



January 27, 2025

The Honorable DeShanna Neal
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

RE: DHA Support for HB 3, Breastfeeding and Lactation Program within the Department of Corrections

Christina Bryan
Vice President of
External Affairs

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

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

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy
President & CEO
DHA Board Secretary
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**Nemours
Children's Health**
Mark Marcantano
President
Delaware Valley
Operations

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

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

**Delaware
Healthcare
Association**
Brian W. Frazee
President & CEO

Dear Representative Neal,

The Delaware Healthcare Association, representing Delaware's hospitals, health systems, and related healthcare organizations, is pleased to support House Bill 3.

Advancing health equity is one of DHA's top advocacy priorities for 2025. HB 3 creates a breastfeeding and lactation program within the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide lactation support to women in custody.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), breastfeeding is the best source of nutrition for most infants and has health benefits for both infants and mothers. Breastfed babies have a reduced risk of certain health conditions such as asthma, obesity, type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome. Breastfeeding can also reduce the mother's risk of certain cancers, type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure.

Since Delaware has the 8th highest rates of obesity in the nation, the 9th highest rates of diabetes in the nation, and the 15th highest rates of cancer, we must work collaboratively on policies that help *all* Delawareans reach their best possible health.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for House Bill 3. 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, External and Governmental Affairs