

March 25th, 2025

Maryland Senate
Finance Committee
3 East 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) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **strong support of HB 1315, Health Insurance - Coverage for Child Wellness Services - Immunizations.**

This important bill integrates the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations into state regulations, ensuring vaccines are fully covered during wellness visits. As APRNs, we recognize that making vaccines a part of routine wellness visits is essential for safeguarding the health of children and protecting the well-being of communities as a whole. The AAP provides evidence-based guidelines that are essential for optimal pediatric health, including a comprehensive list of vaccines that prevent serious, preventable diseases. By aligning with the AAP's Immunization Schedule, this legislation offers an effective framework to ensure children receive timely vaccinations that will protect them from a range of illnesses. We urge the state to adopt the following key provisions to improve wellness visit coverage:

- **Full Vaccination Coverage in Line with the AAP Immunization Schedule:** Health insurers should be required to fully cover all vaccines recommended by the AAP during wellness visits, without co-pays or cost-sharing. This includes vaccines for routine childhood diseases, as well as preventable illnesses like influenza, HPV, and meningitis.
- **Accessibility to Catch-Up Vaccinations:** In cases where children have missed scheduled vaccinations, AAP guidelines advocate for catch-up immunizations during wellness visits. Ensuring insurance coverage for these catch-up vaccinations is critical to maintaining herd immunity and preventing disease outbreaks.
- **Prevention of Out-of-Pocket Costs for Families:** Many families face financial challenges in accessing essential healthcare. By fully covering vaccines during wellness visits, we can eliminate these financial barriers, improve vaccine coverage rates, and reduce preventable health issues in our communities.

Adopting the AAP's recommendations will not only align our state with best practices for pediatric health but also ensure equitable access to essential preventive care. This policy shift will help reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases and contribute to long-term healthcare cost savings. This bill represents a vital step forward in improving public health, and we look forward to the positive impact it will have on the health of children and families across our state.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB 1315, Health Insurance - Coverage for Child Wellness Services – Immunizations and request 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, Dr. Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Yvette Laboy

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