



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

February 10, 2022

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

RE: HB 625 – Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 625, “Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland – Establishment.”

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.

Health systems across the country are facing mounting and critical staffing shortages that could jeopardize access to care in the communities they serve. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the health care workforce, many of whom are suffering from stress, trauma, burnout and increased behavioral health challenges. A surge in demand by patients needing treatment for COVID-19 has repeatedly threatened to exceed health system capacity.

At the same time, health plans like Kaiser Permanente are seeking to grow their provider networks to improve access for patients and meet regulatory requirements for network adequacy. We fully support passage of HB 625, as it will require the state and stakeholders to proactively look for ways to improve access to health care services and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Commission.

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.