



February 22nd, 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) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **opposition of HB 1426 Carroll County - Board of Health and Health Department.**

As advocates for the health and well-being of children and adolescents, we are deeply concerned about the potential unintended consequences this bill may have on children and families in our community. While the intent of HB1426 to improve health department operations is commendable, the bill's provisions could inadvertently place undue stress on families, particularly those with young children. One of the primary concerns is the potential for disruption in the delivery of essential health services. Changes in leadership and administrative procedures could lead to delays or inconsistencies in the provision of care, which is particularly detrimental to children who rely on timely and consistent health services.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the potential for these administrative changes to be mismanaged or applied inconsistently. The lack of clear guidelines and the subjective nature of administrative decisions could result in arbitrary or biased enforcement, causing harm to innocent families. Political agendas can lead to delays in implementing necessary health policies or result in inconsistent application of health measures. When health decisions are influenced by political motives rather than scientific evidence, it can erode public trust in health authorities. This mistrust can result in lower compliance with health guidelines and reduced effectiveness of public health interventions. This is particularly problematic in situations like vaccination campaigns or during public health crises. Past remarks from members of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners made via public meetings as well as social media clearly show a misunderstanding and distrust of science, and we feel that this bill's intent is for malicious removal of public health experts with whom they have personal disagreements with. There is precedent here; this same Board of Commissioners threatened and ultimately partially withheld funding from the Carroll County Public Library (CCPL) last year due to employees' accused involvement with the Freedom to Read Act, with Board President Kiler stating, "I feel strongly that CCPL needs to be sent a message" upon making the funding decision.

While the goal of improving health department operations is important, we are concerned that this bill is politically motivated and will be dangerous to the public health of Maryland's children. For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their opposition to **HB 1426 Carroll County - Board of Health and Health Department and requests an unfavorable 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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