



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

February 23, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building Room 240  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 588 – Support**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 588, Health Insurance – Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program (Access to Care 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 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 over 825,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to approximately 475,000 members.

Kaiser Permanente provides care and coverage to undocumented immigrants in California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado and the District of Columbia, and provides care to undocumented immigrants in Maryland through our charitable care program.

Undocumented immigrants are at high risk of being uninsured because they have limited access to coverage options. Their high uninsured rates reflect limited access to employer-sponsored insurance and eligibility restrictions that bar them from participating in Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Affordable Care Act marketplaces. Additionally, certain lawfully present immigrants lack access to affordable health coverage, such as those who have been in the United States for less than five years.

We support extending coverage for noncitizens who would otherwise be eligible for coverage but for their immigration status. We especially endorse this effort to expand coverage in response to the significant burden immigrants have faced during the pandemic. COVID-19 has taken a heavy toll on immigrants, who are disproportionately frontline workers, making them particularly vulnerable to the virus.

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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.

Kaiser Permanente  
Comments on HB 588  
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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 Permanente