



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

**DATE:** March 24, 2023

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

**FROM:** Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson  
GACEC

**RE:** **Senate Bill No. 59 Establishment of Statewide Rate for the Purchase of Care Program**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed Senate Bill No. 59, which will require the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to set a statewide purchase of care (POC) rate that, will be tied to the New Castle County rate determined by the 2021 Delaware Local Child Care Market Rate Survey. Council **supports** the proposed legislation since many parents with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities utilize the POC program to receive subsidized childcare, to support work and after school care.

Council would like to note however that we are concerned with tying the POC rate to a study that is already outdated and would ask that the sponsors consider adding language to the legislation that would ensure the most current figures are utilized. We fully support this legislation, as well as the Governor's other initiatives to address childcare costs and access, as well as the expansion of the Early Childhood Assistance Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our support of Senate Bill No. 59. Please feel free to contact me or Pam Weir at the GACEC office should you have any questions.