



Support: HB 696 Primary and Secondary Education - Breakfast and Lunch Programs - Universal Expansion

2/12/2024

Maryland House
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
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 for HB696 Primary and Secondary Education - Breakfast and Lunch Programs - Universal Expansion.**

We support expansion of State Free Feeding Program to include a free breakfast and lunch to all students within a participating school. The benefits of food assistance programs within schools has been studied for decades, and shown to be associated with higher attendance, increased test scores, decreased suspensions, and building the foundation for healthier food choices which contributes to a healthier adult population. One in three Marylanders face food insecurity. Unfortunately, there is a stigma attached to accepting a free meal and many families therefore do not take advantage of this. By providing a universal free meal to all children, more children will take advantage of this, and we are one step closer to improving the overall health of our great state.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **Support for HB696 Primary and Secondary Education - Breakfast and Lunch Programs - Universal Expansion.** 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 JD Murphy, legislative committee co-chair, at jmurph89@jh.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica D. Murphy".

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