



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

January 26, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 210 – Support

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente strongly supports SB 210, “COVID-19 Claim – Civil Immunity.”

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.

During the coronavirus pandemic, Kaiser Permanente’s top priority continues to be keeping our members, staff, and communities safe and healthy. We have instituted new safety protocols and greatly expanded telehealth services, including video, audio, and secure messaging, while also continuing to make health care services available in person for members who need them. We have also immediately implemented new protocols in response to statutes, executive orders, and other COVID-related mandates as they’ve been enacted.

At the same, and despite our collective good faith and exhaustive efforts to meet the needs of our state and community, facing environmental factors that are outside of our control, we have seen a marked increase among the legal community discussing and advertising the possibility of tort litigation to take advantage of the circumstances of the crisis. We appreciate that this legislation would protect us from some legal liability for acts that may occur in compliance with state and federal mandates. To that end, we urge a favorable report for SB 210.

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.

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 SB 210
January 26, 2021

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wayne D. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "D".

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