



May 3, 2023

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

The Honorable Valerie Longhurst
411 Legislative Ave.
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Support for HB 200, Mental Health Unit for DE High Schools

Dear Representative Longhurst,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 200. The Delaware Healthcare Association supports this bill.

*Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO*

HB 200 establishes a mental health services unit for Delaware high schools to increase access to mental health services for high school students. While it has long been understood that access to mental health care is important for youth, the COVID-19 pandemic made it crystal clear that kids are in crisis and we need to do more to address their behavioral health needs. According to a JAMA Pediatrics study, rates of anxiety and depression in children ages 3 to 17 rose 29% and 27%, respectively, in 2020 compared to 2016.

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

Schools are an excellent venue to provide needed mental health care to students. As you may know, Delaware hospitals are the medical sponsors of a majority of Delaware's school-based health centers, which provide physical and mental health care to Delaware students while they are at school. This eliminates the barriers –such as transportation–that students may face in getting to a health care appointment. While school-based health centers are not directly addressed in the bill, we believe the additional school mental health providers will further increase access to the care that Delaware high school students need.

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

*TidalHealth Nanticoke
Penny Short, MSM, BSN,
RN
President & CEO*

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. DHA supports HB 200 and looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

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

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

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.