



STATE OF DELAWARE  
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 23, 2013

TO: Delaware State Senate

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

RE: H.B. 129 [Hospital Restroom Access]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 129 which would require the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to develop and implement regulations that would ensure that hospital staff have the ability to quickly access a locked hospital bathroom in the event of an emergency.

Background is provided in House Amendment No. 1. In a nutshell, a 14 year old teen experienced a medical emergency while locked in a hospital restroom. Hospital staff were unable to unlock the door until a security guard arrived and the teen unfortunately passed away. Her parents are now promoting enactment of this legislation (earmarked "Christina's Law") to prevent a recurrence of this scenario.

Although DHSS already enjoys the authority to issue regulations concerning hospitals and safety issues, the legislation would result in prioritization of issuance of a "locked bathroom" regulation. SCPD endorses the concept of the bill since it may enhance hospital safety.

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

cc: Delaware House of Representatives  
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council