



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

February 24, 2021

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

RE: HB 540 – Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente pleased to support HB 540 – “Interstate Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.”

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 welcomes this legislation as our organization employs Occupational Therapists in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia. While all of our providers are licensed in all three jurisdictions, this bill will make it easier for these professionals to provide care in a variety of locations where and when they are needed. Given the effects of the pandemic and the constant variance of staff available to care for our patients, this allows seamless transition across state lines to practice in areas that are highly concentrated with the need of this form of therapy.

We also believe HB 540 will be necessary as we emerge to a post – pandemic state due to the rapidly changing nature of the healthcare industry and the need to address a myriad of diseases. These ailments include but are not limited to birth injuries or birth defects, traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries and other orthopedic injuries as well as learning deficiencies, developmental delays, mental health challenges and chronic diseases such as cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis. With an aging population, it is essential to establish a sustained means of flexibility for occupational therapists to practice interstate care.

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

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.