



March 8, 2023

*Megan Williams, DNP,
FNP-C, FAANP
Interim CEO*

The Honorable Bryant Richardson
411 Legislative Ave.
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Support for Senate Bill 43, Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs

Dear Senator Richardson,

*Nemours Children's
Health*

Mark Mumford,
Executive Vice President
Chief Executive,
Nemours Delaware
Valley Operations

Bayhealth

Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

Beebe Healthcare

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

ChristianaCare

Janice E. Nevin,
MD, MPH
President & CEO

TidalHealth Nanticoke

Penny Short, MSM, BSN,
RN
President & CEO

Saint Francis Hospital

Christopher Cullom,
MSHA, MBA
President, Saint Francis
Hospital

*Delaware Healthcare
Association*

Megan Williams, DNP,
FNP-C, FAANP
Interim CEO

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 43. The Delaware Healthcare Association supports this bill.

SB 43 builds on current Delaware law by expanding the types of locations that must display public awareness signs about human trafficking. Currently, hospitals are required to display these signs. SB 43 adds other health care settings, including urgent care clinics, walk-in health clinics, school-based health centers, substance abuse treatment clinics, psychiatric treatment facilities, family planning clinics and community health clinics. DHA supports this effort to increase awareness of human trafficking and provide those who may be trafficked with the resources to get help.

The Delaware Healthcare Association and our hospital members are committed to addressing human trafficking, particularly as studies have shown that 88% of human trafficking victims were seen by a health care provider while they are being trafficked. In 2019, our Delaware acute care hospitals joined forces on this issue. As a result, Delaware became the first state in the nation to adopt a statewide protocol to responding to human trafficking in the hospital setting. As part of this approach, every Delaware acute care hospital has committed to implementing human trafficking education for staff, using assessment questions to screen for trafficking, and providing access to a step-by-step guide that instructs clinicians on what to do when trafficking is suspected.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. DHA supports SB 43 and looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Megan Williams'.

Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP
Interim 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.

