



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

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 565 – Support

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente strongly supports SB 565, “Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information.”

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 775,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to over 450,000 members.

Kaiser Permanente supports this bill and the concerted effort essential in establishing tools to acknowledge and understand the vastly different experiences that Black people have in America and how these experiences undermine health. To this extent, we strive to serve the acute and chronic needs of our underserved minority communities.

During childbirth, women of color will die at a rate 2.5 times higher compared to their white counterparts. Black women also have a 40 percent higher chance of succumbing to breast cancer than white women. Disparities are also present in chronic disease as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. The pandemic has exacerbated this incongruence as those with pre-existing conditions are at a greater risk of hospitalization and death.

We at Kaiser Permanente are committed to delivering the highest quality care and mitigating health care inequity in our communities where disparities affecting minorities are the norm.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink 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.