

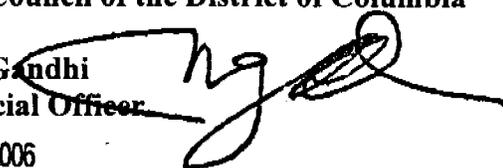
**Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



**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:** AUG 24 2006

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: "Licensed Health Professional Criminal Background Check Amendment Act of 2005"

**REFERENCE:** Bill 16-438 As Introduced

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2007 through FY 2010 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because no additional staff or resources would be required. Revenue from license and registration fees is expected to be sufficient to provide needed funding for any start-up and ongoing costs of implementing the legislation.

**Background**

The proposed legislation would amend the District's "Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985" (D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 *et seq.*) to require professionals applying for a license under Chapter 12 of Title 3 of D.C. Official Code to undergo a criminal background check. Under provisions of the proposed legislation, the Department of Health would establish a fee, which would be collected from the applicant, for the costs of the criminal background check. Background checks would be obtained from the U.S. Department of Justice or from a private agency.

Under existing District law, health professionals are not required to have background checks. Evidence from other states, however, indicates that falsifying background information occurs in a small percentage of applications for health licensure. The proposed legislation would help to reduce the likelihood of licensing a health professional with a criminal background.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Revenue from licensing and renewal fees is expected to be sufficient to provide needed funding for any start-up and ongoing costs of implementing the legislation. Therefore, the proposed legislation has no net fiscal impact.

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2007 through FY 2010 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because no additional staff or resources would be required. The Department of Health will absorb any additional operating costs from existing appropriated budget resources.