

## 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: S.B. 41 [Foster Child Postsecondary Education]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 41 which would allow children who are leaving foster care to have access to the SEED scholarship without the condition that they begin their higher education immediately after high school. As background, Title 14 Del.C. §§3401A-3408A currently authorize students who graduate from a Delaware high school with a 2.5 GPA to attend Del Tech or the University of Delaware Associate In Arts program through a SEED scholarship program. This bill would facilitate former foster children access to the program by waiving, in whole or part, the following requirements: 1) high school graduation with 2.5 GPA; 2) immediate enrollment upon graduation; 3) enrollment on full-time (24 credits/year) basis; and 4) eligibility cap of 6 continuous semesters.

The bill recognizes that students exiting foster care may be unable to attend college immediately, may be unable to attend full-time since they may need to work, and generally lack family support. The bill offers flexibility to facilitate access to college by these disadvantaged young adults. SCPD endorses the proposed legislation subject to correction of two technical errors. The citations to “§3404A(4)” and “§3404A(6)” in line 5 should be changed to “§3404A(a)(4)” and “§3404A(a)(6)”.

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