



March 6th, 2026

Maryland House of Representatives
Health Committee
240 Taylor House 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 for House Bill 1041 – Youth Camps – Structures in Flood Hazard Areas – Prohibition.**

Our organization represents pediatric-focused nurse practitioners across Maryland who are committed to promoting the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Each year, thousands of Maryland children attend youth camps where they participate in educational, recreational, and developmental activities. These camps should be environments where families can feel confident that safety is prioritized.

House Bill 1041 takes an important step toward protecting children by prohibiting the licensing or renewal of youth camps that place camper housing structures within designated flood hazard areas. Flooding presents a significant and often rapidly developing risk, particularly during severe storms and extreme weather events. Children in overnight camp settings may face increased vulnerability during such emergencies due to the challenges of evacuation, the presence of large groups, and the potential for limited access to emergency services.

As health professionals who care for children across the state, pediatric nurse practitioners understand that prevention is one of the most effective strategies for protecting child health and safety. Ensuring that youth camp sleeping structures are not located in areas at high risk for flooding is a proactive policy that reduces the likelihood of preventable injuries, displacement, or loss of life. This legislation supports responsible camp planning and strengthens existing oversight mechanisms that safeguard children attending youth camps in Maryland. Families trust that licensed camps meet rigorous standards designed to protect their children, and House Bill 1041 helps ensure that trust is well placed.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP respectfully **urges a favorable report on House Bill 1041.** 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,

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Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair

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