



June 26, 2023

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

The Honorable Tim Dukes
411 Legislative Ave.
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Opposition to HB 242, Hospital Visitation Policy

Dear Representative Dukes,

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

We were surprised to learn HB 242 was moved through the House Health & Human Development Committee late last week with no prior notice and we appreciate the opportunity to provide comment. The Delaware Healthcare Association opposes this bill as currently written.

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

While we agree that every hospital patient should have access to visitors to help in their healing process, hospitals must maintain the ability to set their own visitation policies to protect their patients, caregivers, and their communities. Delaware hospitals learned a great deal during the COVID-19 Pandemic and do not ever intend to restrict visitation to the extent it was restricted early in the pandemic. However, we cannot predict the next pandemic or how contagious or virulent it may be, which is why flexibility in hospital visitation policies is needed. Our membership feels this bill in its current form intrudes on our ability to practice healthcare in an optimal fashion for Delaware residents and fundamentally is an overreach of healthcare system and state leadership authority.

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

DHA opposes HB 242 as currently written and hopes to work with you and members of the General Assembly on an approach that addresses your concerns but maintains hospital flexibility to protect our patients, caregivers and our communities.

Saint Francis Hospital
Christopher Cullom,
MSHA, MBA
President, Saint Francis
Hospital

Sincerely,

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

Delaware Healthcare Association
Megan Williams, DNP,
FNP-C, FAANP
Interim CEO

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

CC: Members of the Delaware General Assembly

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.