



Support: SB 0380 Public Health- Emergency and Allergy Treatment Program- Nurse Practitioners.

01/28/2022

Maryland Senate
Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear 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 **SB 0380 Public Health- Emergency and Allergy Treatment Program- Nurse Practitioners**. This bill will add Certified Nurse Practitioners to the legal list of authorized health care providers to prescribe, dispense and administer epinephrine (Epipen) injectors in an emergent situation at licensed camps in Maryland.

The current COMAR Emergency Allergy treatment program only designates physicians the authorization to prescribe epinephrine at youth camps. Nurse Practitioners need to be added to this regulation. Nurse Practitioners have advanced education, certification and training that allows them to prepare, prescribe and administer medications including epinephrine. Nurse Practitioners prescribe and administer epinephrine in school-based settings all over Maryland.

According to the Allergy and Asthma Network one in 12 children have food allergies and 25 percent of allergic reactions occur without a previous diagnosis. In addition, there are 150 to 200 annual fatalities from food allergies and 40 fatalities from insect stings. There are over 725 youth camps that serve children in Maryland. Having epinephrine available at these camps is essential. Children may experience a life-threatening severe allergy (i.e. food allergy or bee sting) for the first time while away at these camps. Giving epinephrine early is cornerstone for successful management of anaphylaxis and for survival when severe anaphylaxis occurs.

Passage of this bill will protect pediatric patients by increasing access to lifesaving medication and save lives. For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to we urge you to support **SB 0380 Public Health- Emergency and Allergy Treatment Program- Nurse Practitioners**.

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,

Deborah W. Busch DNP, CRNP, IBCLC, CNE, FAANP



Deborah W. Busch DNP, CRNP, FAANP ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner- Pediatric Primary Care
International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter President
P. 410-614-6284
E. dbusch1@jhu.edu

Lindsay J. Ward CRNP, RN, IBCLC, MSN, BSN
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter President Elect and Legislative Co-Chair

Linda Aveni Murray, DNP, CRNP-Ped

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National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Chair