

March 13, 2024

Brian W. Frazee President & CEO The Honorable Jack Walsh 411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19901

Dear Senator Walsh,

The Delaware Healthcare Association, representing Delaware's hospitals, health systems, and related healthcare organizations, is pleased to support Senate Bill 223.

Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) is a patient-centered effective approach to providing care to individuals in their homes. This approach involves utilizing mobile resources/providers, such as community paramedics, to deliver care and services to patients in an out-of-hospital environment in coordination with healthcare facilities or other healthcare providers. Clinical research studies comparing patients in traditional hospitals with patients who received hospital-level care at home through mobile-integrated healthcare and community paramedicine programs have repeatedly proven that those who received in-home care experienced fewer readmissions, lower mortality rates, reduced falls, and higher patient satisfaction rates.

DHA is proud to report we have member healthcare systems who have worked to implement trial pilot MIH programs and services for the last several years, with great success. Demonstrating that not only is this type of care safe, but it results in high-quality outcomes and reduced costs. In 2023, recognizing the tremendous value MIH can provide, DHA member organizations led the charge to establish Senate Concurrent Resolution 50 – creating the Mobile Integrated Health/Community Paramedicine Workgroup, which consisted of stakeholders from across the state and provided the forum for comprehensive discussions on the role and optimal structure of MIH in Delaware. It was the workgroup that has informed SB 223.

SB 223 integrates MIH and community paramedicine programs into existing regulatory structures in Delaware by authorizing the establishment of mobile-integrated healthcare and community paramedicine programs through our trusted partners at the Office of Emergency Medical Services in the Department of Health and Social Service's Division of Public Health. It strengthens the health care workforce and enables our providers to deliver care in the most optimal and cost-effective settings. This is critical in adapting to meet our growing needs across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for SB 223. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

President & CEO

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Delaware Healthcare Association

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

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

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

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