



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

DATE: April 28, 2026

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: William H. Doolittle, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **House Bill No. 300 Creation of a Title IX Coordinator in the Delaware Department of Education**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed House Bill No. 300, which creates a Title IX Coordinator in the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). Council **supports** this legislation proposed by Representative Melanie Ross Levin and Senator Laura Sturgeon as it promotes equity in student athletics, including equity for students with disabilities. It is also possible that this will be beneficial to all Delaware students to have Title IX expertise and accountability given the recent dismissals at the United States Department of Education. We applaud Senator Sturgeon and Representative Ross Levin for their attention to the needs of students in Delaware.

According to a press release about HB 300, the bill is "an effort to improve equity in school athletics and ensure Delaware schools are compliant with federal law". According to Rep. Ross Levin, "Every young person deserves the chance to compete, grow, and benefit from the teamwork and confidence that athletics provide," and she continued,

Title IX created those opportunities for millions of women and girls over the past five decades, but its promise is not automatically realized. Schools often want to do the right thing, but may not always have the resources or expertise to navigate evolving federal guidance. This bill ensures that schools have a partner at the state level who can provide support, share best practices, and help strengthen opportunities for student athletes across Delaware.

Due to the intersectionality of sex and disability, this issue impacts students with disabilities. Studies have shown that one way for individuals with disabilities to develop their physical activity is through sports.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments. We would appreciate the opportunity to have a dialogue with you on the needs of all Delaware students, especially students with disabilities. Please feel free to reach out to me or Pam Weir at the GACEC office. Thank you again for this legislation.