



January 25, 2023

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

The Honorable Edward S. Osienski
411 Legislative Ave.
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Opposition to HB 1 and HB 2, Recreational Marijuana

Dear Representative Osienski,

*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

Wilmington Veterans

Affairs Medical Center
Vincent Kane
Director

*Delaware Healthcare
Association*

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1 and House Bill 2 relating to the legalization and regulation of marijuana for recreational use. The Delaware Healthcare Association is concerned that legalizing marijuana for recreational use could have a negative impact on the health of Delawareans.

According to the CDC, marijuana can have a wide range of effects on one's health. Marijuana has a direct impact on the brain and can impact memory, attention, mood and reaction time. These impacts can be long term, particularly if marijuana use begins before adulthood. Smoked marijuana can be harmful to the lungs and cardiovascular system while edible marijuana carries an increased risk of poisoning. Further, states that have legalized marijuana for recreational use have seen an increase in emergency room visits due to marijuana-induced psychosis and other marijuana-related illnesses in recent years. For example, Colorado's UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital Emergency Department has seen a three-fold increase in marijuana cases since the state became the first to allow sales of recreational marijuana in January 2014.

DHA also shares the concerns of other employers that legalizing marijuana for recreational use could jeopardize the safety of critical workforces. With this in mind, DHA would like to make sure that nothing in this bill would prevent or prohibit hospitals or other employers from holding zero tolerance policies or randomly drug testing employees for marijuana use, or otherwise ensuring policies related to marijuana usages that ensure the safety of patients and staff.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Respectfully, DHA remains opposed to the legalization of marijuana for recreational use (HB 1 and HB 2).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Megan Williams'.

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.