



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: June 17, 2010

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. 261 [Parent-School Compact]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 261 which would require schools to seek the signature from each parent of a parent/school compact at the beginning of each school year, reflecting an updated Parents' Declaration of Responsibilities to be prepared by the State and parent organizations. As background, the SCPD endorsed a similar bill (H.B. 350) in May. SCPD endorses the proposed legislation and has the following observations.

First, the sponsors added an amendment at lines 17-18 recommended in the SCPD's May 6 memo. The relevant sentence now reads as follows: "Such Declaration shall identify responsibilities of parents for parents and families, as well as the commitment of the public schools to actively collaborate in promoting student success."

Second, lines 19-20 offer some additional flexibility. H.B. 350 contemplated adoption of a district-wide declaration policy. S.B. 261 ostensibly allows a district to have different declarations by school. SCPD assumes this would permit use of a different declaration template for elementary schools versus high schools as long as the overall content meets the criteria in lines 13-18.

Third, line 28 is designed to provide more precise information about use of federal funds for parental involvement than H.B. 350. Districts would be expected to publish the "uses of such funds by individual schools" rather than simply an aggregate district-based summary.

Fourth, lines 30-31 limit the use of information required by the new law in the context of accountability.

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  
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council