



**Support: SB 0126/HB0237**

1/21/2021

Maryland Senate  
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee Members  
Miller Senate Office Building Room 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 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 SB0126/HB0237 bill, the “State Department of Education – Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices-Guidelines and Assistance”.

The Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP believes this piece of legislation which requires the establishment of a stakeholder advisory group charged with the development of a reading and dyslexia resource manual will play a vital role in detecting the signs of dyslexia as well as the provision of consistent and current best practices on reading screening, instruction and interventions for children with dyslexia. Currently, there is no resource available for teachers and parents to better understand the signs of dyslexia, the impact of dyslexia on learning and how to implement changes in the classroom and at home to the struggling reader with dyslexia. This bill will provide this resource to teachers and families.

Dyslexia is an unexpected difficulty in reading for someone with normal or higher than normal intelligence. It is most commonly due to a difficulty in phonological processing (the appreciation of individual spoken words) which then may affect the individuals’ ability to speak, read and spell. Early diagnosis and intervention is critical. It is estimated that 20% of the population is affected by dyslexia and it comprises 80-90% of all learning disabilities. It is the most common neuro-cognitive disorder. When dyslexia is diagnosed early and individuals receive evidence-based interventions and accommodations, they can lead very successful lives and perform at high career levels.

This bill provides the development of a resource to teachers and parents to enhance early recognition and implementation of evidence based interventions for individuals with dyslexia both within schools and at home. This bill also will bring enhanced awareness to the entire educational community including families of the signs of dyslexia, the need for early intervention and the evidence-based successful interventions for the individual with dyslexia.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to SB0126/HB0237 bill, the “State Department of Education- Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices – Guidelines and Assistance.” The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your full attention to these crucial issues affecting children and families within Maryland. The members of Chesapeake Chapter of the National association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners are committed to



National Association of  
Pediatric Nurse Practitioners<sup>SM</sup>  
MD: CHESAPEAKE

improving the health and advocating for Maryland pediatric patients. If we can be of 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](mailto:dbusch1@jhu.edu).

Sincerely,

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