



**NURSE PRACTITIONER  
Association of Maryland**

*Advocating for Maryland NPs Since 1992*

January 27, 2026

Re: Bill: SB 222/HB 137- Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators - Qualifications

Position: Support w/ Amendment

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the **Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc. (NPAM)** representing over 8,500 NPs licensed in Maryland and 850 active NPAM members, I respectfully request the addition of “Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner” to the list of mental health professionals prescribed in the bill able serving as a custody evaluator.

NPAM supports the intent of HB 137 to ensure that custody evaluators possess the appropriate clinical training, expertise, and experience necessary to conduct comprehensive evaluations in contested family law matters. However, we respectfully request that the Committee **amend the bill to expressly include “Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner” as a qualified professional.**

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who have completed specialized graduate-level education and clinical training in psychiatric-mental health care. They are licensed and certified by the Maryland Board of Nursing and possess the knowledge and skill set to assess, diagnose, and manage complex behavioral health conditions.

For these reasons, NPAM respectfully urges the Committee to **report this legislation favorably with the recommended amendment.**

Thank you for your consideration. If NPAM can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact NPAM’s Executive Director at [npamexecdir@gmail.com](mailto:npamexecdir@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

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

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

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