



January 21, 2020

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

The Honorable Bill Bush
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE

RE: Support for HB 144, Stand Against Violence to Health Care Workers

Dear Representative Bush,

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

Thank you for taking a stand against violence to health care workers in sponsoring House Bill 144. The Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) strongly supports this legislation.

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

Health care workers are four times more likely to experience workplace violence than other private industries. In addition, 75% of the workplace assaults reported annually happen in the health care or social services settings. Health care workers have dedicated their lives to caring for others, yet they are more likely to face serious assault than in any other career.

Beebe Healthcare
Rick Schaffner
Interim CEO

House Bill 144 would ensure that causing intentional injury against any person providing health care treatment or employed by a health care provider is considered assault in the second degree -- a felony offense. Currently, a felony offense only applies if the injury is inflicted on certain health care providers such as doctors, nurses and EMTs. It does not provide the same protection for other health care workers that come in close contact with patients and their families and who are assaulted. This legislation would ensure that violence against all health care workers (such as a patient safety attendants, nursing assistants, respiratory therapists, etc.) is treated equally as it is for currently protected job categories in the same setting.

*Christiana Care Health
System*
Janice E. Nevin, M.D.
MPH
President & CEO

*Nanticoke Health
Services*
Steven A. Rose, RN,
MN
President & CEO

Saint Francis Healthcare
Daniel Sinnott
President & CEO

DHA is pleased to support HB 144 and looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

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

Sincerely,

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

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.