

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 of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing a **letter of information regarding HB 477 - Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Adult to Child Ratios - Alterations.**

This bill proposes increasing the number of children under the age of two that can be cared for in a family child care home from four to five, and altering the adult-to-child ratios for various age groups in both family child care homes and child care centers. While we understand the intent behind HB477 is to address the growing demand for child care services, we have concerns about the potential impact on the quality of care and safety of the children. According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), recommended adult-to-child ratios for infants (birth to 15 months) are 1:3, and for toddlers (16 to 36 months) are 1:4. These guidelines are based on extensive research and best practices in early childhood education, emphasizing the importance of low ratios for ensuring high-quality care and positive developmental outcomes. We know that you are equally committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Maryland's children, and so would propose a stakeholder meeting with Delegates Barnes and McCaskill along with our MD AAP colleagues to better understand how we can amend this bill to meet caregiver needs while keeping with evidence-based recommendations.

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for MD's pediatric patients. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

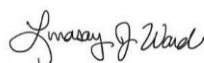
Sincerely,



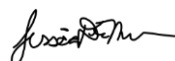
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