**DIMER and DIDER Letter template**

Honorable [insert last name]

Carvel State Office Building

820 N. French Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

[Date]

Dear Senator or Representative [last name]:

I am writing to urge your support in funding the Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER) and the Delaware Institute for Dental Education and Research (DIDER) in the 2018 Fiscal Year state budget. I am a [medical/dental provider/DIMER or DIDER alumnus/constituent in your district], and I believe DIMER and DIDER are necessary programs, benefitting the health and well-being of all Delawareans. I am requesting funding – approximately $1.93 million – be allocated to DIMER and DIDER in the state budget, as it has been for over 40 years.

Funding for DIMER and DIDER has generated immeasurable advantages for the State of Delaware:

* In the absence of a state-supported medical and dental school, DIMER and DIDER help provide Delaware residents with an opportunity to receive high-quality medical and dental education and training.
* DIMER and DIDER support workforce development and access to care initiatives including, Christiana Care Health System medical residency program, and the general practice dentist residency program, and the University of Delaware education and research in the health and life sciences.
* DIMER and DIDER provide tuition assistance for Delaware medical and dental school students.
* DIMER and DIDER subsidizes the Delaware State match to the Federal Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP), which provides loan repayment for medical and dental practitioners in identified Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

I hope that I can count on you to fully support the funding of DIMER and DIDER in the state budget, as we continue the work of transforming the healthcare system, and achieve the Triple Aim, which is the focus of the State Innovation Model (SIM) initiative, a $35 million cooperative agreement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

Please feel free to call me at [your phone number], if you have any questions or need more information about DIMER and DIDER. I also encourage you to learn more by visiting the DIMER and DIDER web pages on the Delaware Health Care Commission website: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhcc/>. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely,

[Print and sign your name]