



Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, P.C.
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc
2101 East Jefferson Street
Rockville, Maryland 20852

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building Room 240
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 905 – Letter of concern; request for workgroup

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente respectfully submits concerns for HB 905, Prescription Drug Benefits - Use of Real-Time Benefit Check Technology.

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 755,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to over 430,000 members.

HB 905 would require, beginning on January 1, 2021, a prescriber or dispenser of a prescription drug to have access to and use, as appropriate, technology that provides “patient-specific prescription drug benefit and cost information” through a real-time standard transaction. Payors, providers, pharmacies, and other organizations involved in prescribing, dispensing, paying for, and exchanging information about prescription drugs must take any actions necessary to facilitate access to and use of such technology. Also, beginning January 1, 2021, electronic health records (EHRs) must display, through real-time integration, the most up-to-date patient-specific eligibility information.

Kaiser Permanente has serious concerns that implementation of this legislation would not be possible by January 1, 2021, especially for all prescribers, all plans, and all drug classes. KP recommends a workgroup to study real-time benefit check technology to address the implementation timeline and any other concerns raised by stakeholders. KP looks forward to working with the General Assembly on this issue.

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.

Kaiser Permanente
Comments on House Bill 905
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact Wayne Wilson at Wayne.D.Wilson@kp.org or (301) 816-5991 with questions.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. Wilson
Vice President, Government Programs and External Relations
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.