

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

Natwar M. Gandhi  
Chief Financial Officer



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Linda W. Cropp  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Natwar M. Gandhi [signature]  
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** February 10, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: “Unemployment Compensation and Domestic Violence Amendment Act of 2004”

**REFERENCE:** Bill Number 15-436 as Amended

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The Department of Employment Services (DOES) will absorb all operational costs through existing resources. Fund balances for unemployment compensation are sufficient to make all required payments to employees who have separated from District service.

**Background**

The proposed legislation amends Title 51 § 101 *et Sequitor* for the purpose of creating an additional unemployment compensation benefit. The proposed benefit allows legally recognized victims of domestic violence who find it necessary to separate from their positions with the District government to make claim for unemployment benefits. Such a benefit is a new concept in human resource management and is practiced in 24 states including Massachusetts, North Carolina, California, New York, Indiana, Texas, Wyoming, Maine, Oregon and Washington State.

The proposed legislation also requires that certain employees of DOES are trained in processing the new type of claim and that regular reporting of this type of claim is transmitted to the Mayor. The bill also requires that DOES is trained in the sensitivity of these matters and the legal framework surrounding any disclosure.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan. The proposed legislation will not require additional resources. The District's FY 2004 budget provides \$8.1 million to fund these and other unemployment compensation payments. These funds are sufficient to provide payments for additional District employees who perfect a claim and separate from the District.

There are spending pressures in addition to the payout of benefits. They are:

- Providing the required annual training for staff who would be assessing claims; and
- Upgrading IT systems to automatically track the number of claimant recipients necessary for compliance with the legislation's reporting requirements.

DOES will absorb all additional costs for training and IT improvements.