

To: Delaware General Assembly

From: Developmental Disabilities Council

Date: February 23, 2009

RE: S.B. No. 18 [Delaware Healthy Children Program Premium]

The Developmental Disabilities Council offers strong endorsement of S.B. No. 18 Delaware Health Children Program Premium.

The DD Council understands that only 45% of children in Delaware who qualify for the Delaware Healthy Children Program are actually enrolled and Delaware returns \$3 million annually to the federal government because of low participation. The program offers comprehensive health insurance, including well-care visits, hospitalization, prescription coverage, and dental care to children whose families' income is between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level. Consistent with the attached February 5, 2009 News Journal article, the federal enabling legislation for the Delaware program was reauthorized on February 4.

In order to stimulate greater participation, the bill would remove a mandatory monthly premium in favor of authorizing DHSS, in its discretion, to create minimum co-pays for services. We know that families with children with disabilities may find it difficult to pay a co-pay and we are hopeful that this would not bar children from receiving needed health services.

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

cc. State Council for Persons with Disabilities
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens