



Support-SB476 Health Occupations-Nurses-Delegation of Nursing Tasks

02/01/2021

Maryland Senate
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee Members:

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 HB95/SB476 bill, the "Health Occupations-Nurses-Delegation of Nursing Tasks".

The Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP believes this piece of legislation will play a vital role in protecting pediatric patients and improving access to care.

Currently COMAR allows Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to delegate tasks to unlicensed trained personnel including Medical Assistants (MAs). However, there is an omission in COMAR that would allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to delegate to unlicensed trained personnel. APRNs have advanced education, certification and training that allow them to evaluate diagnose and treat patients based on their particular specialty. This omission prevents an APRN from delegating tasks such as obtaining vital signs, giving immunizations, and collecting samples for in office testing. In addition, APRN owned and sole provider practices cannot utilize medical assistants.

Passage of this bill will result in APRNs being able to delegate tasks and improving access to care and increasing the number of patients seen daily. These will all ensure better outcomes for these patients. It would also allow practices to employ medical assistants whether they are MD or APRN owned which is both fiscally responsible and increase access to care.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to HB95/SB476 bill, the "Health Occupations-Nurses-Delegation of Nursing Tasks".

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 of Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Busch, the Chesapeake Chapter President at 410-614-6284 or dbusch1@jhu.edu.

Sincerely,

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National Association of
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