

June 25, 2024

Brian Frazee President & CEO

The Honorable Melissa Minor-Brown Delaware General Assembly 411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19904 The Honorable S. Elizabeth Lockman Delaware General Assembly 411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19904

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Saint Francis Hospital James Woodward President & CEO Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic Region

Delaware Healthcare Association Brian W. Frazee President & CEO Dear Representative Minor-Brown and Senator Lockman,

The Delaware Healthcare Association, representing Delaware's hospitals, health systems, and related healthcare organizations, is pleased to support House Bill 362.

Ensuring access to care and advancing health equity are two of DHA's top advocacy priorities for 2024. Studies have shown that doulas can have a positive impact on the health outcomes of mothers and their babies. For example, doula-assisted mothers were four times less likely to have a low birth-weight baby, two times less likely to experience a birth complication involving themselves or their baby, and significantly more likely to initiate breastfeeding than those who elected not to work with a doula. Furthermore, doulas can help bridge gaps in health literacy and improve health equity. DHA supports HB 362 to increase access to doula services.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for HB 362. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brian Frazee President & CEO

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Delaware Healthcare Association