



Support: HB 82 Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement

2/10/2023

Maryland House of Representatives
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
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 **HB 82 Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement**.

The US Surgeon General reports one in five children and adolescents experience the signs and symptoms of a diagnosable behavioral disorder each year, resulting in significant disruptions of school classrooms, increased truancy, increased risk for alcohol and drug abuse and decreased graduation rates. School-based mental health services can improve access to care, allow for early identification and treatment of mental health issues, and may be linked to reduced absenteeism and better mental health outcomes. School-based services can also reduce access barriers for underserved populations, including children from low-income households and children of color. Health care providers who provide school based health care services should be reimbursed for providing behavioral health services in the school setting.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB 82 Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement**.

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 cursive script 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
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP)
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National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP)
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