



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 7, 2014

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

**FROM: Terri Hancharick, Chairperson
GACEC**

RE: House Bill No. 214 (Down Syndrome Information Dissemination)

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed House Bill No. 214, which would require hospitals, physicians, and covered health care providers receiving positive test results for Down Syndrome to provide the expectant parent with an information packet provided by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). DHSS would include materials related to support programs, child development, life expectancy and treatment options in the information packet. DHSS would meet with representatives of the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware annually to ensure the information being distributed is up-to-date. The Department would also report to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) annually "detailing the persons to whom the information....has been distributed." The GACEC **endorses** the proposed legislation subject to consideration of three amendments.

First, the word "department" in line 9 should be capitalized.

Second, at lines 16-17, the following could be inserted: ...Down Syndrome organizations, the Infants and Toddlers Early Intervention Program established by Chapter 2 of this title, and other educational and support programs. " The Infants and Toddlers Program is clearly the most important and comprehensive support program for children age three with Down Syndrome; therefore, an explicit reference is justified.

Third, the word "department" inserted by House Amendment No. 1, line 3, should be capitalized.

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