



April 20, 2021

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

The Honorable David Bentz
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Support for HB 160, Telehealth Access Preservation and Modernization Act of 2021

Dear Representative Bentz,

*Alfred I. duPont Hospital
for Children*
Mark Mumford,
Executive Vice President
Chief Executive,
Nemours Delaware
Valley Operations

Thank you for being the lead sponsor of House Bill 160 to amend Titles 18 and 24 of the Delaware Code relating preserving telehealth and adopting the interstate medical licensure compact. DHA strongly supports this important bill.

Bayhealth
Terry Murphy,
President & CEO

HB 160 continues to ensure that telehealth can be utilized to provide greater access to care and improve health outcomes for hard to reach, elderly, and underserved populations and those patients who cannot easily travel to the office for care. The bill consolidates the existing law relating to telehealth within a single new chapter applicable to all health-care providers authorized to practice telemedicine and participate in telehealth and makes permanent the telehealth flexibilities put in place for the Covid-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include ensuring that a patient does not need to present in-person before telemedicine services may be provided and allowing for landline or audio-only services in cases where patients do not have access to broadband connections or smartphones.

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

ChristianaCare
Janice E. Nevin,
MD, MPH
President & CEO

HB 160 also adopts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC), joining Delaware to the growing list of 29 States that are already members of the IMLC. The IMLC creates a voluntary, expedited pathway to state licensure for physicians who want to practice medicine in multiple states, while maintaining Delaware's authority to regulate physician practice. This would allow for greater access to physicians via telehealth and in-person care for Delawareans.

TidalHealth Nanticoke
Penny Short, MSM, BSN,
RN
President & CEO

Saint Francis Healthcare
Brandon S. Harvath,
President & COO

DHA is pleased to support SB 85 and looks forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to advance this important legislation.

*Wilmington Veterans
Affairs Medical Center*
Vincent Kane
Director

*Delaware Healthcare
Association*
Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wayne A. Smith'.

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO

DHA represents hospitals and health care delivery systems in Delaware and advocates for policies that create an environment enabling every Delawarean to be as healthy as they can be.