



NURSE PRACTITIONER
Association of Maryland

“Advocating for Maryland NPs Since 1992”

March 24, 2026

Re: Bill: HB 0838/SB 0562: State Board of Pharmacy – Prescriber – Pharmacists Agreements – Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders

POSITION: Support with Amendments

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc. (NPAM) representing over 8,500 Nurse Practitioners (NPs) licensed in Maryland and 850 active NPAM members, I am writing to state support for **HB 0838/SB 0562: State Board of Pharmacy – Prescriber – Pharmacists Agreements – Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders** with the following amendment.

We commend the sponsors for their efforts in addressing this important issue and including certified advanced practice nurses (Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives) in the bill. We respectfully request that provider neutral language be used in reference to **Page 3, Line 20** of the bill and respectfully recommend that “qualified healthcare provider” be used to replace “licensed physician.”

18 (a) A protocol under this subtitle:

19 (1) May authorize:

20 (i) For protocols by a **licensed physician and licensed pharmacist,**

21 the initiation of drug therapy under written, disease–state specific protocols

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are licensed and nationally certified advanced practice registered nurses, have advanced clinical training and education, and practice independently in Maryland. In both in-patient and outpatient settings, NPs participate in the healthcare team, deliver cost-effective, high-quality healthcare services to patients, and are chosen by many patients to serve as their Primary Care Provider, including those patients with known behavioral health disorders, addictive disorders, and mental health disorders.

We respectfully request a favorable vote to support **HB 0838/SB 0562: State Board of Pharmacy – Prescriber – Pharmacists Agreements – Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders** with the above referenced recommended amendment using provider neutral language “qualified healthcare provider” which would allow certified advanced practice nurses, such as Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives to authorize protocols and practice within their scope.

Should you have any questions feel free to contact me at NPAMexedir@gmail.com .

Sincerely,

Beverly Lang, MScN, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP

Beverly Lang MScN, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP
Interim Executive Director,
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc.