

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



Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** October 3, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Foster Parents Statements of Rights and Responsibilities Amendment Act of 2016

**REFERENCE:** Bill 21-603, Draft Committee Print sent to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 3, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey S. DeWitt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the printed name in the "FROM:" field.

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill requires<sup>1</sup> the Mayor (via the Child and Family Services Agency, or CFSA) to create “Statements of Rights and Responsibilities” for foster parents, which will outline in one place the rights and responsibilities of foster parents under local law, federal law, local regulations, agency administrative issuances, and other policy documents. CFSA must provide copies of the statements to current and new foster parents.

CFSA must create a process for receiving, investigating, and resolving reports of violations of a foster parent’s rights and complaints related CFSA’s foster parent services and supports.

CFSA must also create an annual report for Council and the public that gives information on the reports of violations and complaints it has received, its investigation of the violations and complaints, and the outcomes of the investigations.

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<sup>1</sup> By amending The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.01 et seq.)

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 21-603, "Foster Parents Statements of Rights and Responsibilities Amendment Act of 2016," Draft Committee Print sent to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 3, 2016

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. CFSA can implement the bill using its current resources.

We estimate there will be a one-time cost in fiscal year 2017 of about \$10,000 for the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) to design and print the statements and mail them to current foster parents. CFSA has enough funding in its FY 2017 budget to cover this cost.

CFSA's ombudsman's office currently handles complaints and can handle any additional work required by the bill related to complaints and reports of violations.

CFSA's staff will be able to write the annual report for Council without additional resources.