



May 10, 2023

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

The Honorable Valerie Longhurst  
411 Legislative Ave.  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: Support HB 3 and HB 4, Student Mental Health**

Dear Representative Longhurst,

Nemours Children's  
Health  
Mark Mumford,  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Executive,  
Nemours Delaware  
Valley Operations

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3 and HB 4, aimed at addressing student mental health. The Delaware Healthcare Association supports these bills.

Bayhealth  
Terry Murphy,  
President & CEO

HB 3 provides for excused absences for the mental or behavior health of a student and requires that any student taking more than 2 such excused absences will be referred to a behavioral health specialist. This bill provides a supplemental tool to identify students struggling with mental and behavioral health issues and legitimizes these struggles faced by many students. Moreover, this bill makes clear that the mental and behavioral health of students is a priority in this State.

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

HB 4 The purpose of this legislation is to provide more behavioral health supports to school districts and charter schools in the aftermath of a school-connected traumatic event, which is defined as the death of any student, educator, administrator, or other building employee of a public school. The Department of Education is charged with developing guidance, best practices, and written resources for schools dealing with a school-connected traumatic event

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. DHA supports HB 3 and HB 4 and looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

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

Saint Francis Hospital  
Christopher Cullom,  
MSHA, MBA  
President, Saint Francis  
Hospital

Sincerely,

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

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

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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.*

