



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 646 - Support

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente supports SB 646, “Alcohol and Drug Counseling – Alcohol and Drug Trainees – Practice through Telehealth.”

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.

The bill authorizes alcohol and drug trainees to practice clinical drug and alcohol counseling without a license or drug and alcohol counseling without a certificate through telehealth if the individuals are working as trainees under the supervision of certain approved supervisors while completing certain experiential or course study requirements. Kaiser Permanente is a strong supporter of telehealth and supports the use by drug and alcohol practitioners in this context.

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 cursive script that reads "Allison Taylor".

Allison Taylor, MPP JD
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.