



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

DATE: February 1, 2012

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate

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

RE: H.B. 196 [Absentee Voting & Polling Sites]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B.196 which would permit persons whose business or occupation is providing care to a parent, spouse or child requiring "constant" care due to illness, injury or disability to self-administer the affidavit for absentee ballot; permit voters who are sick or have physical disabilities to be sent and to return absentee ballots by electronic transmission; and require recipients of State funding to make facilities available for polling, so long as it would not be incompatible with the recipient's primary purpose.

SCPD endorses the proposed legislation since it would enhance voting by persons with disabilities. In addition, it would expand the potential range of facilities available as polling sites and obviate election officials having to "beg" for the cooperation of polling sites. Finally, it would facilitate absentee voting for persons with disabilities and caregivers.

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

cc: The Honorable Jack A. Markell  
Members of the Delaware State House of Representatives  
Ms. Elaine Manlove  
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council