

To: Delaware General Assembly

From: Developmental Disabilities Council

Date: February 24, 2009

RE: S.B. No. 17 [Delaware Health Insurance Pool]

The Developmental Disabilities Council strongly endorses S.B. No. 17 Delaware Health Insurance Pool.

As background, the legislation is identical to S.B. No. 6 introduced on January 17, 2007 during the 144th General Assembly as amended by the Senate on April 5, 2007. There was widespread support for the predecessor bill. Consistent with the attached March 30, 2007 editorial, the News Journal characterized the bill as a “no brainer” which “has the full support of nonprofit and social service agencies”. The News Journal also published the attached lengthy article entitled “Lobbyists’ Influence Knows Few Bounds” which describes intense lobbying efforts by Blue Cross to defeat the legislation. The predecessor bill passed the Senate with the following vote tally: 17 yes; 1 no; 1 not voting; and 2 absent. The bill remained in the House Economic Development/Banking & Insurance Committee at the end of the legislative session on June 30, 2008. According to the attached March 19, 2008 Dover Post article, the bill lacked the support of the majority party in the House in 2007-2008.

In addition, we’d like to point out that this may be another opportunity to deflect people away from the state’s Medicaid system as it will provide more private insurance options for people who are living in the community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our remarks. Should you have any questions please contact our office at 739-3333.