



July 9, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer

Democratic Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Susan Collins

413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Andy Kim

520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: IDSA, PIDS and SHEA support for the Securing Enhanced Programs, Systems and Initiatives for Sepsis Act

Dear Leader Schumer, Sen. Collins and Sen. Kim,

On behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS), the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and our more than 13,000 members, we write to express our sincere gratitude for your leadership in reintroducing the Securing Enhanced Programs, Systems and Initiatives for Sepsis Act (SEPSIS Act). This bipartisan legislation represents a critical step forward in addressing one of the most devastating and costly conditions facing our health care system today.

IDSA is a global community of 13,000-plus clinicians, scientists and public health experts working together to solve humanity's smallest and greatest challenges, from tiny microbes to global outbreaks. PIDS and SHEA are leading professional organizations dedicated to advancing the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases and promoting patient safety through evidence-based infection prevention and control practices. Both PIDS and SHEA represent a broad network of clinicians, researchers, and public health experts committed to improving healthcare outcomes for patients of all ages.

IDSA, PIDS and SHEA strongly support the SEPSIS Act's comprehensive approach to combating sepsis, which claims approximately 350,000 lives annually among the 1.7 million Americans of all ages diagnosed with this condition each year. The bill's provisions align remarkably well with the recommendations that IDSA has been advancing through our multisociety Sepsis Advisory Panel. Your legislation recognizes the fundamental truth that sepsis is a serious medical emergency requiring coordinated national action, robust data collection and standardized best practices across all health care settings.

The requirement for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to lead a national education campaign sharing hospital best practices is particularly valuable, as it builds upon the agency's successful hospital sepsis "core elements" program launched in 2023. IDSA, PIDS and SHEA believe that standardizing approaches to early identification, rapid intervention and quality improvement will save countless lives. The bill's emphasis on improving pediatric sepsis data collection addresses a critical gap in our understanding of how this condition can severely affect our youngest patients, who often present with subtle or atypical symptoms that can delay recognition and treatment before they rapidly deteriorate.

We are especially pleased that the legislation directs coordination between CDC and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to establish and implement quality measures for sepsis outcomes. This collaboration is essential

for creating accountability structures that support hospitals in developing effective sepsis programs while ensuring that quality measures accurately reflect the complexity of sepsis care. The proposed voluntary recognition program for hospitals excelling in sepsis management will provide important incentives for continuous improvement and sharing of best practices across the health care community.

The infectious diseases community has long recognized that sepsis prevention and management require multidisciplinary expertise, robust infection prevention programs and sophisticated antimicrobial stewardship capabilities. The SEPSIS Act's focus on early recognition, diagnosis and treatment directly supports the work of infectious diseases physicians and specialists who are on the front lines of sepsis care. By strengthening the national infrastructure for sepsis response, this legislation will enhance our ability to identify at-risk patients in a timely manner, implement evidence-based treatment protocols and improve outcomes for the millions of Americans who develop sepsis each year.

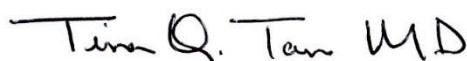
IDSA, PIDS and SHEA appreciate that the legislation acknowledges the critical role of the infectious diseases workforce in reducing the sepsis burden and the need for additional support to recruit and retain health care professionals engaged in infection prevention and patient care. As noted in the bill's findings, 80% of sepsis cases begin outside the hospital, underscoring the importance of coordinated efforts across all care settings and the need for robust public health infrastructure to support early intervention.

The \$20 million annual authorization through fiscal year 2030 represents a sound investment in addressing a condition that is among the most expensive to treat in U.S. hospitals, with costs compounded by frequent readmissions. Medicare alone spent over \$35 billion on sepsis care in 2019, and recent research estimates that the total cost of sepsis care for inpatient and skilled nursing facility admissions exceeded \$62 billion in 2019.¹ The proposed \$20 million investment in prevention and early detection programs represents less than 0.1% of what Medicare currently spends on sepsis treatment, making it a highly cost-effective approach to reducing both human suffering and health care expenditures.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving public health outcomes and for recognizing the urgent need for coordinated federal action on sepsis. IDSA, PIDS and SHEA look forward to working with you to advance this vital legislation. IDSA, PIDS and SHEA are available to provide technical expertise and support as the SEPSIS Act moves through the legislative process.

We are grateful for your leadership on this lifesaving initiative and look forward to continued collaboration in the fight against sepsis.

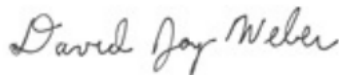
Sincerely,



Tina Tan, MD, FIDSA, FPIDS, FAAP
President
Infectious Diseases Society of America



Bill Steinbach MD, FPIDS
President
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society



David J. Weber
MD, MPH, FIDSA, FSHEA, FRSM
SHEA President

¹ Journal of the American Medical Association, "Trends in Sepsis Mortality and Costs of Care in US Hospitals," JAMA Network Open, 2022.

