



January 22, 2024

*Brian W. Frazee*  
President & CEO

The Honorable Sherry Dorsey Walker  
Delaware General Assembly  
Dover, DE 19904

Dear Representative Dorsey Walker,

The Delaware Healthcare Association is pleased to support HB 273 relating to health coverage for speech therapy.

*Nemours Children's Health*  
Mark Marcantano, JD  
Regional President,  
Nemours Children's  
Delaware Valley

This Act would require speech therapy for certain developmentally delayed speech diagnoses for a child from age 1 until the earlier of age 6 or when the child is enrolled in first grade. Insurance plans usually provide coverage for speech therapy as part of a rehabilitation process following an unforeseen tragic event, such as injury or acute illness. Typically, this coverage is extended to children born with cleft palate or recovering from a stroke or traumatic brain injury. However, many insurance plans exclude coverage for services related to developmental disabilities including phonological, delayed speech, and receptive language impairments. Speech therapy is critical to improving communication for children with developmentally delayed speech. DHA supports this bill as it will help support whole child health.

*Bayhealth*  
Terry Murphy,  
President & CEO

*Beebe Healthcare*  
David A. Tam,  
MD, MBA,  
President & CEO

*ChristianaCare*  
Janice E. Nevin,  
MD, MPH  
President & CEO

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for HB 273. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

*TidalHealth Nanticoke*  
Penny Short, MSM, BSN,  
RN  
President & CEO

*Saint Francis Hospital*  
James Woodward  
President, & CEO  
Trinity Health Mid-  
Atlantic Region

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian Frazee'.

*Delaware Healthcare Association*  
Brian W. Frazee  
President & CEO

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President & CEO  
Delaware Healthcare Association