



March 17th, 2026

Maryland House of Representatives
Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House 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) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **support with amendment of House Bill 915 Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care**. Maryland’s youth transitioning out of foster care face well-documented risks related to health access, mental health needs, chronic disease management, reproductive health, and discontinuity of care. A dedicated workgroup is an important step toward improving coordination and outcomes during this critical transition period.

To strengthen HB 915 and ensure appropriate pediatric and adolescent health expertise is represented, the Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP respectfully **requests an amendment to add a representative from the Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP** (or, alternatively, an additional seat designated for a pediatric-focused APRNs) to the membership of the workgroup. Pediatric-focused APRNs care for children and adolescents in foster care across primary care, specialty care, emergency, school-based, and community settings. We routinely address trauma-related health needs, behavioral health conditions, medication management, immunizations, and the transition from pediatric to adult health systems. Our clinical experience can help ensure the workgroup’s recommendations are practical, evidence-based, and centered on the needs of youth.

Including our chapter will:

- Bring direct clinical expertise on the health and developmental needs of adolescents and young adults preparing to age out of foster care
- Support recommendations that improve continuity of care, including establishing medical homes and effective transitions to adult care
- Inform strategies to reduce avoidable emergency department use, gaps in preventive care, and untreated behavioral health conditions; and
- Ensure that recommendations reflect what is feasible in real-world pediatric and transitional care settings across Maryland.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **support with amendment to HB 915 Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care 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 Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for our state’s pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Chapter legislative chair, Dr. JD Murphy, at mdchesnappnpleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

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

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

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

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

Dr. Samantha Hoffman DNP, MS,
CPNP-PC; Chapter President-elect