



Support: HB 305 Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Revisions

2/17/2023

Maryland House of Representatives
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
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) Chesapeake Chapter, I am writing to express our support of **HB 319 Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements**.

This bill would require pesticide manufacturers to document that their products have been tested and are free of PFAS, per- and poly-fluoro alkyl substances, often referred to as “forever chemicals.” Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a class of about 12,000 chemicals typically used to make thousands of products water-, stain- and heat-resistant. They do not naturally break down and accumulate in humans and the environment. Toxic PFAS chemicals have been detected in seven out of 10 insecticides tested in the US, according to a study in the Journal of Hazardous Materials Letters by [Lasee et al, 2022](#).

This bill would eliminate PFAS from mosquito control products beginning in 2024 and eliminate PFAs in any pesticide used in Maryland starting in 2026. Last year Maryland’s legislature banned the use of PFAS in fire-fighting foam, carpeting and food packaging.

- PFAS have been linked to a number of adverse health effects:
- Cancer of the kidneys, bladder, testicles, ovaries, prostate, and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Immunotoxicity: reduced antibody response to vaccines, including tetanus, diphtheria, HIB, mumps, rubella and hepatitis A&B; increased susceptibility to infections in prenatally exposed children; increased risk of infection and severity of disease from COVID-19
- Thyroid disease, primarily hypothyroid, both congenital and acquired
- Low birth weight, decreased birth length and head circumference
- Increased liver enzymes and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
- Increased total and LDL cholesterol
- Impaired kidney function, with decreased GFR and decreased uric acid excretion

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB 319 Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements 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 members of Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse



Practitioners are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay J. Ward, the Chesapeake Chapter President at 410-507-3642 or lindsayjward@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay J. Ward".

Lindsay J. Ward CRNP, RN, IBCLC, MSN, BSN
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner- Pediatric Primary Care
International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant
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