



January 26th, 2025

Maryland Senate
Finance Committee
3 East 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, I am writing to express our **support of SB5: Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program – Sunset Repeal.**

Although you are likely aware of pediatric advanced practice nurses caring for children, you may not be aware that our age range goes up until late 20s, and sometimes even older for those with chronic pediatric-related illnesses such as congenital heart defects or survival of a childhood cancer. We are also vital to the transition of care for adolescents and young adults to establish adult-focused primary care providers. Therefore, we know this is often a long, confusing, and difficult process, further complicated by the inability to afford healthcare coverage. While they may have previously been covered under MCHP and VFC programs, these stop at age 19, leaving young adults with low income still being unable to afford care, yet make too much to qualify for Medicare. Because of cost, these individuals frequently avoid healthcare preventative services due to costs, leading to overall poorer health, with impacts that could span their lifetime and effect the greater Maryland community. By providing healthcare plans at reduced cost, this will allow for health promotion and prevention education, earlier disease detection, reduced health disparities, and overall lowered healthcare costs due to decreased chronic illnesses as well as negating the need for unnecessary emergency department utilization.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to SB5. 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, Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnpleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Yvette Laboy

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