

# Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

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To: The Delaware General Assembly  
From: The Developmental Disabilities Council  
Date: March 15, 2011  
RE: H.B. No. 19 (Drug Involved Offenses)

The Developmental Disabilities Council has reviewed H.B. No. 19 Drug Involved Offenses. We understand that the bill would revise drug offense penalties, eliminate some minimum-mandatory sentences, and effect other common-sense changes.

Some of the salutary changes include repeal of the law (Title 16 Del. C. §4758; lines 491-492) making it a crime to not keep a prescription drug in its original container. The statute had previously been criticized because it makes the elderly and persons with disabilities guilty of a Class A Misdemeanor for simply using daily-dose weekly pill containers. A second common-sense change is to reduce the length of a driver license suspension from 2-3 years to 6 months for drug convictions. According to Section 70 of the synopsis, Delaware's law is the harshest in the Nation and the lack of a license undermines attempts to obtain and retain employment.

The Developmental Disabilities Council **strongly endorses H.B. No. 19**. Should you have any questions regarding our remarks please contact our office at 739-3333.

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



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