



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

February 28, 2024

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

**RE: HB 1143 – Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support HB 1143, “Emergency Medical Services - Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission and Standardized Protocols – Establishment,” with the amendment below.

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.

We appreciate the hard work already underway to address emergency department wait times and think that work should continue through a commission like the one proposed by this legislation. Given that payors are also impacted by ED wait times – and associated hospital throughput issues – we think it would make sense for the Commission to include a payor representative. See amendment language below. With this amendment we urge a favorable report.

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

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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.

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1143  
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 17, strike “AND”; and in line 19, after “ORGANIZATION”, insert:

“; AND

(V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIER”.