



February 17th, 2025

Maryland Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate 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, we are writing to express our **support of SB511 Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Plan Requirements (Pregnant and Parenting Student Support Act)**

As pediatric providers, we understand the influence of families, including strong parental support, to the growth and development of children. Pregnancy and parenthood present unique challenges for students, often leading to increased stress, financial strain, and the risk of academic failure. Teen parents are more likely to be incarcerated, achieve lower academic and employment opportunities, leading to lower socioeconomic status, which has been shown to lead to generations of children repeating this pattern. Support throughout the time is key to breaking this cycle. By requiring higher education institutions to adopt comprehensive plans that include referrals to on-campus and off-campus services, SB511 will provide essential resources and support systems for these students.

The provisions of SB511, which include access to government assistance programs, scholarships, and subsidies, are vital in helping pregnant and parenting students navigate their educational journey. These resources will not only alleviate some of the financial burdens but also promote a healthier and more stable environment for their children. Ensuring that these students have access to the necessary support will contribute to better health outcomes for both the parents and their children, all while empowering pregnant and parenting students to seek the help they need without fear of stigma or discrimination.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to SB SB511 Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Plan Requirements (Pregnant and Parenting Student Support Act) 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 legislative committee or president, Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Yvette Laboy

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