



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

February 2, 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 311 – Support**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente strongly supports SB 311, “Catastrophic Health Emergencies – Health Care Providers – Definition and Immunity (Maryland Health Care Heroes Protection 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 DC.<sup>1</sup> 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 health care practitioners at Kaiser Permanente have risen to meet the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. 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.

This legislation would ensure that those serving Marylanders during a crisis are protected from undue litigation. We ask that Maryland join the other 28 states and the District of Columbia, which have all passed laws and/or issued executive orders to grant liability protections for health care facilities and providers. To that end, we urge a favorable report for SB 311.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Allison Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allison" and last name "Taylor" clearly distinguishable.

Allison Taylor  
Director of Government Relations  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.