



February 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 **opposition of House Bill 679 Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors.**

As experts in pediatrics and advocates for the health and well-being of children, we emphasize that medical care for minors, particularly around gender identity and transition, should be guided by the best interests of the child and grounded in evidence-based practices. Decisions regarding cross-sex hormone therapy should be made through careful evaluation, discussion, and collaboration between the patient, their family, and a qualified healthcare provider who specializes in pediatric care and transgender health. This individualized approach ensures that the comprehensive needs of the child are met, taking into consideration their physical and mental health, developmental stage, and familial context.

By imposing legal restrictions on the provision of cross-sex hormone therapy, House Bill 679 removes decision-making power from parents and healthcare professionals and places it in the hands of legislators. This not only undermines parental rights but also risks depriving children of medically necessary care that could significantly improve their mental health and overall well-being. Furthermore, a one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare fails to recognize the complexities and nuances involved in gender-affirming care. Pediatric providers are trained to understand the individual needs of their patients and to provide recommendations based on years of clinical practice and the most recent evidence-based recommendations. Ultimately, we believe that the best outcomes for minors experiencing gender dysphoria are achieved through supportive, collaborative, and individualized care driven by healthcare professionals in conjunction with informed parental involvement.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their opposition of HB 679 Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors) 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](mailto:mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com).

Sincerely,

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Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair

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

Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC,  
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