

**Support: HB 177 Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge**

2/5/2024

Maryland House  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter, I am writing to express our **Support for HB117 Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge**.

We support the provision of written instructions and resources related to safe sleep environments to parents or legal guardians prior to the discharge of a newborn from a Maryland hospital. The importance of safe sleeping environments and shaken baby syndrome (more appropriately known as non-accidental abusive head trauma) education can not be understated. With this bill, new parents/guardians would be required to disclose that they have a safe sleeping arrangement in their home and if not they would be provided resources. Parents/guardians would also be provided information on how to cope with crying infants and better be able to understand that the emotional of stress and fatigue they are experiencing are common. This will help decrease the stigma associated, while also allowing them to feel better about walking away from a infant to calm themselves down when needed. These actions will only help Maryland families.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **Support for HB117 Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge**. Pediatric Nurse Practitioners are experts in pediatrics and within Maryland are primary care providers for many newborns. We therefore request that the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP be added to the bill as a consulting agency for developing distribution materials along with our AAP colleagues.

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The members of Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact JD Murphy, legislative committee co-chair, at [jmurph89@jh.edu](mailto:jmurph89@jh.edu).

Sincerely,





Jessica D. Murphy DNP CPNP-AC CPHON CNE  
Pediatric Oncology/BMT Nurse Practitioner  
Pediatric NP Acute Care Content Faculty Lead & Instructor at JHU School of Nursing  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Lindsay J. Ward MSN CRNP IBCLC  
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner- Pediatric Primary Care  
International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter President

*Evgenia Ogordova*

Evgenia Ogordova DNP CRNP

Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Chair