



May 4, 2026

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The Honorable Bryan Townsend
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

RE: DHA Support for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Insurance Coverage (SB 22)

Dear Senator Townsend,

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 Senate Bill 22, strengthening insurance coverage standards for mental health and substance use disorder care in Delaware.

DHA's advocacy priorities for 2026 include ensuring healthcare access, quality, and affordability. SB 22 takes important steps to advance this goal by increasing access to affordable mental health care by improving insurance coverage of necessary care. Delaware continues to face growing behavioral health needs, and too many Delawareans are unable to access the services and care they need. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), one in five adult Delawareans experience mental illness each year, approximately 165,000 live with a mental health condition, and 15,000 Delaware adolescents experience depressive episodes annually. SB 22 is a meaningful step toward ensuring patients in Delaware can access the right mental and substance use care at the right time in the right setting without facing unnecessary administrative hurdles that can delay and disrupt care.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for SB 22 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.

Sincerely,

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

Christina Bryan
Vice President of External Affairs