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Dr. R. Lawrence Moss
President & CEO, Nemours Children's Health
1600 Rockland Road
Wilmington, DE 19803

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk ... I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug ... I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings.

- *The Hippocratic Oath*

Dear Dr. Moss,

Your hospital system holds a well-established position in our community, and I appreciate the care, concern, and dedication that your providers have shown to Delaware patients—both in and out of the doctor's office.

I have likewise been proud of the Governor and General Assembly's efforts to protect not only those patients, but your providers, from the increasingly brash and erratic efforts of extremist politicians to threaten and even criminalize medically necessary care. Our state has spent years, and gone to great lengths, to defend medical freedom and the privacy, dignity, and safety of your patients and our constituents, including transgender, intersex, and nonbinary Delawareans seeking necessary care.

Your hospital system has previously held—recently by lobbying against legislative efforts to implement hospital oversight and cost controls—that any government intermingling, no matter how benign, in hospital operations would threaten a doctor's advice to their patients. It was thus with considerable surprise that I learned of your executives' decision, unburdened by any scientific or medical basis, to preemptively comply with President Trump's cruel scapegoating of transgender kids who are simply in need of critical medical care, by withholding this medically necessary care from your patients.

Our state has repeatedly and explicitly rejected this kind of cruelty, and for good reason. [Research](#) indicates that roughly 80% of transgender individuals have considered suicide at some point in their lives, with 40% having attempted suicide; those stunningly high rates are even higher for transgender youth. Gender-affirming care (GAC), however, offers a lifeline for this population, with [study](#) after [study](#) suggesting that it can significantly reduce mental health disparities and suicidality. It is because of these demonstrable benefits – along with a long-held value in our state to protect the vulnerable – that our Governor recently signed an [executive order](#) to ensure that GAC is protected in Delaware.

I cannot state strongly enough that the President's mandates attacking GAC are not only immoral – they are illegal. The President does not have the power to unilaterally change the law to ban GAC or redefine

the concept of gender identity, and he most certainly does not – per the U.S. Constitution and federal law – have the authority to arbitrarily withhold Congressionally-approved federal funds.

History is replete with physicians and scientists who risked life and liberty to uphold patient care, to resist political repression, and to preserve the refuge promised in the Hippocratic Oath. It is likewise replete with lessons that appeasement to lawless and unethical decrees only begets further overreach. While I recognize that you may worry about being placed in a precarious business position, I worry that your decision makes our state less caring, less healthy, and less safe. For the sake of your patients, and of my constituents, I urge you to reconsider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail on the "J".

Kathy Jennings
Delaware Attorney General