



Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc
4000 Garden City Drive
Hyattsville, Maryland 20785

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building Room 240
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT – House Bill 1134: Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturers – Gift Prohibitions

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente (KP) is pleased to support House Bill 1134, which establishes a \$50 annual cap on gifts from pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers to health care professionals. As the nation's largest integrated nonprofit health system, Kaiser Permanente has long recognized that the integrity of the patient-provider relationship depends on clinical decisions being driven by data, not by industry influence. We believe this legislation is a vital step toward ensuring that medical decision-making across the State of Maryland remains transparent, ethical, and focused on patient outcomes.

At Kaiser Permanente, we maintain some of the most rigorous internal standards in the industry regarding pharmaceutical interactions. Our prescribing decisions are governed by independent clinical reviews of peer-reviewed medical literature. KP does not allow its physicians or clinical staff to meet with pharmaceutical representatives for marketing purposes. By removing the gift culture from facilities, we ensure that providers choose treatments based solely on clinical efficacy and the specific needs of the patient.

While Kaiser Permanente has implemented these standards internally, HB 1134 will level the playing field across Maryland. By defining "gifts" broadly to include food, travel, and entertainment, and imposing a strict \$50 limit, this bill addresses the subtle but documented influence that even small-scale industry marketing can have on prescribing patterns.

Maryland patients deserve to know that when they receive a prescription or a medical device recommendation, it is based on the best available science. This bill provides a necessary safeguard against the rising costs of healthcare and the potential for skewed clinical judgment.

Kaiser Permanente commends the Committee for addressing this important issue. HB 1134 aligns perfectly with our mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve.

For these reasons, Kaiser Permanente urges a favorable report on HB 1134. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me at Allison.W.Taylor@kp.org or (919) 818-3285 with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Allison Taylor".

Allison Taylor
Head of Government Relations

Kaiser Permanente
Comments on [Bill Number]
[Date of Hearing]

Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic Region