



January 13, 2026

The Honorable Kendra Johnson
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

RE: DHA Supporting Comments on HB 224, Physician Assistants to Pronounce Death

Dear Representative Johnson,

On behalf of Delaware's hospitals, health systems, and related healthcare organizations, thank you for the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 224, which authorizes physician assistants to pronounce death and sign death certificates in Delaware.

Strengthening Delaware's healthcare workforce and ensuring access to high-quality care are among the Delaware Healthcare Association's (DHA) top advocacy priorities for 2026. HB 224 aligns with these priorities by ensuring physician assistants, who are highly trained healthcare professionals and integral members of the care team, can practice at the top of their license.

Allowing physician assistants to pronounce death and complete death certificates helps reduce delays that can occur when a physician is not immediately available, particularly in hospital and emergency department settings. This change supports timely care transitions, eases administrative burdens, and allows healthcare teams to operate more efficiently while continuing to meet the needs of patients and families.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and for the opportunity to share DHA's support for HB 224. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christina Bryan'.

Christina Bryan
Vice President of External Affairs

Brian Frazee
President & CEO

ChristianaCare
Janice E. Nevin, MD, MPH
President & CEO
DHA Board Chair

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy
President & CEO
DHA Board Vice-Chair

TidalHealth Nanticoke
Penny Short, MSM, BSN, RN
President
DHA Board Secretary & Treasurer

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

Saint Francis Hospital
Marlow Levy, RN, MBA,
FACHE
President

Nemours Children's Health
Laura Kowal, MPT, JD
Interim President
Delaware Valley Executive Vice
President, General Council

Delaware Healthcare Association
Brian W. Frazee
President & CEO