



January 10, 2025

**Bill:** HB 058, SB 206 Rape Kit Collection, Testing, and Tracking Grant Fund – Alterations

**Position:** Support with Amendments

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM), representing over 850 members and the 8000 Nurse Practitioners that practice in Maryland, we submit the following concerns regarding language in HB 058, SB 206 Rape Kit Collection, Testing, and Tracking Grant Fund – Alterations. It is the position of NPAM to support this bill with amendments.

The language in the existing proposal limits the collection of the Sexual Assault Examination Kit (SAEK) to only Forensic Nurse Examiners (Registered Nurses who have completed additional education and training to meet the criteria set forth by the Maryland Board of Nursing to be certified as Forensic Nurse Examiners in Pediatric, Adult, or both populations). However, providers who have completed additional education and training in Forensic Examination including: Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses, Physician Assistants, and Registered Nurses under the direct supervision of the Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) currently collect SAEK and should be included in the language of this bill.

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland is in full support of the intent of this bill to support and promote forensic examination and sexual assault examination kits collected to secure kit processing by the State of Maryland as well as to support the use of funds collected to promote the financial support needed to increase the availability of Forensic Nurse Examiners in the State of Maryland. Rural populations in particular need this resource. Telehealth options that include the remote visual supervision of the Registered Nurse collecting the SAEK by the FNE will increase access to specimen/evidence collection toward successful prosecution of suspects who are subsequently convicted of their crimes in locations where there is not an FNE available.

We respectfully request you support this bill with our suggested amendments. If you have any questions, please contact me at [NPAMexecdir@gmail.com](mailto:NPAMexecdir@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

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