



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

January 25, 2022

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

RE: HB 180 – Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 180, “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – Sunset Extension and Reporting.”

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.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is an agreement among 33 participating states² to work together to significantly streamline the licensing process for physicians who want to practice in multiple states. It offers a voluntary, expedited pathway to licensure for physicians who qualify. Maryland benefits from the Compact because it enables telehealth services; addresses physician shortages or short-term deficiencies; and relieves physicians who need licensing in multiple states from certain administrative delays and burdens. HB 180 would extend the sunset date to 2027 and establish new reporting requirements.

More than 1,700 physicians in Maryland, DC, and northern Virginia are a part of Kaiser Permanente, and we require these physicians to be licensed in all three jurisdictions. The Compact offers a mechanism to streamline the licensure process, allowing the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group to operate most efficiently for our Maryland members. As health systems increasingly offer telehealth to augment other health services, a simplified process for physicians to be licensed in multiple states has become more relevant and beneficial. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report for HB 180.

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.

² In addition to the 33 states, the compact includes the District of Columbia and Guam.

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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,

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.