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Legislative District 28  
Charles County

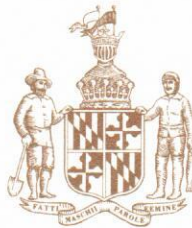
Ways and Means Committee

*Subcommittees*

Local Revenues

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Chair, Southern Maryland  
House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 1185:  
Public Health – Sickle Cell Disease – Referral for Transcranial Doppler Ultrasound**

**March 7, 2022**

Dear Chairman Shane Pendergrass, Vice-Chairman Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members of Health and Government Operations:

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is one of the world's foremost potentially lethal, genetic diseases that has severe physical, psychological and social consequences for those affected and their families. SCD can be treated but not easily cured, so lifelong care to prevent or treat problems from SCD is critical.

Data show it occurs among approximately 1 out of every 767 births in Maryland and 1 out of every 256 African American births in Maryland. The estimated number of patients in MD include: 2880 adults and 1920 pediatrics with a total of 4800.

Transcranial Doppler Ultrasound (TCD) is a test that uses sound waves to see inside of the body. This test shows how fast blood moves through the blood vessels in a child's brain.

House Bill 1185 - Public Health – Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) – Referral for **Transcranial Doppler Ultrasound** requires a physician or an advanced practice nurse, except under certain circumstances, to refer certain minor patients who the physician or advanced practice nurse knows to have sickle cell disease to a hematologist who specializes in sickle cell disease for a transcranial doppler ultrasound. At least once a year a physician or an advanced practice nurse shall refer to a hematologists who specializes in sickle cell disease for a transcranial doppler ultrasound each minor patient of the physician or advanced practice nurse. This legislation will specify those who are at least 2 years old and under the age of 17 years and whom the physician or advanced practice nurse knows to have sickle cell disease be referred.

I am seeking favorable report for this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

*Edith Patterson*