



October 28, 2022

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
U.S. House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blunt Rochester,

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

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support for Delaware hospitals and the health of those you represent. The havoc of COVID still reverberates with rising costs, workforce challenges and diminished reimbursements persisting and creating significant financial challenges for hospitals in Delaware and across the nation. A September [report](#) from Kaufman Hall found that 2022 is expected to be the most financially difficult year for hospitals since the start of the pandemic, with total expenses projected to increase by \$135 billion in 2022, compared to 2021.

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

For this reason, we join the American Hospital Association in *urging support* for the following critical health priorities in a year-end legislative package:

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

- **Prevent** any further damaging cuts to health programs, including stopping the forthcoming 4% Statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) sequester;
- **Establish** a temporary per diem payment targeted to hospitals to address the issue of hospitals not being able to discharge patients to post-acute care or behavioral facilities because of staffing shortages;
- **Increase** the number of Medicare-funded graduate medical education positions to address the need for additional physicians in the U.S.;
- **Extend**, or make permanent, the Low-volume Adjustment and the Medicare-dependent Hospital programs — critical rural programs that are due to expire on Dec. 16;
- **Make permanent** the expansion of telehealth services and extend the hospital-at-home program;
- **Finalize** passage of the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act, which streamlines prior authorization requirements under Medicare Advantage plans; and,
- **Create** a special statutory designation for certain hospitals that serve marginalized urban communities.

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

Wilmington Veterans
Affairs Medical Center
Vincent Kane
Director

Delaware Healthcare
Association
Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

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

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO