



NURSE PRACTITIONER
Association of Maryland

“Advocating for Maryland NPs Since 1992”

February 24, 2026

Re: Bill: HB 1325/SB 0522: Workers’ Compensation – Evaluation of Permanent Impairments – Licensed Social Worker – Clinical

Support with Amendments

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc. (NPAM) representing over 8,500 NPs licensed in Maryland and 850 active NPAM members, I am writing to state support for **HB 1325/SB 0522: Workers’ Compensation – Evaluation of Permanent Impairments – Licensed Social Worker – Clinical** with amendments.

We commend the sponsors for their efforts in addressing this important issue and respectfully request that provider neutral language be used in reference to lines 1 through 7 of the bill and recommend that “qualified healthcare provider” be used to replace “qualified physician.”

**SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, IF a permanent
2 impairment involves a behavioral or mental disorder, a licensed psychologist,
LICENSED
3 CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER–CLINICAL, or qualified physician shall:
4 (1) perform an evaluation of only the mental or behavioral portion of the
5 permanent impairment; and
6 (2) report the evaluation to the Commission in accordance with the
7 regulations of the Commission.**

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are licensed and nationally certified advanced practice registered nurses, have advanced clinical training and education, and practice independently in Maryland. In both in-patient and outpatient settings, NPs participate in the healthcare team, deliver cost-effective, high-quality healthcare services to patients, and are chosen by many patients to serve as their Primary Care Provider, including those patients with known behavioral health disorders, addictive disorders, and mental health disorders.

Additionally, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP) are uniquely qualified Nurse Practitioners with specialized, advanced education in behavioral health disorders and are nationally certified. They assess, diagnose and treat the mental health needs of patients, provide therapy and prescribe medications for patients who have mental health disorder or substance use disorders.¹

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable vote to support **HB 1325/SB 0522: Workers' Compensation – Evaluation of Permanent Impairments – Licensed Social Worker – Clinical** with the above referenced recommended amendment using provider neutral language “qualified healthcare provider” which would allow Nurse Practitioners and PMHNPs to practice within their scope.

Should you have any questions feel free to contact me at NPAMexecdir@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Beverly Lang, MScN, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP

Beverly Lang MScN, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP
Interim Executive Director,
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc.

1. American Association of Nurse Practitioners, <https://www.aanp.org/news-feed/are-you-considering-a-career-as-psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner>. Accessed February 24, 2026.