



April 21, 2026

The Honorable Marie Pinkney  
411 Legislative Ave  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: DHA Supporting Comments related to Dental Hygienist Scope of Practice (SB 283)**

Dear Senator Pinkney,

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 283. This legislation expands the scope of practice for dental hygienists in the state, allowing them to fully utilize their education and expertise to provide essential oral health services.

Strengthening Delaware's healthcare workforce and ensuring healthcare access are among DHA's top advocacy priorities for 2026, and SB 283 directly advances these priorities. Oral health is critical component of overall health and well-being. Untreated dental conditions can lead to serious medical issues, including infections, chronic pain, and complications that exacerbate other health conditions, often resulting in avoidable and costly emergency department visits. This bill will help address critical dental provider shortages, as dental hygienists play a vital and respected role in prevention, patient education, and early identification of disease.

DHA has been an active partner in the state's engagement with the Rural Health Transformation Program and supports this legislation as a way to help ensure Delaware remains competitive in accessing and maximizing federal funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for SB 283. 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  
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**Beebe Healthcare**  
David A. Tam, MD, MBA  
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**Saint Francis Hospital**  
Marlow Levy, RN, MBA,  
FACHE  
President

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

**Delaware Healthcare Association**  
Brian W. Frazee  
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