



January 28, 2025

Christina Bryan

Vice President of
External Affairs

The Honorable Eric Morrison
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

RE: DHA Comments on End of Life Options (HB 140)

Beebe Healthcare

David A. Tam,
MD, MBA
President & CEO
DHA Board Chair

Dear Representative Morrison,

On behalf of Delaware's hospitals and health systems, thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 140, relating to End of Life Options.

ChristianaCare

Janice E. Nevin, MD,
MPH
President & CEO
DHA Board Vice Chair

HB 140 would permit a terminally ill adult resident of Delaware to request and self-administer medication prescribed by a physician or APRN to end the individual's life if certain conditions specified in the legislation are met.

Bayhealth

Terry Murphy
President & CEO
DHA Board Secretary
& Treasurer

While we have concerns with the underlying premise of the bill, as it runs counter to the core mission of healthcare providers, we greatly appreciate the language that allows healthcare institutions to prohibit the prescribing of end of life medication on their premises. We also respectfully request that a similar exemption be added to Section 2503C (lines 91-93) to ensure that those institutions prohibiting end of life treatment on their premises must not be required to include information on the prescribing of medication to end an individual's life as part of their treatment options.

**Nemours
Children's Health**

Mark Marcantano
President
Delaware Valley
Operations

In addition, some of the debate around this issue has focused on pain and discomfort experienced by patients who would qualify to end their own life under this legislation. The robust state of palliative care available in Delaware today allows pain to be addressed in a manner affording patients comfort as they confront terminal illness. Delaware is one of only eight states to receive a perfect 100% score for hospital palliative care prevalence from the Center to Advance Palliative Care.

**TidalHealth
Nanticoke**

Penny Short, MSM,
BSN, RN President

**Saint Francis
Hospital**

Marlow Levy, RN, MBA,
FACHE
President

**Delaware
Healthcare
Association**

Brian W. Frazee
President & CEO

While we continue to make significant advancements in hospice and palliative care access and quality, Delaware has not made commensurate investments in the electronic medical records infrastructure to support hospice, palliative care and home care in a seamless continuum of care. Without better infrastructure support for measures, including but not limited to fully funding DMOST and Advance Care Directives in the Delaware Health Information Network, this legislation may continue to present liability and risk to hospitals, health systems and providers.



Though we continue to have concerns with HB 140, DHA is taking no position on the bill. We appreciate the opportunity to share our comments and hope to continue to work with you to further improve HB 140 and the infrastructure supporting hospice, palliative care and home care in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christina Bryan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Christina Bryan
Vice President of External Affairs