

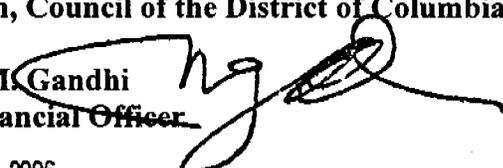
**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: JUL -5 2006

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Domestic Violence Amendments Act of 2006."

REFERENCE: Bill Number 16-466, Committee Print

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2006 budget and the proposed FY 2007 through FY 2010 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend three sections of the District of Columbia Official Code – § 4-1321.02, § 14, and § 16-1004.

First, the proposed legislation would amend D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.02 to add "domestic violence counselors" to the list of professionals required to report known or suspected cases of mental or physical child abuse or neglect to the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department or the D.C. Child Protective Services Division of the Department of Human Services.

Second, the proposed legislation would add a new section to Chapter 3 of the D.C. Official Code § 14 (the District of Columbia Mental Health Information Act of 1978) to provide for confidentiality of information between a victim of domestic violence and a domestic violence counselor. Current District law provides for confidentiality between patients and a range of health care professionals, but the current law does not include "domestic violence counselors" in its list of covered professionals. The proposed legislation would grant similar confidentiality

privileges to domestic violence counselors currently granted to other mental health professionals in the District (D.C. Code § 14-307).

Third, the proposed legislation would amend D.C. Official Code § 16-1004 to require that temporary protection orders, which are valid for up to 14 days, scheduled to expire on a day when the Superior Court of the District is not opened for regular business remain effective until the next day that the Superior Court is open for regular business.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2006 budget and the proposed FY 2007 through FY 2010 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The District's local Budget and Financial Plan would be required to absorb any additional and unforeseen costs that may be incurred as a result of this legislation.