



January 11, 2022

*Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO*

The Honorable David Bentz  
411 Legislative Avenue  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: Support for HB 280**

Dear Representative Bentz,

*Nemours Children's  
Health, Delaware  
Mark Mumford,  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Executive,  
Nemours Delaware  
Valley Operations*

Thank you for being the lead House sponsor of House Bill 280, to allow for expedited training for certified nursing assistants.

*Bayhealth  
Terry Murphy,  
President & CEO*

HB 280 is critical during our present crisis to address Covid-19 staffing challenges. HB 280 permits the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services discretion in determining the length of certified nursing assistant (CNA) training and orientation programs. This will facilitate the rapid training and certification of candidates as CNAs to increase the supply of these critically important clinicians in health care settings.

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

This was drafted to support the class of 100 National Guard who are currently undergoing rapid training at Delaware Technical and Community College and who will be assigned to provide temporary staffing in long term care facilities. Not only will this help relieve staffing shortages in long term care facilities, but it will also facilitate the transfer of non-acute patients out of Delaware's hospitals to an appropriate care setting to free up inpatient bed space.

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

While the Governor's recent State of Emergency declaration allows for changes in the length of CNA training for National Guard members, the Governor understandably desires the State of Emergency to be short in duration. It is highly likely the staffing shortages the health care industry is facing will endure for some period beyond the withdrawal of the State of Emergency order. This legislation will ensure that expedited training and deployment of any qualified individuals as Certified Nursing Assistants can continue to support the health care needs of Delawareans.

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

*Saint Francis Healthcare  
James Woodward  
Acting President*

We are grateful for the support of the Administration and many of your colleagues for this critically needed legislation. The Delaware Healthcare Association looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance House Bill 280.

*Wilmington Veterans  
Affairs Medical Center  
Vincent Kane  
Director*

Sincerely,

*Delaware Healthcare  
Association  
Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wayne A. Smith'.

Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

*DHA represents hospitals and health care delivery systems in Delaware and provides policy and advocacy leadership in creating an excellent environment to support our members in helping every Delawarean to be as healthy as they can be.*

