



February 3rd, 2025

Maryland House of Representatives
Ways and Means 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 HB420 - Education and Health - Emergency Use Epinephrine – Alterations.**

As pediatric nurse practitioners, we witness firsthand the anxiety and fear that parents and caregivers experience when their child has a severe allergic reaction. We are at the frontline of managing these patients when they come into the emergency room, are admitted to the intensive care unit, or are seen for follow-up in the primary care setting. Immediate administration of epinephrine is the most effective treatment to prevent serious complications and fatalities. HB 420 proposes essential alterations to the current Emergency Use Auto-Injectable Epinephrine Program, including renaming it to the Emergency Use Epinephrine Program and expanding the definition to include various drug delivery devices and products

In August of 2024, an intranasal formulation of epinephrine (Neffy[®]) was approved by the FDA, adding an additional route of administration. Anaphylaxis affects up to 5% of the US population, with 1 in 50 experiencing a severe allergic reaction. The most common triggers are foods, medications, and insect stings. Unfortunately, up to 100 Americans die each year from anaphylaxis. Delaying or avoiding the use of epinephrine during an anaphylactic reaction can lead to severe complications, including prolonged symptoms and hospital stay, and increased risk of fatality. Needle phobia by the child or the adult administering an EpiPen have been cited as reasons to delay administration, thus the intranasal formulation can truly save lives.

By broadening the definition of emergency use epinephrine, this bill ensures that more children will have access to life-saving medication in various forms, making it easier for schools and caregivers to administer it promptly during an emergency. The inclusion of different drug delivery devices allows for more flexibility in emergency situations, ensuring that the most appropriate and effective method of administration is available, thereby reducing the risk of improper use or delaying administration by those who may be afraid of needles. The bill supports comprehensive training for school personnel and caregivers on the use of these devices, which is crucial for the effective management of anaphylactic reactions. Proper training can significantly improve response times and outcomes during emergencies.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB420 - Education and Health - Emergency Use Epinephrine – Alterations. 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 legislative committee or president, Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Yvette Laboy

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