



June 23, 2020

*Wayne A. Smith*  
President & CEO

The Honorable Nicole Poore  
Senate Majority Leader  
411 Legislative Avenue  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: Support for SB 246**

*Alfred I. duPont Hospital  
for Children*  
Jay Greenspan, MD  
Interim Chief Executive  
of Nemours Delaware  
Valley Operations

Dear Senator Poore,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 246. The Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) strongly supports this legislation.

*Bayhealth*  
Terry Murphy,  
President & CEO

SB 246 would allow a hospital to petition for a court-appointed guardian for a non-acute patient who has been a patient at the hospital for an extended period of time after having been abandoned by family. This petition would only be allowed after providing two notices to the patient, the patient's surrogate, or the patient's family if there is no surrogate, of the need to seek a guardian for the patient. This bill is important as there is currently no legal process for a Delaware hospital to seek the appointment of a guardian for a non-acute patient. As a result, Delaware's hospitals have seen hundreds of cases of extended stay patients languishing in the hospital long after their period of acuity.

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

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

*Nanticoke Memorial  
Hospital*  
Penny Short, MSN, RN,  
BSN  
President & CEO

DHA strongly supports SB 246 because allowing hospitals to petition for a guardian is an important step in helping patients, who no longer need to be in the hospital, to transition to a more appropriate care setting.

*Saint Francis Healthcare*  
Daniel Sinnott  
President & CEO

Thank you again for sponsoring SB 246 and we look forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

*Wilmington Veterans  
Affairs Medical Center*  
Vincent Kane  
Director

Sincerely,

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

*Delaware Healthcare  
Association*  
Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

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.*