



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

March 11, 2024

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

**RE: HB 1515 – Oppose**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente strongly opposes HB 1515. KP 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 over 825,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to approximately 475,000 members.

This legislation is a misguided attempt to fund critical priorities through a \$2.9 billion tax increase on Maryland residents and businesses. While HB 1515 proposes lowering the state sales tax rate from 6% to 5%, it would simultaneously expand the sales tax to a wide variety of everyday services that have never been taxed before, including health care.

Our industry already faces headwinds to keep healthcare affordable for Marylanders. For example, new medical technologies and treatments are constantly emerging, often at a very high price. Chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease require ongoing, expensive management. Additionally, an aging population leads to a greater need for medical services.

We respectfully urge an unfavorable report to help our organization keep healthcare affordable for our members.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Taylor".

Allison Taylor  
Director of Government Relations  
Kaiser Permanente

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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.