

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 2009

TO: All Members of the Delaware House of Representatives

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

RE: S.B. 59

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B 59 which would update building code requirements for energy efficiency. According to the synopsis of the bill, updating building codes in this act will ensure that Delaware will receive its full share of Federal Stimulus dollars. Current Delaware law requires new construction to be only as energy efficient as required under a Code passed a decade ago for commercial buildings and a nine year old code for residential construction. This puts Delaware behind most states. The attached News Journal article reports that there is an urgency to get the state to save energy and estimates that the new standards would cost builders only between \$337 and \$787 more per home. This could be recouped quickly in lower utility bills.

SCPD endorses the proposed legislation since it will actually make housing more affordable because: 1) not as much weatherization would be needed; 2) energy costs would be less in terms of gas and electric; 3) homeowners insurance might be less with better windows; and 4) maintenance costs would be less.

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 A. Markell
Delaware State Senate
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council