



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

February 17, 2022

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

RE: HB 709 – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 709, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program

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.

Kaiser Permanente supports the spirit of this legislation, to provide subsidies to small business and nonprofit employers and their employees for the purchase of qualified health benefit plans on the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. However, we believe that a better way to make health insurance more affordable for small businesses and nonprofits would be to lower the premium assessment established by § 6-102.1 of the Insurance Article, which has increased premiums in the small group market. By lowering the assessment, small businesses and nonprofits could have access to more affordable health insurance without needing to apply for a grant.

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.

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.