



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

March 2, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 632 – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB 632, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program.

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.<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States, which operates in Maryland, provides and coordinates complete health care services for approximately 800,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to over 460,000 members.

Kaiser Permanente applauds the bill's sponsor for taking steps to make coverage more affordable for small businesses and nonprofits, many of whom have been hit hard by the pandemic. We support the goal of this legislation to provide subsidies to these organizations and their employees for the purchase of qualified health benefit plans on the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

There are many factors that impact affordability of health coverage for small businesses and nonprofits, such as the premium tax established by § 6-102.1 of the Insurance Article. This tax – which the Governor has proposed to extend through SB 395 – supports health insurance affordability initiatives in the individual market while effectively raising costs for small group coverage. As the committee considers this legislation, we encourage the committee to consider lowering or eliminating the tax proposed by SB 395 so that policy efforts to improve affordability are aligned.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Taylor".

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.