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The Honorable Marie Pinkney 411 Legislative Ave Dover, DE 19901

RE: DHA Support for Community Health Workers (SJR 2)

Dear Senator Pinkney,

On behalf of Delaware's hospitals and health systems, thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for SJR 1, which requires the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) to present a report for the provisions of insurance coverage for Community Health Worker (CHW) services.

CHWs are a valued part of the health team who serve as frontline liaisons, guiding individuals and families through the health, social, and community service systems to foster health and well-being. As trusted members of the community, CHWs are sensitive to the demographics and experiences of the community and provide culturally and linguistically competent and appropriate services.

For years, Delaware's counties have benefitted from the work of CHWs in hospitals, federally qualified health clinics, community-based organizations, and within the Division of Public Health. Our state's CHWs are well-trained and effective. However, CHW programs are funded largely through time-limited, grant-based financial support which creates challenges in consistent funding and program planning. Sustainable funding of CHWs should be recognized as a priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for SJR 2. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Megan McNamara Williams

Vice President, Clinical Affairs and Operations