



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

DATE: June 23, 2014

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Terri Hancharick, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **Senate Bill No. 219 (Opioid Overdose Intervention)**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed Senate Bill No. 219 which addresses the growing issue of opioid addiction and overdoses in Delaware by requiring the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to promote the safe use of Naloxone. Naloxone is a drug used to counteract the effects of an opioid overdose, including heroin and morphine-related overdoses. The bill also envisions DHSS establishment of a community-based Naloxone program funded by grants. Council **endorses** the proposed legislation.

As background, Naloxone is available as a nasal spray and as an auto-injector device. A prescription can be written for a person with the addiction and purchased by friends and family to have available in the event of an overdose. Individuals soliciting Naloxone from the program would be required to complete a training and education program. Training in its use is particularly important since "people who are administered Naloxone can wake up violent and/or go into respiratory failure" (lines 20-21).

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