

01/28/24

Maryland House of Representatives
Health and Operations Government 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 146 Health Occupations Boards – Reciprocal Licensure and Certification.**

This bill allows the Board of Nursing to develop regulations and determine which states to enter into reciprocity agreements without further legislation. This will allow Nurse Practitioners to work across geographically local jurisdictions to improve access to care for our patients. With the provider shortage growing in the United States, many providers are working in several states or providing telehealth services to help more patients. By allowing NP licensure reciprocity, this legislation will improve the NP workforce in Maryland. This will increase access to care and improve care by allowing continuity of care for patients that may be in college in a different state or those that spend part of the year in one geographical location during the year.

As Pediatric APRNs we care for children through college. This would allow us to see them via telehealth for follow-up visits for chronic conditions where continuity of care is essential. College is both a physical and emotional transition, therefore it is ideal that patients can access a provider whom they have built a strong relationship with to continue their care during this transition.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **support of HB 146 Health Occupations Boards – Reciprocal Licensure and Certification. 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 Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners membership 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 the Chesapeake Chapter President, Lindsay J. Ward at 410-507-3642 or at mdchesnapnpleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,





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