



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: May 31, 2019

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill No. 92 (Dental Benefits for Adult Medicaid Recipients)**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed **Senate Bill No. 92** which proposes to add dental care to the list of covered services under the Medicaid program. Council **strongly endorses** the proposed legislation.

Dental care for adults has long been an optional Medicaid benefit under the federal Medicaid statute. Currently Delaware is one of only three states that do not provide some sort of coverage for dental care for adults. Children can access dental coverage through Medicaid through age 21 (EPSDT). The expansion of dental coverage for adults has long been a top legislative priority of the GACEC and other disability advocates in Delaware.

Access to appropriate dental care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is especially important. There are known disparities in the quality of oral health between individuals with I/DD and typically developing individuals. Dental needs for adults with I/DD are complex and are largely very poorly met by existing mechanisms.

The mouth is considered the gateway to the body and is an important tool in diagnosing numerous conditions, including diabetes, some cancers, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and kidney disease. Council commends the sponsors of this important legislation and looks forward to its implementation.

Thank you in advance 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.