



March 23, 2026

The Honorable Mara Gorman
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

RE: DHA Supporting Comments related to Protecting Healthcare Workers and Patients (HB 322)

Dear Representative Gorman,

On behalf of Delaware's hospitals, health systems, and related healthcare organizations, thank you for the opportunity to express the Delaware Healthcare Association's (DHA) support for House Bill 322, which allows security personnel working for a healthcare or medical facility to detain those presenting a security or safety risk for the purpose of summoning a law-enforcement officer.

Last year, DHA was pleased to support the intent of HB 153 which prevented citizen arrests in Delaware. However, our hospital members flagged that an unintended consequence of the law was that hospital security would no longer be able to temporarily detain those threatening or posing a safety risk to patients, visitors, and our critical healthcare workforce.

We thank you for prioritizing the safety of our healthcare workforce by working with DHA on HB 322 ensuring that healthcare facilities, workers, patients and visitors can continue to be protected from violence. HB 322 limits detention to situations where an individual is held solely to summon law enforcement, aligning with existing Delaware law that allows for the brief detention of suspected shoplifters for the same purpose.

Strengthening Delaware's healthcare workforce by advancing policies that protect our healthcare workers, patients, and visitors from violence in the health care setting is one of DHA's top advocacy priorities for 2026, and HB 322 represents a meaningful step toward achieving this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for HB 322 and for your willingness and collaboration to address DHA's concerns. 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
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