



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) 516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2014

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Terri A. Hancharick, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: Senate Bill No. 229

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) would like to offer its support for Senate Bill No. 229 on the special exemption of students from the standard or alternate assessment. Council has met with former administrators and current educators who feel that students with severe cognitive disabilities should be exempted from the assessments and **endorse** the concept of this proposed legislation.

Council would like to note however, that there is concern with the use of the intelligence quotient or IQ as an indicator of the students who may be released from the necessity of taking the State assessment. As the State Advisory Panel for Delaware, we would like to ensure that students who are granted a special exemption will still be provided an opportunity to have their academic progress measured as fully as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention to our comments. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss, GACEC Executive Director, if you have any questions.