



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

**DATE:** April 22, 2015

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

**FROM:** Robert D. Overmiller, Chairperson  
GACEC

**RE:** **House Bill No. 46 (Bill of Rights for Children in DSCY&F Custody)**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed **House Bill No. 46** which "sets forth the rights of abused, neglected and dependent youth in DSCYF Custody." The GACEC **endorses** the proposed legislation.

As background, children determined dependent, neglected, or abused may be placed by the Family Court in the custody of the Department of Services for Children, Youth & their Families (DSCY&F). Such children are deemed "wards of the State". See Title 13 Del.C. §2501( c). The terms "dependent", "neglected" and "abused" are generally defined in Title 10 Del.C. §901. The legislation does not cover youth determined "delinquent".

The rights guaranteed to defined children cover necessities and include the basic provision of food, shelter and clothing; assistance in accessing medical, vision, and dental care; and visitation with relatives. Council did not note any significant issues with the legislation and thank the sponsors for their concern for the rights of this vulnerable population.

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