



March 24, 2021

The Honorable Edward S. Osienski  
411 Legislative Avenue  
Dover, DE 19901

Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

**RE: Concerns with HB 150, Recreational Marijuana**

Dear Representative Osienski,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 150. The Delaware Healthcare Association is concerned that legalizing marijuana for recreational use could have a negative impact on the health of Delawareans.

*Alfred I. duPont Hospital  
for Children*

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 Healthcare*

Brandon S. Harvath,  
President & COO

*Wilmington Veterans  
Affairs Medical Center*

Vincent Kane  
Director

*Delaware Healthcare  
Association*

Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

According to the CDC, marijuana can have a wide range of effects on one's health. Marijuana has a direct impact on the brain and can impact memory, attention, mood and reaction time. These impacts can be long term, particularly if marijuana use begins before adulthood. Smoked marijuana can be harmful to the lungs and cardiovascular system while edible marijuana carries an increased risk of poisoning. Further, states that have legalized marijuana for recreational use have seen an increase in emergency room visits due to marijuana-induced psychosis and other marijuana-related illnesses in recent years. For example, Colorado's UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital Emergency Department has seen a three-fold increase in marijuana cases since the state became the first to allow sales of recreational marijuana in January 2014.

DHA also shares the concerns of other employers that legalizing marijuana for recreational use could jeopardize the safety of critical workforces. With this in mind, DHA would like to make sure that nothing in this bill would prevent or prohibit hospitals or other employers from holding zero tolerance policies or randomly drug testing employees for marijuana use, or otherwise ensuring policies related to marijuana usages that ensure the safety of patients and staff.

DHA remains concerned with the legalization of marijuana for recreational use HB 150.

Sincerely,

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 advocates for policies that create an environment enabling every Delawarean to be as healthy as they can be.*