



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

January 20, 2022

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

RE: HB 97 – Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 97, “Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals.” 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 800,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to over 460,000 members.

Kaiser Permanente supports policies that ensure all Marylanders have access to affordable, high-quality health care. We support “whole-person care,” including the provision of access to services and resources that address beneficiaries’ physical health, mental health and social needs. Finally, we support increasing access to high quality, evidence-based behavioral health services in schools. To that end, we support establishing a Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment to study, evaluate, and revise guidelines for student behavioral health and mental health treatment and practices, including school-based health centers.

Kaiser Permanente is committed to providing high-quality behavioral health services to all people, including school-aged children. We have been a leader in supporting school-based behavioral health programs by grant-funding Baltimore’s Expanded School Behavioral Health Program, which is a model for making evidence-based mental health prevention, screening, education, and treatment available to students at schools. We also fund conflict resolution strategies and trauma and grief resolution in schools and community-based nonprofits with evidence-based intervention models. If enacted, we would appreciate the opportunity to serve on this Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me 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 HB 97
January 20, 2022

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.