



**NURSE PRACTITIONER  
Association of Maryland**

*“Advocating for Maryland NPs Since 1992”*

**Bill: HB 137 -Family Law-Child Custody Evaluators Qualifications**

**Position: Support with Amendments**

**Committee: House Judiciary**

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM), which represents more than 825 members and over 6,000 nurse practitioners practicing across Maryland, we respectfully submit this letter requesting amendments to **HB 137-Family Law-Child Custody Evaluators Qualifications**

We respectfully request amendments to ensure that qualified nurse practitioners are clearly and appropriately included among professionals eligible to serve as custody evaluators. Specifically, NPAM requests the Judiciary Committee consider one of the following amendment options:

1. Update statutory language to ensure inclusion of nurse practitioners, rather than limiting eligibility by omission or overly narrow professional titles.

OR

2. Eliminate restrictive references that may unintentionally exclude psychiatric nurse practitioners and replace them with inclusive language recognizing nurse practitioners who meet education, licensure, and training requirements consistent with the bill's intent

Nurse practitioners are master's- and doctoral-prepared advanced practice registered nurses who meet rigorous state licensure and national certification standards and provide high-quality, evidence-based care to diverse populations across Maryland. Psychiatric mental health nurse

practitioners, in particular, possess specialized education and clinical training in child and adult development, trauma, family dynamics, mental health assessment, and the impact of violence and abuse—all core competencies explicitly required of custody evaluators under HB 137 .

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. **We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report with one of the above amendments to include language that includes qualified Nurse Practitioners.**

Sincerely,



Claire Bode, DNP, CRNP  
NPAM Legislative Chair  
On behalf of the  
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