



March 23, 2022

The Honorable Kendra Johnson  
House Housing and Community Affairs Committee  
Delaware General Assembly  
411 Legislative Avenue  
Dover, DE 19901

**Re: ChristianaCare Letter of Support for SS1 for SB 101 –Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings**

Dear Representative Johnson,

I write to express support on behalf of ChristianaCare for Senate Substitute No. 1 for SB101, establishing a right to legal representation for tenants in eviction proceedings.

There is a considerable body of evidence supporting the link between stable, safe and secure housing and a person’s overall health and wellbeing. As noted in a 2020 report of the Housing Alliance Delaware, even “[p]rior to the Covid-19 pandemic, individuals experiencing homelessness had a morbidity rate of ten times the general population.” Even when not facing homelessness or imminent eviction, there is considerable data and evidence showing that cost-burdened families in low or extremely-low income households in Delaware have poorer health status and outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

ChristianaCare has been actively engaged in efforts to support affordable, stable and secure housing for our neighbors in the communities that we serve. ChristianaCare’s partnerships with community organizations, including the Housing Alliance Delaware and our longstanding Medical-Legal Partnership with the Community Legal Aid Society (CLASI), provide support to members of our community to help maintain stable, secure and safe housing, including assistance with legal proceedings, rent or utility payments, and remediation of household environmental hazards.

This legislation will provide additional, critically necessary support for individuals facing potential eviction and homelessness in our Delaware communities. Thank you for your sponsorship and advocacy on this important initiative.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meredith O. Tweedie".

Meredith Stewart Tweedie, Esq.  
Vice President Government Affairs & Policy, Senior Counsel

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<sup>1</sup> *Housing and Homelessness in Delaware – A Crisis Laid Bare*, Housing Alliance Delaware, 2020 report (pp. 27-29), <https://www.housingalliance.org>.