



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

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building Room 240
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 547 – Support

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 547, “Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship - Penalty (Sacred Places Safety 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 over 825,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to approximately 475,000 members.

Unfortunately, workplace violence is a concerning reality for many health care workers, with statistics reflecting a significant risk:

- Healthcare workers are five times more likely to experience workplace violence than employees in all other industries.
- Nearly 73% of all nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses due to violence in 2018 occurred in healthcare.
- A meta-analysis found 62.4% of healthcare professionals experienced workplace violence: with verbal abuse most common (61.2%), followed by psychological violence (50.8%), threats (39.5%), physical violence (13.7%), and sexual harassment (6.3%).

Workplace violence creates a stressful and unsafe environment for employees. We appreciate the sponsor bringing this important piece of legislation and urge a favorable report.

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 Permanente

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.