



January 26, 2021

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

The Honorable Kendra Johnson
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Support for HB 33, Physician Assistants

Dear Representative Johnson,

*Alfred I. duPont Hospital
for Children*

Mark Mumford,
Executive Vice President
Chief Executive,
Nemours Delaware
Valley Operations

Bayhealth

Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

Beebe Healthcare

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

ChristianaCare

Janice E. Nevin,
MD, MPH
President & CEO

TidalHealth Nanticoke

Penny Short, MSM, BSN,
RN
President & CEO

Saint Francis Healthcare

Brandon S. Harvath,
President & COO

Wilmington Veterans

Affairs Medical Center
Vincent Kane
Director

Delaware Healthcare

Association
Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

Thank you for being the lead House sponsor of House Bill 33 to make changes to Title 24 of the Delaware Code regarding physician assistants. DHA supports this important bill.

Physician assistants are an integral part of the health care workforce and will continue to play a critical role, particularly in light of a growing national and local primary care provider shortage. Physician assistants are also an important component in the delivery of high-quality, high-value health care. HB 33 recognizes the important role of physician assistants in making several changes, including in the relationship between physicians and physician assistants from supervisory to collaborative. The bill also allows for flexibility in the 1:4 ratio of physician assistants to physicians in certain settings, such as an emergency department, when physicians and physician assistants practice in the same physical office or facility building. Finally, the bill adds two physician assistant members to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

DHA is pleased to support HB 33 and looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

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.