

March 9th, 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 to House Bill 1481 Tissue Banks and Hospitals - Autologous and Directed Blood Donations.**

NAPNAP supports policies that ensure Maryland's blood supply remains safe, evidence-based, and equitably accessible to all patients, including infants, children, and adolescents. While we understand why families may request "directed" donations for a loved one, directed donation is not inherently safer than blood obtained through the regulated community blood supply and can introduce additional clinical and practical concerns for pediatric patients.

Our concerns include:

- Increased risk of alloimmunization/antibodies and future transfusion difficulty
 - Pediatric patients—particularly those who may require ongoing transfusions (e.g., children with cancer, hemoglobinopathies, or complex chronic conditions)—are at risk of developing antibodies (alloimmunization) after transfusions. Directed donations from family members can complicate this risk profile and may make it harder to find compatible blood in the future if antibodies develop. Avoiding unnecessary complexity in donor exposure and maintaining access to appropriately matched components is critical for children who may need repeated transfusions over time.
- Potential patient safety risks and misunderstanding of benefit
 - Directed donation is often perceived as "safer," but it is not safer than blood collected through highly regulated volunteer donor systems. In some circumstances, directed donation can carry additional risks (including transfusion reactions related to donor-recipient factors). It can also lead families to delay medically necessary transfusions while awaiting a directed unit.
- Operational and supply impacts on pediatric care
 - Pediatric transfusion needs are frequently urgent and highly specific (e.g., small-volume components; leukoreduced; irradiated; antigen/phenotype-matched units for certain patients). Expanding or prioritizing directed-donation processes increases

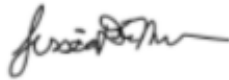
administrative burden and can divert resources from maintaining a reliable inventory for all children who need transfusion.

- Equity concerns and better alternatives to strengthen the shared blood supply
 - Directed donation may advantage families with larger social networks and resources, while offering little or no added safety. If families and community members want to help, the most effective, equitable approach is to donate through established, regulated blood collection organizations—such as the American Red Cross—which supports the broader blood supply used to meet urgent needs across Maryland, including pediatric emergencies.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their opposition to **HB 1481 Tissue Banks and Hospitals - Autologous and Directed Blood Donations** 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.

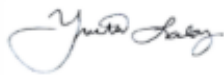
Sincerely,



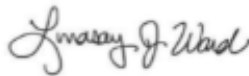
Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE
Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair



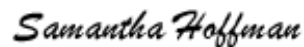
Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair



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