



July 19, 2021

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

The Honorable Chris Coons
U.S. Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons,

*Alfred I. duPont Hospital
for Children*
Mark Mumford,
Executive Vice President
Chief Executive,
Nemours Delaware
Valley Operations

On behalf of the members of the Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) I am writing to thank you for your support of the NOPAIN Act which will help us fight back against the opioid crisis.

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

Even before the pandemic started, the number of opioid overdoses were increasing as synthetic opioids [became more prevalent](#) across the country. Then, during the pandemic, overdoses [increased drastically](#), putting additional stress on hospital systems as they were already caring for the waves of coronavirus patients coming in through their doors.

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

To turn the tide in our fight against the opioid epidemic, we must take a look at where addiction starts. For some that starts after receiving opiates to treat post-operative pain. While there are a number of FDA approved non-opioids, biological treatments, and medical devices available for treating pain, current Medicare policies limit patient's access to these options. The NOPAIN Act would change all this by unbundling payments made to hospitals so that a patient, in consultation with their doctor, would be able to receive a non-opioid pain management option. They would be able to leave the hospital without having to worry about the possibility of getting addicted to a powerful opioid.

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

TidalHealth Nanticoke
Penny Short, MSM, BSN,
RN
President & CEO

Saint Francis Healthcare

This bill will slow the opioid epidemic and give much needed relief and support to our hospitals as they continue to care for Delaware patients.

*Wilmington Veterans
Affairs Medical Center*
Vincent Kane
Director

*Delaware Healthcare
Association*
Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

Thank you again for co-sponsoring the NOPAIN Act. I ask you to work with your colleagues, including Senators Wyden and Schumer to encourage them to support the NOPAIN Act as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Wayne A. Smith