



February 6th, 2026  
Maryland Senate  
Education, Energy, & The Environment Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the 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 **support of SB421 Sickle Cell Disease - Institutions of Higher Education - Policies, Procedures, and Educational Campaigns.**

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) affects approximately 100,000 Americans, with a disproportionate impact on African American communities. In Maryland, we serve a significant population of children and young adults living with SCD who deserve the opportunity to pursue their educational goals without facing unnecessary barriers or health crises due to inadequate institutional support and awareness. SCD often creates invisible disabilities, with impacts on educational endeavors due to its multi-system effects and requires specific accommodations to ensure their academic success and overall well-being. For example, pain crises are unpredictable and may lead to students being unable to provide full attention to course work. These students are immunocompromised, so they may not be able to attend in-person classes during disease outbreaks. Ensuring access or services to students and requiring reasonable accommodations is essential for creating an inclusive and supportive educational environment. The development of an education and awareness campaign will also ensure that faculty and staff are well-informed about the needs of students with SCD, fostering a more understanding and accommodating campus culture.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support of **SB421 Sickle Cell Disease - Institutions of Higher Education - Policies, Procedures, and Educational Campaigns and requests a favorable report.** The pediatric APRNs of your state are grateful for your attention to these crucial issues. The Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for our state's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Chapter legislative chair, Dr. JD Murphy, pediatric hematology/oncology nurse practitioner, at [mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com](mailto:mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com).

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE  
Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC  
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC,  
CCRN, CPN; Chapter President

Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC,  
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Dr. Samantha Hoffman DNP, MS,  
CPNP-PC; Chapter President-elect