



Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc
2101 East Jefferson Street
Rockville, Maryland 20852

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Senate Finance Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 172 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente enthusiastically supports SB 172, the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act, and offers two amendments for the Committee’s consideration.

Kaiser Permanente is the largest private integrated health care delivery system in the United States, delivering health care to over 12 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia.¹ Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States, which operates in Maryland, provides and coordinates complete health care services for approximately 775,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to over 450,000 members.

Kaiser Permanente is committed to providing quality, culturally appropriate health care to all our members. The Health Equity Resource Act initiative also aligns with KP’s community health work on place-based initiatives and builds on our decade-long experience leading multi-sector partnerships with government, business and community residents involved in design, development and implementation.

Kaiser Permanente strongly supports this legislation to establish Health Equity Resource Communities, which would target state resources to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes. We were an active participant in the Health Enterprise Zones initiative and are pleased to see this proposal as the next phase of that important work. As an organization that provides comprehensive health services to individuals who experience health disparities, we are well positioned to provide ongoing advice and expertise to the initiative. To that end, we offer an amendment to expand the advisory committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact Allison Taylor at Allison.W.Taylor@kp.org or (202) 924-7496 with questions.

¹ Kaiser Permanente comprises Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plan, and its health plan subsidiaries outside California and Hawaii; the not-for-profit Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, which operates 39 hospitals and over 650 other clinical facilities; and the Permanente Medical Groups, self-governed physician group practices that exclusively contract with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and its health plan subsidiaries to meet the health needs of Kaiser Permanente’s members.

Sincerely,



Allison Taylor, MPP JD
Director of Government Relations
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 172
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 7, in line 25, strike “AND”; and after line 25, insert:

“(IX) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A NONPROFIT GROUP MODEL HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION;

(X) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN;

(XI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION; AND”.

On page 7, in line 26, strike “(IX)” and substitute “(XII)”.