



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

March 9, 2022

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

RE: HB 1082 - Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 1082, Public Health - Consumer Health Information - Hub and Requirements.

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.

HB 1082 would establish the University of Maryland Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy as the state's consumer health information hub, providing state and local government agencies, health systems, nonprofit and community-based organizations and other entities with health literacy expertise and resources. Kaiser Permanente is committed to reducing and eliminating disparities in health care quality and access, which includes ensuring that everyone has understandable, useful information and services to protect and improve their health.

We specifically appreciate that the bill envisions an evidence-based approach to health literacy by requiring the hub to develop and publish criteria for evaluating whether a media campaign follows best practices for the promotion of health literacy and use these criteria when awarding grants.

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.

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.

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.