



January 26, 2022

Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

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

**RE: Opposition to HB 305**

Dear Representative Osienski,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 305. The Delaware Healthcare Association is concerned that legalizing marijuana for recreational use could have a negative impact on the health of Delawareans.

*Bayhealth*  
Terry Murphy,  
President & CEO

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 UHealth 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.

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

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.

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

DHA remains opposed to HB 305, the legalization of marijuana for recreational use.

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

Sincerely,

*Saint Francis Healthcare*  
James Woodward  
Acting President

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

Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

*Wilmington Veterans Affairs Medical Center*  
Vincent Kane  
Director

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

CC: Members of the House Health and Human Development Committee