



March 15, 2023

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

The Honorable Melissa Minor-Brown
411 Legislative Ave.
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Support for House Bill 80, Coverage of Doula Services

Dear Representative Minor-Brown,

*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 House Bill 80. The Delaware Healthcare Association supports this bill.

HB 80 requires that doula services be covered by Medicaid in Delaware by January 1, 2024. Studies have shown that doulas can have a positive impact on the health outcomes of mothers and their babies. For example, doula-assisted mothers were four times less likely to have a low birth weight baby, two times less likely to experience a birth complication involving themselves or their baby, and significantly more likely to initiate breastfeeding than those who elected not to work with a doula. Furthermore, doulas can help bridge gaps in health literacy and improve health equity. DHA supports HB 80 to increase access to doula services.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. DHA supports HB 80 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.