



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

January 14, 2021

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

RE: HB 130 – Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 130 – “Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Establishment.”

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 is committed to providing the highest quality care for our LGBTQ members and strongly support the objectives of this Commission to assess and address challenges faced by this community. Kaiser Permanente appreciates that the Commission’s membership would be made up of individuals who “know about issues facing LGBTQ communities and [will] be sensitive to the problems of LGBTQ communities.” Key among those issues is access to high quality and culturally appropriate health care. Research has shown that many LGBTQ adults have experienced discrimination in a health care setting, and some avoid seeking medical care out of fear of discrimination; this decreases the likelihood of getting routine screenings and preventive medicine. Among those in the LGBTQ community who are low or middle income—those who make up to 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and who are therefore often eligible for financial assistance to gain coverage through the Affordable Care Act—one in three do not have health insurance.

If this legislation is enacted, we will enthusiastically seek a seat on the Commission.

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.

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.

Kaiser Permanente
Comments on HB 130
January 14, 2021

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne D. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'W'.

Wayne D. Wilson
Vice President, Government Programs and External Relations
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.