

June 27, 2023

Governor Ron DeSantis  
Executive Office of the Governor of Florida  
300 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Florida Hospital Association (FHA) is an association of Florida hospitals and health systems. On behalf of FHA's members, I want to share my appreciation for the dedicated work the Florida Center for Cybersecurity (e.g., CyberFlorida) provides to Florida's public and private stakeholders. We are pleased with their interest in supporting hospital and health system initiatives aimed at strengthening cyber protection and security programs.

Florida Hospitals play an indispensable role in Florida as medical care providers and part of the public health infrastructure. They also contribute heavily to the statewide economy as economic pillars that create and sustain jobs and serve as reliable purchasers of goods and services from others in the region and state. Cybersecurity vulnerabilities and intrusion pose the risk of operational disruption for every hospital and health system and threaten the safety of every patient seen and treated in Florida. FHA is committed to helping hospitals and health systems prepare for and prevent cyber threats from impacting the day-to-day delivery of health care services in any community.

FHA has identified key concerns from hospital executives related to the disruption cyber threats pose to health care services and patient care. Hospitals have prioritized cybersecurity as a significant enterprise risk and threat to life safety and have made significant financial investments in security systems, monitoring the threat landscape, maintaining continuity of operations, evaluating threats to high impact systems, providing employee training, evaluating their response to specific malware and ransomware agents, and more. Key areas of focus include:

- Conducting compliance audits for National Institutes for Standards and Technology (NIST) and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) standards related to enterprise risk assessment and function.
- Developing a risk tolerance strategy that strengthens a cyber risk plan and identifying and sustaining high impact systems across the enterprise.
- Understanding the business case from lessons learned to better prevent disruption, while augmenting business continuity plans for disruptive events, like a cyberattack.

FHA is keenly aware and supportive of state-led initiatives aimed at strengthening cyber protection programs and security efforts. CyberFlorida's work to include Florida's hospital community in their strategic assessment of the cyber risks and vulnerabilities to critical infrastructure is to be commended. FHA has engaged CyberFlorida to help promote their statewide assessment and encouraged hospital executives to participate and collaborate with CyberFlorida's experts.

We are grateful to CyberFlorida for its work with critical infrastructure and their interest in supporting the FHA and its member initiatives.

Sincerely,



Mary C. Mayhew  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Florida Hospital Association