



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

February 23, 2022

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

RE: SB 637 – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SB 637, Health and Health Insurance - Behavioral Health Services - Expansion (Behavioral Health System Modernization Act)

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 800,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to over 460,000 members.

SB 637 requires a carrier to provide reimbursement for services of a certified peer recovery specialist under the supervision of a behavioral health program for any service that is within the scope of a peer recover specialist. It also requires a carrier to provide coverage for behavioral health crisis response services and measurement-based care provided in a behavioral health setting.

Section 15-1501 of the Insurance Article requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to evaluate the social, medical, and financial impacts of proposed mandated health insurance services and report annually to the General Assembly by December 31. As this bill proposed new mandated health insurance services, we recommend that the General Assembly refer this mandate to MHCC for review in lieu of passing SB 637 this session.

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

Sincerely,

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.