

STATE OF DELAWARE STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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The Honorable John Carney, Governor John McNeal, Director SCPD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 5, 2023

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate

and House of Representatives

FROM: Mr. Benjamin Shrader, Chairperson

State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: SS1 for SB 1 (Renters' Right to Representation)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed SS1 for SB1, a bill for low-income renters' right to representation.

SCPD has the following observations and recommendations:

- Renters in Delaware are facing a housing crisis.
- The Council believes Delaware has an opportunity to level the playing field by securing the right to representation for eviction defense statewide. SB1 creates a right to representation for low-income renters facing eviction and establishes protections that will help keep renters in their homes.
- SS1 for SB1 is an opportunity to expand funds for legal aid as well as expand diversion programs that will assist renters in resolving debts to landlords.
- SCPD believes that SS1 for SB1 is imperative to give Delaware renters the opportunity for safe and stable housing long-term.

• SCPD believes this to be a human justice issue, a racial justice issue, an economic issue – and an issue affecting the disabled population of Delaware.

SCPD endorses SS1 for SB1.

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

cc: The Housing Alliance of Delaware