



## **Support: HB 1091 Education - Screening Requirements for Students With Reading Difficulties - Alterations**

2/28/2023

Maryland House of Representatives  
Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
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 1091 Education - Screening Requirements for Students With Reading Difficulties - Alterations.**

Learning to read is a complicated process requiring the acquisition of many separate yet related skills. Young children need to learn these skills, such as phonemic awareness and phonics, in order to become independent readers and writers. When children show signs of struggle in their early development, it is vital for teachers to identify and address these problems. Universal screening is the best way to do this.

- Screening helps teachers identify students who are not meeting grade level learning goals.
- Screening assessments check for warning signs to see if students might be at risk for reading difficulties, including dyslexia.
- Screening can provide valuable information to teachers to help struggling readers or those who are likely to struggle in the future.

This bill would alter current legislation to include that students transferring from a private school to a public school would be screened for reading difficulties using a brief, valid, and reliable measurement procedure to identify or predict whether a student may be at risk for poor learning outcomes. This bill would also ensure English learners are not automatically assumed to only have reading problems due to language barriers and be screened for learning difficulties to identify potential issues. Early identification and intervention will ensure that all students have the best opportunities for developing adequate literacy.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB 1091 Education - Screening Requirements for Students With Reading Difficulties - Alterations 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 memberships includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who 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](mailto:lindsayjward@hotmail.com).

Sincerely,

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 (NAPNAP)  
Chesapeake Chapter President

*Evgenia Ogordova*

Evgenia Ogordova-DNP  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)  
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Chair