

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



**Natwar M. Gandhi**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Vincent C. Gray  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Natwar M. Gandhi  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** MAR 13 2008

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: "Health Professional Recruitment Program Amendment Act of 2008"

**REFERENCE:** Draft Legislation to be Introduced—No Bill Number

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 – FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. The proposed legislation would not require additional resources or staff time to implement.

**Background**

The Health Professional Recruitment Program, established through legislation in 2005,<sup>1</sup> is intended to serve as a recruitment tool for health professionals within the District of Columbia. The program pays, to the extent that funds are available, for the cost of education necessary to obtain a health professional degree, including tuition, fees and reasonable education expenses or any costs associated with loans used towards such expenses.

The proposed legislation:

- Clarifies the definitions of "Health Professional Shortage Area," "other health professional," and "shortage obligation site;"

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<sup>1</sup> District of Columbia Health Professional Recruitment Program Act of 2005. Effective March 8, 2006. Law 16-71.

- Provides that permanent residents--not just U.S. citizens--are eligible for the program;
- Provides that preferential consideration would be given to applicants fluent in certain languages and applicants who have experience in, or received clinical training in, a community-based primary care facility or attended a community-based health profession educational institution;
- Provides that participants in breach of the program are liable to repay the District of Columbia for each unfulfilled day of service, providing a method for calculating the monies due; and
- Makes a technical correction to the Health Professional Recruitment Fund ("Fund")—originally established in Section 5042 of the FY 2007 Budget Support Act of 2006<sup>2</sup>--to ensure that unused funds from one fiscal year may be used in the succeeding fiscal year.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 – FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. The proposed legislation would not require additional resources or staff time to implement.

The proposed technical correction to the Health Professional Recruitment Fund would not have a fiscal impact.

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<sup>2</sup> Effective March 2, 2007. Law 16-192.