

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 1143 - Emergency Medical Services - Maryland
Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission and
Standardized Protocols - Establishment – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) respectfully submits this Letter of Support on House Bill 1143, “Emergency Medical Services - Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission and Standardized Protocols - Establishment” as amended in the House. HSCRC is committed to improving emergency department wait times in the State of Maryland.

HB 1143 complements work already underway at HSCRC to address emergency department wait times, including the following initiatives.

- **Emergency Department Dramatic Improvement Effort (EDDIE).** EDDIE includes monthly public reporting of three hospital ED wait time measures and hospital rapid-cycle quality improvement initiatives.
- **Development of a proposed ED Potentially Avoidable Utilization Policy.** HSCRC is considering a policy that provides an incentive to hospitals for reduction in the percentage of ED visits accounted for by patients with 4 or more visits per year.
- **Quality Pay-for-Performance Program:** HSCRC staff are developing an ED wait time measure to include in HSCRC’s hospital pay-for-performance quality program. CY 2024 data will be used for rate year 2026 adjustments.

Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Chairman

Joseph Antos, PhD
Vice-Chairman

James N. Elliott, MD

Ricardo R. Johnson

Maulik Joshi, DrPH

Adam Kane, Esq

Nicki McCann, JD

Jonathan Kromm, PhD *****
Executive Director

William Henderson
Director
Medical Economics & Data Analytics

Allan Pack
Director
Population-Based Methodologies

Gerard J. Schmith
Director
Revenue & Regulation Compliance

Claudine Williams
Director
Healthcare Data Management & Integrity

I appreciate the strong interest and support of the General Assembly for improving the experience of Maryland residents in the State's emergency departments. We are happy to discuss our work on this important issue with any member of the Committee.

If you have any questions or if I may provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-251-4211 or jon.kromm@maryland.gov, or Deb Rivkin, Director of Government Affairs, at 410-991-7422 or deborah.rivkin@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kromm', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Kromm
Executive Director

