

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

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To: Delaware General Assembly
From: Developmental Disabilities Council
Date: May 15, 2009
RE: S.B. No. 64 (Dental Care for Pregnant Medicaid Beneficiaries)

The Developmental Disabilities Council has reviewed S.B. No. 64 Dental Care for Pregnant Medicaid Beneficiaries. The DD Council **endorses** S.B. N. 64.

This bill is identical to H.B. No. 123 with H.A. No. 1 introduced during the 144th General Assembly. The legislation authorizes both urgent and preventative dental care for Medicaid beneficiaries who are pregnant or who become pregnant while receiving assistance. In concert with our thoughts in 2007, we offer the following commentary:

First, research suggests that periodontal disease may be a significant risk factor for pre-term, low birthweight babies. Second, pregnancy causes hormonal changes which increase the risk of developing gum disease. This is commonly referred to as "pregnancy gingivitis". Third, pregnant women are at risk of developing "pregnancy tumors" which arise from swollen gums.

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



The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council is federally funded in compliance with the DD Act.