

**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:** May 28, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: "Mental Health Civil Commitments  
Emergency Extension Act of 2004"

**REFERENCE:** Draft Legislation – Bill Number Not Available

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2005 through FY 2008 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because there is no significant financial impact associated with the provisions of the proposal.

**Background**

The proposed emergency legislation would postpone the expiration of certain mental health civil commitments ordered by the Superior Court.

The Council passed the Mental Health Civil Commitment Act, which took effect on April 4, 2003. This legislation provided that all indeterminate commitments be limited to one year terms, by allowing for their termination in July 2004 unless a petition for recommitment is filed. However, Congress has not yet approved the portions of the legislation that created a mechanism for reviewing and recommitting individuals. Thus, the proposed legislation would postpone the expiration of the commitments to allow for consideration, filing and prosecuting of recommitment petitions in existing cases.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2005 through FY 2008 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because there is no significant financial impact associated with the provisions of the proposal.