



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

DATE: April 28, 2026

TO: The Honorable Kim Williams, Delaware State House of Representatives
The Honorable Laura Sturgeon, Delaware State Senate

FROM: William H. Doolittle, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **House Bill No. 214 Interagency Autism Committee (ICA) Changes**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed House Bill No. 214, which makes several changes to the Interagency Autism Committee and the Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism. Council would like to share our observations on changes to the membership of the Interagency Autism Committee.

The proposed legislation is adding a seat on the committee for one individual with autism. That proposed change is to be commended. However, Council would suggest the inclusion of two additional individuals with autism seats and would recommend that each of those individuals would represent a different profile, including but not limited to gender. Council would also ask that a representative from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC), State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) or Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) be added as these advocacy/advisory groups monitor the services provided to individuals with disabilities, which includes autism.

Council would also recommend returning the Director of Autism Resources to the ICA. This individual will have unique expertise in autism and should remain on the ICA even though they are now housed within the Delaware Department of Education.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments. We would appreciate the opportunity to have a dialogue on the changes to the ICA and our recommendations. Please feel free to reach out to me or Pam Weir at the GACEC office. Have a nice day.