



March 7, 2022

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

The Honorable Bill Bush
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Support for HB 324

Representative Bush,

Thank you for taking a stand against violence to health care workers with the introduction of House Bill 324. The Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) strongly supports this legislation.

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

Health care workers have dedicated their lives to caring for others, yet they are more likely than any other workforce to encounter serious assault in their workplace. In fact, health care workers are four times more likely to experience workplace violence than other private industries and 75% of the workplace assaults reported annually happen in the health care or social services settings. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the frequency and severity of these incidents.

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

Delaware, like the rest of the nation, is experiencing significant health care workforce shortages. The stress of the pandemic and the surge in violent assaults has taken an enormous toll on our caregivers, both physically and mentally. As a result, many have left the bedside or have made the difficult choice to leave the health care profession all together. We must stand up for our health care heroes.

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

Under House Bill 324, causing intentional injury against any person providing health care treatment or employed by a health care provider is considered assault in the second degree -- a felony offense. Currently, a felony offense only applies if the injury is inflicted on certain health care providers such as doctors, nurses and EMTs. It does not provide the same protection for other health care workers that come in close contact with patients and their families and who are assaulted. This legislation would ensure that violence against all health care workers (such as a patient safety attendants, nursing assistants, respiratory therapists, etc.) is treated equally as it is for currently protected job categories in the same setting.

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

DHA is pleased to support HB 324 and looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

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

Saint Francis Healthcare
James Woodward
Acting President

Sincerely,

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

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

Wilmington Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Vincent Kane
Director

Delaware Healthcare Association
Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

CC: Members of the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

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.

