

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 29, 2008

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.J.R. 19 [Study of Maximum 15 Student Class Size]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.J.R. 19 which would require the DOE to conduct a study to assess the following: 1) cost of establishing 15 student class size in public schools with a majority of K-3 students eligible for participation in the free and reduced-price lunch program; and 2) correlation between current class size data and achievement on the DSTP. The findings would be published by September 30, 2009.

SCPD endorses the proposed resolution. Delaware law currently establishes a cap of 22 students per classroom in core subjects in grades K-3 and waivers are routinely obtained by districts. Small class sizes are generally correlated with higher achievement in elementary school students.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

Hjr 19 class size 5-08