

To: Delaware General Assembly

From: Developmental Disabilities Council

Date: April 21, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 22 (CHIP Expansion)

The Developmental Disabilities Council **endorses** H.B. No. 22 CHIP Expansion.

The preamble to the bill recites that there are 20,000 uninsured children in Delaware, the percent of uninsured children has risen from 7.5% in 2000-2002 to 10.7% in 2004-2006, and that lack of access to health care has many unfortunate results. Substantively, the bill would extend eligibility for Delaware's CHIP program "to include reduced-cost health insurance coverage for children of families with personal incomes up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level." Consistent with the attachment, this would mean that a two-parent family with 2 children could have countable income up to \$66,150.

Considering that children with disabilities often fall within the parameters of poverty, the DD Council endorses this bill.

Should you have any questions regarding our remarks please contact our office at 739-3333.