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## Support

### *HB 317 – Mental Health – Involuntary Admissions – Procedures*

February 2020

The Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians (MAAPC) supports Delegates Young, Carr, Cullison, Fisher, Guyton, Hettleman, Kerr, Krebs, Saab, Shetty, Terrasa, and Watson's *HB 317 – Mental Health – Involuntary Admissions – Procedures*

We strongly support the addition of Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners (NP) to the list of providers who are eligible to examine individuals who are confined on observation status and provide testimony to a Hearing Officer

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners are an essential part of the mental healthcare team in Maryland. Between 2006 and 2013, emergency visits increased by more than 50 percent for psychoses and bipolar disorders and depression, anxiety and stress reactions according to the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project. As fewer physicians are entering into mental health practices, a serious threat to the health of Maryland citizens exists. Psychiatric NPs must be available and allowed to participate in assessing the mental health of these patients.

Please contact, Beverly Lang ([npamexdir@npedu.com](mailto:npamexdir@npedu.com), 410-404-1747) or Bill Pitcher ([bill@bellamygengroup.com](mailto:bill@bellamygengroup.com)) for any information you may need about Nurse Practitioners or HB 317.

We ask the Committee for a favorable vote on HB 317,

Dr. Elaine Crain, DNP, RN, FNP-BC  
President, MAAPC

Lorraine Diana, MSN, CRNP  
Legislative Chair, MAAPC

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*Since 2005, MAAPC has been the leading association in legislative and regulatory changes that benefit Maryland Advanced Practice Clinicians. We welcome as members all APNs and PAs and are a completely volunteer association.*