



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

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 281 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support SB 281, “Commission on Public Health – Establishment” with the amendments adopted by the House.

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 over 825,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to approximately 475,000 members.

KP supports the state’s effort to study and make recommendations to improve the state’s public health infrastructure. As demonstrated in the Governor’s budget, more than two-thirds of the state’s funding for public health programs are federal funds.² The Governor’s FY 24 budget for the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration – the state agency that provides the foundational public health services outlined in the bill – is \$294.5 million, of which \$197.2 million is federal funds. To that end, we think the Commission could benefit from inclusion of someone with experience in federal foundational public health services. The crossfile, which was voted on by the HGO Committee last week incorporated a provision creating a workgroup to look at federal funding, which we see as a positive development.

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 Permanente

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.

² The Governor’s FY 24 budget for the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration,