



June 16, 2026

Brian Frazee
President & CEO

The Honorable DeShanna Neal
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

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

RE: DHA Support of Prohibiting the Sale of Energy Drinks in Public Schools (HB 459)

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy
President & CEO
DHA Board Vice-Chair

Dear Representative Neal,

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

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 459, which prohibits the sale of energy drinks on public middle and high school campuses during school hours or school events.

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

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under the age of 12 should not consume caffeine and adolescents ages 12-18 should limit their intake to less than 100 milligrams per day. Excessive caffeine can lead to adverse health effects, including dehydration, anxiety, and increased heart rate.

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

DHA believes that, to make the First State First in Health, Delawareans need to be able to make informed decisions about what they consume and how it impacts their health. HB 459 is an important step toward improving protecting our children from the negative effects associated with excessive caffeine consumption.

Nemours Children's Health
Laura Kowal, MPT, JD
President
Delaware Valley

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for HB 459, and for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to advance this legislation.

Delaware Healthcare Association
Brian W. Frazee
President & CEO

Sincerely,

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

Christina Bryan
Vice President of External Affairs