



Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, P.C.
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc
2101 East Jefferson Street
Rockville, Maryland 20852

March 2, 2020

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

RE: HB 1050 – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente appreciates the opportunity to provide information for HB 1050, Hospitals – Discharge or Transfer of Patients – Prior Authorization of Prescriptions (The Mae Abraham 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 approximately 755,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to over 430,000 members.

HB 1050 requires a hospital to obtain prior authorization for any prescription given to a patient that may require prior authorization before the patient is discharged or transferred. While we understand how important continuity of post-admission care and compliance with drug regimens are for our members, Kaiser Permanente is concerned that this bill could affect patient flow, i.e., patients could be held in the hospital longer than necessary so that their prior authorizations could be processed. KP would be happy to work with the Committee and stakeholders to address any concerns associated with the legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact Wayne Wilson at Wayne.D.Wilson@kp.org or (301) 816-5991 with questions.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. Wilson
Vice President, Government Programs and External 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.