



February 6, 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 with amendment of House Bill 178: Public Health - Sickle Cell Disease - Specialized Clinics and Scholarship Program for Medical Residents.**

As experts in pediatrics including, we commend the intent of this legislation to enhance the quality of care for individuals living with sickle cell disease through specialized clinics and targeted training for medical residents. However, we would like to propose an important amendment to this bill: the inclusion of scholarship opportunities for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who wish to specialize in the treatment and management of sickle cell disease. APRNs, including nurse practitioners, play a crucial role in providing comprehensive care for patients with complex health needs, such as those associated with sickle cell disease. By expanding the scope of scholarship funding to APRNs, we can ensure a broader base of healthcare providers trained specifically in this vital area. Additionally, specialized clinics supported by HB 178 will benefit from the expertise of APRNs who are well-positioned to provide not only medical management but also patient education, care coordination, and psychosocial support. By investing in the training of APRNs, we can create a more robust healthcare workforce capable of meeting the needs of sickle cell patients more effectively. Resident and fellowship medical training typically only encompasses care for pediatrics or adults. In contrast, APRNs, and especially our Family Nurse Practitioner colleagues, are crucial to facilitate transition of care for adolescent/young adult sickle cell patients from pediatric to adult providers.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **support with amendment to HB178 Public Health - Sickle Cell Disease - Specialized Clinics and Scholarship Program for Medical Residents 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, pediatric hematology/oncology certified nurse practitioner, at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

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

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