

May 16, 2023

Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP Interim CEO

The Honorable Krista Griffith 411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19901

## RE: Support for HB 150, Cover All DE Children

Dear Representative Griffith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 150, the Cover all Delaware Children Act. The Delaware Healthcare Association supports this bill.

HB 150 would provide medical coverage children who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid or CHIP, but whose immigration status prevents them from enrolling in these programs. The bill would also provide health coverage for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care to pregnant individuals regardless of immigration status. DHA supports providing greater access to health coverage for these populations, as those with access to health coverage are more likely to seek preventative health care and avoid more serious conditions that will lead to emergency room visits and hospital stays.

While we would prefer that the health coverage for undocumented children also be extended to inpatient care, Delaware hospitals will continue to provide care to everyone who enters their doors regardless of their ability to pay. In 2020, the last reporting year, Delaware hospitals covered \$775.7 Million in the unpaid cost of patient care. This includes charity care, bad debt and the unpaid cost of government programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support HB 150. We look forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP Interim CEO

DHA represents hospitals and health care delivery systems in Delaware and provides policy and advocacy leadership in creating an excellent environment to support our members in helping every Delawarean to be as healthy as they can be.

Nemours Children's Health 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 Hospital Christopher Cullom, MSHA, MBA President, Saint Francis Hospital

Delaware Healthcare Association Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP Interim CEO