

To: Delaware General Assembly

From: Developmental Disabilities Council

Date: April 21, 2009

RE: S.B. No. 41 (Foster Child Postsecondary Education)

The Developmental Disabilities Council **endorses** S.B. No. 41 Foster Child Postsecondary Education.

As background, Title 14 Del.C. §§3401A-3408A currently authorize students who graduate from a Delaware high school with a 2.5 GPA to attend DelTech or the U. of D. Associate In Arts program through a SEED scholarship program. This bill would facilitate former foster children access to the program by waiving, in whole or part, the following requirements: 1) high school graduation with 2.5 GPA; 2) immediate enrollment upon graduation; 3) enrollment on full-time (24 credits/year) basis; and 4) eligibility cap of 6 continuous semesters.

The bill recognizes that students exiting foster care may be unable to attend college immediately, may be unable to attend full-time since they may need to work, and generally lack family support. The bill offers flexibility to facilitate access to college by these disadvantaged young adults. Our endorsement includes the correction of two technical errors. The citations to “§3404A(4)” and “§3404A(6)” in line 5 should be changed to “§3404A(a)(4)” and “§3404A(a)(6)”.

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