Delaware Healthcare Association

March 28, 2023

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

The Honorable Marie Pinkney
411 Legislative Ave.
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 52, Needle Exchange**

Dear Senator Pinkney,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 52. The Delaware Healthcare Association supports this bill.

SB 52 directs the State's current needle exchange program to take a needs-based approach instead of the current 1-for-1 exchange requirement. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a needs-based approach to syringe distribution has been shown to prevent new HIV and viral hepatitis infections. The CDC also states that needs-based approaches are safer than "one-for-one" exchange programs because they reduce high-risk injection behaviors that may lead to the spread of HIV and other blood-borne infections. DHA supports SB 52 because our members agree this approach reduces risk and transmission of infectious disease in our communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. DHA supports SB 52 and looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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

*Nemours Children's Health*
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 Hospital*
Christopher Cullom,
MSHA, MBA
President, Saint Francis Hospital

*Delaware Healthcare Association*
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.*