

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2009

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.B. 22 [CHIP Expansion]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 22 which raises the family income cap to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level and authorizes families to pay any premiums by any commercially accepted means, including by cash, check, or charge. As background, the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is designed to provide health insurance to uninsured children of families who do not qualify for traditional Medicaid. Delaware's version of CHIP is known as the "Delaware Healthy Children Program". SCPD endorses the proposed legislation since it would enhance access to health insurance and has the following observations.

First, the bill provides an extensive list of findings justifying this initiative. They include the following: 1) increase in percent of uninsured children in Delaware from 7.5% (2000-2002) to 10.7% (2004-2006); 2) large number (20,000) of children in State without health insurance; and 3) deleterious effects of lack of health insurance on school attendance and performance.

Second, please see attached May 18, 2006, December 6, 2006, and April 30, 2007 News Journal articles corroborating the large number of uninsured Delawareans.

Finally, please see attached an August, 2006 Issue Brief which describes the importance of CHIP to children with special health care needs.

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

cc: The Honorable Jack Markell
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council