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Bill: HB 97- Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals

Position: Support with Amendment

On behalf of the over 800 members Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc. (NPAM), and the over 8,000 certified Nurse Practitioners licensed to practice in Maryland, I am writing to support HB 97 with an amendment. We understand and recognize the importance of studying and making recommendations about the behavioral health professions and fully support the need to form this workgroup.

This bill would establish a workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals and will provide for the composition, chair, and staffing of the workgroup. The bill includes language that lists the composition of the workgroup and states that three representatives from the mental behavioral health profession in the State will be appointed.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNPs) are advanced practice registered nurses who have been educated at either a Master’s or Doctoral level, and specialize in behavioral health. PMHNPs are uniquely qualified to be included as members of this workgroup.

We therefore respectfully request that the current language of HB 97 be **amended to include a PMHNP as one of the three representatives from the behavioral health profession.**

NPAM would be happy to assist with the search for a qualified PMHNP to fill one of the workgroup seats. Feel free to contact Beverly Lang, Executive Director, NPAM if you need additional information.

Kindest Regards,

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