



April 12, 2022

Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

The Honorable Valerie Longhurst  
411 Legislative Avenue  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: Support for HB 303**

Representative Longhurst,

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

Thank you for introducing House Bill 303, amending Titles 18, 29, and 31 of the Delaware Code relating to mental health. The Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) supports this legislation.

*Bayhealth*  
Terry Murphy,  
President & CEO

HB 303 requires coverage of an annual behavioral health well check and creates an advisory committee of health professionals tasked with creating recommendations for implementation of the Act. Addressing behavioral health needs are critical to improving the overall health of Delawareans. Providing Delawareans with access to an annual visit with a mental health clinician is an important step in helping those struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues. Given the significant increase in anxiety, depression and substance use disorder during the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, now is the time to act in promoting greater access to behavioral health support for Delawareans.

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

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

DHA is pleased to support House Bill 303 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

Sincerely,

*Saint Francis Healthcare*  
James Woodward  
Acting President

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

*Wilmington Veterans  
Affairs Medical Center*  
Vincent Kane  
Director

Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

CC: Members of the House Health & Human Development Committee

*Delaware Healthcare  
Association*  
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.*