Delaware hospitals strongly support House Bill 257 to attract more primary care health care providers to Delaware.

Primary care is critical to healthier communities, but there is a national primary care shortage. In Delaware, our population is increasing while the number of primary care health care providers has decreased. There are not enough primary care health care providers in rural and low-income areas in our State.

Establishing a health care provider student loan repayment program is critical to bringing more primary care providers to Delaware and meeting the health needs of all Delawareans.

DHA strongly supports HB 257, introduced by Rep. David Bentz, Sen. Nicole Poore and Rep. Bryan Shupe to attract more primary care providers to our state by creating a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. The program would:

- Offer up to $3 million in medical education debt relief utilizing a public-private partnership;
  - $1 million funded by State
  - $1 million funded by Insurers
  - Funded by hospitals who would be required to match any grants to primary care providers employed at hospitals on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
- Provide up to $50,000 a year of medical education debt relief for four years for primary care providers that locate in an underserved area in Delaware; and,
- Prioritize Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER) students and those participating in Delaware-based residency programs.
- Prevent Delawareans from losing access to Primary Care in the 2020’s
- Increase access to Primary Care.

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