



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: February 6, 2019

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **House Bill No. 19 (School Nurse Funding)**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) reviewed and endorsed **House Bill No. 50** in 2017. That legislation would have ensured that every public school in the State would have a school nurse. It also provided a mechanism to allow a district or a charter school that did not have a school nurse to receive state funds and permitted districts to levy a tax under § 1902(b), Title 14, known as a "match tax", to assist those districts that hire a school nurse as a result of that legislation to pay for the local share of the school nurse. House Bill No. 19 has now been introduced to ensure that every public school in the State has a school nurse and provides a mechanism to allow a district or a charter school...to receive State funds and levy the "match tax". Council **endorses** House Bill No. 19.

As mentioned in our commentary on House Bill No. 50, the availability of school nurses has several beneficial effects. First, it promotes the inclusion of students with disabilities who may require some nursing services to be successful in integrated settings. Second, it facilitates screening of students for health problems. Third, it facilitates quick responses in the event of a student injury or emergency (e.g. seizure).

Thank you for your time and consideration of our endorsement. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office should you have any questions.