



February 2nd, 2026

Iowa House of Representatives
Education Committee
1007 E Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 20531

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 express our **opposition** of Iowa's HF2171: A bill for striking elementary and secondary student immunization requirements.

As healthcare professionals dedicated to the well-being of children, we are deeply concerned about the potential risks this legislation poses, particularly to vulnerable populations. Vaccines play a critical role in public health by preventing the spread of infectious diseases that can be especially dangerous for immunocompromised individuals, including children currently undergoing cancer treatment. These children often have weakened immune systems, making them more susceptible to infections that a healthy population can easily withstand. Removing vaccine requirements could lead to a decrease in overall vaccination rates and increase the likelihood of outbreaks of preventable diseases.

This poses a direct risk not only to immunocompromised children but also to the community at large. In states where vaccine mandates have been relaxed, there have been spikes in vaccine-preventable diseases, resulting in serious health complications and increased hospitalizations. These diseases do not stay put within state lines, and outbreaks within one state risks the lives of children in all states. It is crucial for us to protect our most vulnerable populations, and a strong vaccination program is one of the most effective ways to do so. Further, vaccine requirements help ensure herd immunity, protecting those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions, allergies, or age. The potential consequences of weakening these requirements could have far-reaching effects that extend beyond individual health, ultimately compromising the safety and well-being of all US children.

As advocates for children's health, we urge lawmakers to consider the significant nationwide public health implications of this proposed legislation. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their strong opposition of HF 2171 and urges an unfavorable report.** The pediatric advanced practice nurses across the nation are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. 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 or jmurph89@jhu.edu.

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

Dr. Samantha Hoffman DNP, MS,
CPNP-PC; Chapter President-elect