



1/25/2025

Maryland House of Representatives
Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor 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 334 Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage.**

This bill would require the Maryland Department of Health to establish a program to provide universal newborn nurse home visiting services to all families with newborns residing in the State. It would also require insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations that provide certain health benefits under certain insurance policies or contracts to provide certain coverage and reimbursement for universal newborn nurse home visiting services. Additionally, it would require a report on the status of newborn nurse home visiting. Home visiting programs have been shown to boost all parents' knowledge and confidence around caring for their baby while also linking families who need additional services to community resources based on their individual needs and preferences. These services can range from helping a family select a child care arrangement to helping a parent find stable housing or address a substance abuse problem. These programs have been shown to increase families' connections to community resources and improve parenting behaviors, such as comforting an infant; it has also been found to improve parents' mental health, enhance the quality of home environments, reduce infants' emergency medical care, and increase parents' utilization of higher-quality child care for their children. We are aware that there are targeted newborn nurse home visiting services in Maryland that currently exist, however a universal approach expands the scope of the program and removes the potential stigma that could be associated with targeted programs.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB 334 Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage 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, President, Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Yvette Laboy

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