



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 **opposition of Senate Bill 506 Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Minor Conditions and HIV Prevention and Treatment.**

We greatly support initiatives that aim to increase access to healthcare services; however, we have significant concerns regarding this proposed expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice. While essential partners in the healthcare system, pharmacists are not equipped with the comprehensive clinical training necessary to assess and manage a wide spectrum of minor conditions effectively. Conditions that are often deemed "minor" can present with complexities requiring a nuanced and thorough medical evaluation. Relying solely on pharmacists for diagnosis and treatment may lead to misdiagnosis or inadequate management. Many of the listed "minor" conditions can have underlying issues that require deeper investigation, such as UTIs being due to sexual abuse, or frequent skin infections being due to an immunodeficiency. Pediatric healthcare providers are trained to evaluate not just the presenting symptoms but also the broader context of a child's health, including growth and development, family history, and psychosocial factors. Pharmacists may not have the necessary tools or training to conduct these comprehensive assessments effectively. Additionally, children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable populations that benefit significantly from continuity of care. When pediatric patients present with minor conditions, their care should be integrated with their overall health management. This bill risks fragmenting this continuity, potentially compromising the quality of care that pediatric patients receive and leaving gaps in their ongoing treatment plans.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **opposition to SB506 Occupations - Pharmacists - Minor Conditions and HIV Prevention and Treatment and requests an unfavorable 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.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC
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Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC,
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