



February 24th, 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 of **House Bill 637: Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)**.

This important piece of legislation aims to enhance public health by expanding access to immunizations and preventive services in our communities. As pediatric healthcare providers, we recognize that timely vaccinations and health screenings are crucial to safeguarding the health of our children and families. We greatly appreciate the inclusion that children who receive vaccination by a qualified pharmacist also receive counseling on the importance of regular primary care visits, as this is crucial to promoting healthy growth and development for children. Furthermore, the requirement for health insurance plans to cover these vaccinations and screenings without additional out-of-pocket costs is a critical step toward eliminating financial barriers that often prevent families from seeking essential preventive care. By mandating coverage, we can encourage higher vaccination rates and ensure that children receive necessary health screenings without the worry of unexpected expenses. We believe that The Vax Act will contribute substantially to improving public health outcomes in Maryland. By supporting this legislation, we are taking proactive steps to enhance the health of our communities and protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases, while fostering a culture of preventive care.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support of HB637: Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act) 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, 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,
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Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC,
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