



February 25, 2026

The Honorable Kendra Johnson
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

RE: FSHLA Support for SS1 for SB67 - Amend Title 16 of the Delaware Code Relating to the Background Check Center

Dear Representative Johnson,

The First State Health Leaders Alliance (FSHLA), a group of leading health advocates who have joined forces to strengthen healthcare in Delaware, supports Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 67, and encourages your favorable consideration of this important legislation. This legislation strongly aligns with FSHLA's advocacy priority that focuses on efforts to support, strengthen and advance the health workforce.

Formed in March 2025, the alliance issued a joint agenda with a focus on collaboration and coordination across sectors, emphasizing that solutions for healthcare are shared, not siloed. The advocates have expertise across the healthcare continuum including nursing and physician practice, public health and medicine, advocacy for persons with disabilities, home care, facilities, and hospitals.

Specifically, SS1 for SB67 codifies that criminal background reports obtained through the Background Check Center will remain valid for a period of one year for prospective employers. This update will reduce duplicative screenings, administrative costs, and unnecessary delays in hiring — challenges that disproportionately affect home care and long-term facility care and other essential care services. In addition, a new background check will no longer be required when a current employee of a long-term care facility or home care agency receives a promotion.

By streamlining background check requirements without compromising public safety, SS1 for SB67 supports workforce stability, continuity of care, and responsible oversight. These improvements are especially important as Delaware continues to face workforce shortages in home care and long-term care services. This legislation reflects thoughtful policy making that recognizes both the realities faced by employers and the importance of protecting vulnerable populations.

We thank Senator Hoffner and Senator Townsend for their work in support of this bill and the Senate for passing this important measure. We are also grateful for your sponsorship of the legislation and urge speedy passage of SS1 for SB67 by the House of Representatives to strengthen Delaware's care systems and workforce.

Sincerely,

First State Health Leaders Alliance

Carolyn Petrak, Executive Director
Ability Network of Delaware



Kate Smith MD, MPH, Executive Director
Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health



Susan R. Getman, MA, Executive Director
Delaware Association for Home & Community Care



Delaware Association for
Home & Community Care

Brian Frazee, President & CEO
Delaware Healthcare Association



Cheryl Heiks, Executive Director
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Christopher E. Otto, MSN, RN, CCRN, Executive
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Kevin Musto, BSPHarm, FAPhA, DPEC Executive
Director **Delaware Pharmacists Society**



James W. McCracken, President & CEO
LeadingAge NJ & DE



Mark Thompson, Executive Director
Medical Society of Delaware



Cc: Members of the House of Representatives
Bryan Townsend, Senate District 11
Kyra Hoffner, Senate District 14