



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

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Committee on Ways and Means  
House Office Building Room 131  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 514 – Support**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 513, establishing the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 is strongly supportive of initiatives – like this one – that provide education and training on mental health and wellbeing interventions in the school setting. Supporting the mental health and resilience of students, teachers and staff is critical for creating a positive school climate. Schools and districts that support the mental health of their employees are likely to have a workforce with lower levels of stress, improved school employee attendance, lower levels of employee turnover, and an increased ability to model positive emotions for students.

Through Kaiser Permanente’s [Thriving Schools](#) program and, we are finding that children and youth are experiencing unprecedented mental health challenges as a result of COVID. However, caregivers – both in and out of the classroom – have limited knowledge to identify signs of mental health issues in young children and pursue appropriate intervention and support strategies. As a result, young children with undiagnosed and/or treated mental health issues will enter schools without the necessary clinical supports and/or social and emotional skills needed to thrive in an academic environment. Kaiser Permanente strongly supports this bill as a first step in helping to address this issue.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Kaiser Permanente  
Comments on HB 513  
February 17, 2022

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.