



February 3rd, 2025

Maryland House of Representatives
Health and Government Operations Committee
130 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, we are writing to express our **support of HB421 Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline.**

This critical legislation ensures that essential resources are available to sustain and enhance crisis intervention services for Maryland residents, particularly children and adolescents experiencing mental health crises. As pediatric nurse practitioners, we witness firsthand the devastating impact of mental health struggles on children, adolescents, and their families. Suicide remains a leading cause of death among young people, and access to timely, effective intervention services can be lifesaving. The 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline serves as a vital safety net for individuals in crisis, providing immediate access to trained professionals who can offer support and connect callers to appropriate care.

HB421 wisely amends the existing restrictions on the use of the 9-1-1 Trust Fund, ensuring that funds may be utilized for costs related to the operation of the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline that may be shared with 9-1-1 activities, including software interfaces and joint training. By altering the prior restriction, which prevented any costs associated with the 9-8-8 hotline, this bill allows for a more integrated and efficient approach to crisis response.

By allowing the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to support the operations and infrastructure of the 9-8-8 hotline, HB421 helps bridge gaps in crisis response services, ensuring that Marylanders, including our most vulnerable youth, receive the help they need when they need it most. This legislation represents a necessary step in strengthening Maryland's mental health crisis response system and aligns with our mission to advocate for policies that promote the health and well-being of children and families.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB421 Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline** 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

Dr. Yvette Laboy RN, DNP, CPNP-AC, CCRN, CPN
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP)
Chesapeake Chapter President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lindsay J. Ward".

Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC, IBCLC
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP)
Chesapeake Chapter Immediate Past-President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jessica D. Murphy".

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy RN, DNP, MSN, BSN, CRNP-AC, APRN, CNE
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP)
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Evgenia Ogorodova".

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova- RN, DNP, BSN, CPNP-PC, APRN
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP)
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Chair