



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 18, 2014

TO: The Honorable Peter Schwartzkopf, Speaker of the House of Representatives

**FROM: Terri Hancharick, Chairperson
GACEC**

RE: House Resolution No. 20 (Deaf Education Taskforce Report)

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) recently received a copy of the House Resolution (HR) No. 20 Deaf Education Taskforce Report, published on May 21, 2014. At the GACEC meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, Council decided that we did not have enough time to thoroughly review the Report and comment on the recommendations that were made. A few years ago the GACEC staffed a diverse ad-hoc committee to discuss issues impacting the Delaware School for the Deaf and Statewide Programs for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind. The GACEC understands these issues to be very complex and would ask that legislators not take definitive action on the recommendations at this time. The GACEC would like to gain a better understanding from the Department of Education on their perception of the recommendations. The GACEC also voted unanimously to request additional time to review and discuss the recommendations in more detail.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you in regard to this matter. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office should you have questions or concerns.

CC: The Honorable Jack Markell, Governor
The Honorable Matt Denn, Lt. Governor
The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly
The Honorable Mark Murphy, Secretary of Education
Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, State Board of Education
Dr. Donna Mitchell, Professional Standards Board
Ms. Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Department of Education
Ms. Susan Haberstroh, Department of Education
Ms. Paula Fontello, Esq., Department of Education
Ms. Terry Hickey, Esq., Department of Education
Ms. Iona Kirshon, Esq., Department of Justice