May 10, 2017

Senator Harris McDowell
DE General Assembly
Legislative Hall
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Senator McDowell;

Nemours Children’s Health System expresses its full support for Senate Bill 65.

Our providers see children and adolescents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), and we have a responsibility to talk to these patients and their families about supported treatment modalities. Many families come to us specifically seeking affirmative treatment because they are aware that conversion therapy can be harmful.

We take our responsibility to our LGBT patients and families very seriously. In 2012 Nemours established an Office of Health Equity and Inclusion and has earned top marks in meeting non-discrimination and training criteria that demonstrate its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients, and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing the quality health care and respect they deserve. And in 2016, Nemours/Alfred I. du Pont for Children was recognized for the second time as a “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the country’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization.

Our position in support of Senate Bill 65 is consistent with the opinion of esteemed groups such as the American Psychological Association, as outlined in its Resolution on Appropriate Affirmative Responses to Sexual Orientation Distress and Change Efforts (http://www.apa.org/about/policy/sexual-orientation.aspx).

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Chris Manning
Director
Delaware Valley Government Relations
Nemours Children’s Health System