



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

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 796 – Support**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support – SB 796 – “Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements”

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.<sup>1</sup> 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 supports this bill and the effort to develop tools that acknowledge and address the vastly different experiences minorities encounter in our health care system and how these experiences undermine their overall well-being. A multicultural society mandates care delivery that meets the demands of chronic disease and health conditions more prevalent among certain ethnicities. It is essential to employ a workforce as diverse as our population to respond to these needs. Obtaining specific information on race and ethnicity of the population we serve as well as the practitioners who provide care supply our health care system with detailed data germane to delivering culturally relevant and sensitive care. To this extent, we strive to better serve the chronic and acute needs of our underserved minority communities.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Taylor".

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.