



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

DATE: March 21, 2022

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Terri Hancharick, Vice Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **House Bill No. 303 Required Insurance Coverage of Behavioral Well Checks**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed **House Bill No. 303**, which would require all insurance carriers in the state to provide coverage for annual well visits for behavioral health. The coverage is mandated in all plans, including group plans, Medicaid, and plans for State government officers and employees. Council **endorses** the proposed legislation, as it will require parity in coverage for mental health and substance abuse disorders and medical coverage. We would also like to share the following suggestions.

We applaud the intention to make access to behavioral health services more straightforward and affordable. We feel that the bill could be even stronger if it were to specify that at least one member of the advisory committee to be created have expertise relative to individuals who are dually diagnosed with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges.

It is important that adequate resources are available to conduct the annual visits. In the advent of the new coverage, it will be very important to wage a public awareness campaign to ensure that those who will benefit are made aware of these new developments.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our support of this proposed legislation. Please feel free to contact Pam Weir or me at the GACEC office should you have any questions on our comments.