



June 16, 2020

*Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO*

The Honorable David Bentz
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Support for HB 348, Extending Telemedicine Flexibility

Dear Representative Bentz,

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

Thank you for being the lead House sponsor on House Bill 348 to continue the flexibility provided by the State of Emergency Declaration for Delaware to allow for increased access to telemedicine services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) strongly supports this legislation.

*Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO*

HB 348 continues certain telemedicine provisions in the State of Emergency Declaration for the State of Delaware, and subsequent modifications, declared as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including: suspending the requirement that patients present in-person before telemedicine services may be provided; suspending the requirement that a patient must be in Delaware at the time the telemedicine services are provided; and suspending any requirement that both audio and visual technology be used (permitting telemedicine services via non-smart phones or land line connections). This Act also requires that telemedicine services permitted under this Act receive the same insurance coverage as under existing law.

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

*ChristianaCare
Janice E. Nevin,
MD, MPH
President & CEO*

These provisions have been critical in reducing barriers and increasing access for patients to receive care through telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic. This flexibility has enabled patients to get the care they need from the safety of their own homes, while keeping non-emergency patients out of the emergency room during the crisis. Although Delaware is reopening, the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Therefore, we need to continue these critical telemedicine flexibilities to ensure continued access to care for all.

*Nanticoke Memorial
Hospital
Penny Short, MSN, RN,
BSN
President & CEO*

*Saint Francis Healthcare
Daniel Sinnott
President & CEO*

DHA is pleased to support HB 348 and we urge your colleagues to join in extending these critical telehealth provisions.

*Wilmington Veterans
Affairs Medical Center
Vincent Kane
Director*

Thank you again for sponsoring HB 348 and we look 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.