



March 23rd , 2026

Maryland House of Representatives
Ways and Means Committee
130 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 again express our **support of Senate Bill 238 School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact**.

As discussed previously, this bill establishes an interstate compact for school psychologists, which is an effective tool for increasing access to healthcare. Maryland has actualized this benefit from interstate compacts with physicians, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, counselors, and speech language pathologists to name a few. Importantly, this bill will increase mental health access for pediatric patients across the state.

One in every five children have a mental, emotional, or behavioral health diagnosis, however, only 20% of children with a mental health diagnosis receive treatment and over 75% of treatment is provided by school-based providers. In Maryland there is only 1 school psychologist for every 1000 or more students enrolled. School-based mental health services strategically address barriers such as transportation, stigma, and schedule conflicts that would lead to time missed from school by the student or from work by the guardian. We are proud to support this vital legislation as an act of advocacy for health policy that expands access to mental and behavioral healthcare, supports interdisciplinary management of the patient population, and will contribute to improved patient-centered outcomes. For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **support of SB238 School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact 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, CCRN, CPN; Chapter President

Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC, IBCLC; Immediate Past-President

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