

February 13, 2026

Maryland Senate  
Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

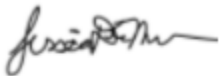
On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **support with amendment for Senate Bill 411 Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2026)**.

We enthusiastically support this bill which would create committees of vital members of hospital staff, to determine appropriate staffing requirements. The establishment of clinical staffing committees crucial to addressing the complexities of patient care. It is essential that clinical staffing committees include diverse perspectives from a range of healthcare providers to ensure well-rounded decision-making. To enhance the effectiveness of these committees, we propose an amendment to SB 411 to include an Advanced Practice Provider (APP) as a required member of the clinical staffing committee. Advanced Practice Providers, including Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, play a vital role in patient care across various settings, and their inclusion on the committee would provide critical insights into the staffing needs and challenges faced by healthcare teams. Many APPs function in front-line provider roles which are not represented by the "staff physician" or "nurse" roles listed. We believe that including an APP on the committee aligns with the goals of the Safe Staffing Act to foster collaboration and result in better patient outcomes. It is vital that staffing decisions are informed by a comprehensive understanding of the diverse roles within healthcare teams, including those of Advanced Practice Providers.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support with amendment for SB 411 Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2026) 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 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, at [mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com](mailto:mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com).


Sincerely,



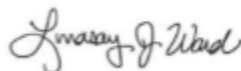
Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE  
Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair



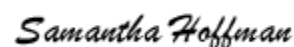
Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC  
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair



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



Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC,  
IBCLC; Immediate Past-President



Dr. Samantha Hoffman DNP, MS,  
CPNP-PC; Chapter President-elect