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: **June 20, 2018**

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

FROM: **Wendy Strauss, Executive Director**
GACEC

RE: **Senate Bill No. 262 Share the Care Act**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed Senate Bill No. 262 and would like to offer our support of the principle and concept of the Share the Care Act, sponsored by Senator Walsh and Representative Baumbach.

Delaware law prohibits a nurses' aide hired through an agency from giving medications to a patient at home. This makes life very difficult for those who rely on an aide for their daily care. Many people with disabilities need assistance with medications. When attendants call out sick, an aide is often the only available replacement.

We know that most people prefer to remain in their own homes and to receive home and community-based services. No one should be forced to move to a facility just because they need help taking medicines. The Share the Care Act would remove this obstacle and allow more people to remain in their own homes in the community.

In 2014, AARP conducted a survey of Delawareans, which showed the State has 123,000 family caregivers. Almost 3/4 of them help their loved ones with medications and medical tasks. More than 1/2 of them work full or part-time. And more than 90% of them want affordable options for paid help to give family caregivers a break.

Council understands there could possibly be an amendment that will make it clear that a nurse who works for a home healthcare agency, but who is not involved in the administration of medication would not be liable for a medication error made by an aide.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our endorsement of the concept of this proposed legislation. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss should you have any questions.