



January 19, 2020

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

The Honorable David Bentz
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Support for HB 48

Dear Representative Bentz,

*Alfred I. duPont Hospital
for Children*

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 Healthcare

Brandon S. Harvath,
President & COO

Wilmington Veterans

Affairs Medical Center
Vincent Kane
Director

Delaware Healthcare

Association
Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

Thank you for being the lead House sponsor of House Bill 48, to create a health care provider loan repayment program. The Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) strongly supports this legislation.

A strong primary care system can help keep Delawareans healthier longer through prevention care and early identification and treatment of multiple chronic conditions that otherwise may result in costly and debilitating outcomes. A robust system of primary care contributes to better outcomes, lower costs and an improved quality of life for Delawareans. Unfortunately, there is a primary care shortage across the nation and here in Delaware.

HB 48 takes a critical step in bridging this gap by setting up the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program to fund up to \$50k per year for four years in medical loan debt as an incentive for new primary care providers to practice here in Delaware. The program would be administered by the Delaware Health Care Commission and priority consideration may be given to DIMER-participating students and participants in Delaware-based residency programs. Funding for the program would come from a public-private partnership: \$1 million from the State, \$1 million from health insurers, and hospitals alone among grant recipient sponsors would match any grants to primary care providers employed at hospitals on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Thank you again for being the lead House sponsor of HB 48. We look forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

DHA represents hospitals and health care delivery systems in Delaware and advocates for policies that create an environment enabling every Delawarean to be as healthy as they can be.