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. Ilona Kirshon, Esq., Department of Justice