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