



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

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Paul Baumbach
411 Legislative Ave.
Dover, DE 19901

RE: DHA Comments on End of Life Options (HB 140)

*Nemours Children's
Health*

Mark Mumford,
Executive Vice President
Chief Executive,
Nemours Delaware
Valley Operations

Dear Representative Baumbach,

On behalf of Delaware's hospitals and health systems, thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 140, relating to End of Life Options.

Bayhealth

Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

HB 140 would permit a terminally ill adult resident of Delaware to request and self-administer medication prescribed by a physician or APRN to end the individual's life if certain conditions specified in the legislation are met.

Beebe Healthcare

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

While we have concerns with the underlying premise of the bill, as it runs counter to the core mission of health care providers, we also greatly appreciate your willingness to make changes that allow health care providers to opt-out of prescribing of end-of-life medication.

ChristianaCare

Janice E. Nevin,
MD, MPH
President & CEO

In addition, some of the debate around this issue has focused on pain and discomfort experienced by patients who would qualify to end their own life under this legislation. The robust state of palliative care available in Delaware today allows pain to be addressed in a manner affording any patient comfort as they confront terminal illness. Delaware recently received a perfect 100% score in the State-by-State Report Card on Access to Palliative Care in Our Nation's Hospitals, a collaboration by the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) and the National Palliative Care Research Center (NPCRC).

TidalHealth Nanticoke

Penny Short, MSM, BSN,
RN
President & CEO

Saint Francis Hospital

Christopher Cullom,
MSHA, MBA
President, Saint Francis
Hospital

While we continue to make significant advancements in hospice and palliative care access and quality, Delaware has not made commensurate investments in the electronic medical records infrastructure to support hospice, palliative care and home care in a seamless continuum of care. Without better infrastructure support for measures, including but not limited to fully funding DMOST and Advance Care Directives in the Delaware Health Information Network, this legislation may continue to present liability and risk to hospitals, health systems and providers.

*Delaware Healthcare
Association*

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

We appreciate the opportunity to share our comments on HB 140. We hope to continue to work with you to further improve HB 140 and the infrastructure supporting hospice, palliative care and home care in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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.