



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

February 25, 2026

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

**RE: HB 995 – Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Kaiser Permanente, I am writing to share our perspective on House Bill 995. As a leading integrated delivery system, Kaiser Permanente remains deeply committed to patient-focused care and the safety of Marylanders seeking mental health support. We share your goal of ensuring that artificial intelligence (AI) is deployed ethically, transparently, and safely within the behavioral health landscape.

However, we are concerned that the bill, as currently drafted, may inadvertently hinder the ability of healthcare systems to address the severe mental health workforce shortage. By strictly limiting AI use to "administrative support," the legislation risks blocking innovative tools that increase provider efficiency and supplement treatment plans to prevent more serious mental illness.

**Our Core Concerns**

Kaiser Permanente is actively exploring digital therapeutics and AI-driven productivity tools designed to complement—not replace—the essential work of our licensed providers. Our primary concerns with the current language are:

- **Restriction of Clinical Support Tools:** The bill's narrow allowance for "administrative support" ignores a growing category of digital health tools that help providers monitor patient progress, offer supplemental therapeutic exercises, and increase the overall capacity of our workforce.
- **Operational Bottlenecks:** Mandating specific, rigid consent processes can disrupt clinical workflows. Providers need the flexibility to design and implement disclosure and consent protocols that integrate seamlessly into the care delivery experience while still ensuring patients are fully informed.

**Proposed Amendments:**

To ensure that Maryland patients benefit from both robust protections and modern clinical innovations, we respectfully propose amendments to address the following issues:

- **Expand Provider Flexibility:** Broaden the scope of permissible AI use for licensed providers beyond "administrative support." Language should allow for AI tools that complement or supplement a treatment plan directed by a licensed professional.
- **Streamline Disclosure & Consent:** Remove rigid requirements for written consent in favor of allowing health systems to design operational consent processes that ensure clear notification without creating administrative barriers to care.
- **Clarify Clinical Oversight:** Ensure the bill distinguishes between standalone, unregulated AI products and those used as part of a provider-led clinical care model, where a human clinician remains responsible for the patient's outcomes.

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 (919) 818-3285 with questions.

Sincerely,



Allison Taylor  
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