



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 19, 2018

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Jamie Wolfe, Chairperson
JW/28
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: SB 262 Share the Care Act

I am writing on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities in support of the Share the Care Act, sponsored by Senator Walsh and Representative Baumbach.

Delaware's law prohibits a nurses' aide hired through an agency from giving medications to a patient at home. This makes life very difficult for those who rely on an aide for their daily care. Many people with disabilities cannot take medications without help. Even those who have an attendant to give medicines get into a tough situation when that attendant calls out sick and an aide is the only available replacement (a common occurrence).

It's time to change the law and allow people to get the help they need at home. No one should be forced to move to a facility just because they need help taking medicines. The State should remove this obstacle for people who want to remain in a community living setting. It doesn't cost anything to fix this regulatory barrier.

According to a 2014 AARP Survey of Delawareans, Delaware has 123,000 family caregivers. Almost 3/4 of them help their loved ones with medications and medical tasks. More than 1/2 of them work full or part-time. And more than 90% of them want affordable options for paid help to give family caregivers a break. It's not fair to ask family members to run home from work every time medicines are due.

Please support patients and families and vote "yes" for the Share the Care Act.

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

cc: Ms. Sheila Grant, AARP
Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

SB 6-19-18