



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
516 West Lookerman St., Dover, DE 19904
302-739-4553 (voice) 302-739-6126 (fax) <http://www.gacec.delaware.gov>

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 23, 2014

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Terri Hancharick, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **House Bill No. 347 with House Amendment 1(School Safety Construction and Renovation Features)**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed House Bill No. 347 which would require newly constructed or renovated school buildings to contain certain design features, including bulletproof glass, certain door locks and an intruder alert system. The legislation would also require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Facilities Management Section to ensure Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS) review of such sites to address compliance with Homeland Security standards and "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) contemporary practices." A principal concern that the safety features in the legislation could result in violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has been addressed by House Amendment No. 1. The amendment requires the new school construction review by DSHS to be coordinated with the Architectural Accessibility Board. The amendment also removes the itemized requirements for bulletproof glass, doors with key locks on both sides, bullet resistant white boards and panic buttons. Council **endorses** the legislation as amended.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our position. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss should you have questions.