVORABLE** report.

Respectfully,

Jacob R. Day  
Mayor