



March 25th, 2025

Maryland Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable 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, we are writing to express our **support of HB 1352 Sickle Cell Disease - Institutions of Higher Education - Policies, Procedures, and Educational Campaigns.**

We are dedicated to the health and well-being of children and adolescents, particularly those with chronic conditions. Sickle cell disease often creates invisible disabilities, with impacts on educational endeavors due to its multi-system effects. Students with sickle cell disease often face unique challenges that require specific accommodations to ensure their academic success and overall well-being. For example, pain crises are unpredictable and may lead to students being unable to provide full attention to course work. These students are immunocompromised, so may not be able to attend in-person classes during time periods of disease outbreak. The provisions of HB1352, which prohibit institutions of higher education from denying access or services to students based on their diagnosis of sickle cell disease and require reasonable accommodations, are essential for creating an inclusive and supportive educational environment. By mandating the development of an education and awareness campaign, this bill also ensures that faculty and staff are well-informed about the needs of students with sickle cell disease, fostering a more understanding and accommodating campus culture.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB 1352 Sickle Cell Disease - Institutions of Higher Education - Policies, Procedures, and Educational Campaigns and requests a favorable report.** The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who 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 the Chesapeake Chapter legislative committee or president, Dr. Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Yvette Laboy in black ink.

Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC, CCRN, CPN
Chesapeake Chapter
President

Handwritten signature of Lindsay Ward in black ink.

Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN,
CPNP-PC, IBCLC
Immediate Past-President

Handwritten signature of Evgenia Ogorodova in black ink.

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP,
CPNP-PC
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Jessica D. Murphy in black ink.

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP,
CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair