



February 7th, 2025

Maryland House of Representatives
Health & Government Operations 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) Chesapeake Chapter, I am writing to express our **support of HB386 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions**

This bill seeks to prohibit the use of PFAS chemicals within the state of Maryland, a key initiative to ensuring the health and well-being of children. The chemicals are well known for their persistence in the environment and their potential to cause significant health issues. Exposure in young children has been found to lead to developmental delays, immunocompromised, and increased cancer risk. Children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of these chemicals due to their developing bodies and higher exposure rates relative to their size, yet a common practice currently is to apply these near schools.

This legislation aligns with our commitment to preventive healthcare. By reducing children's exposure to toxic substances, we can prevent many health issues before they arise, ultimately leading to healthier communities and reduced healthcare costs. Our legislative chair is a pediatric oncology nurse practitioner. It is important to highlight the increased risk of childhood cancers associated with PFAS exposure. Studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to an increased risk of cancers such as childhood leukemia¹. Not only is the fight against cancer difficult on the child, but leads to a lifetime of chronic illness, as well as emotional and financial strain on the caregivers, family, and community. Although the overall survival of childhood leukemia is thankfully declining, the incidence continues to rise².

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB386 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions 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 Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chesapeake Chapter legislative committee or president, Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Yvette Laboy

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References

¹ <https://academic.oup.com/jnci/article/116/5/728/7471885>

² <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/childleuk.html>