

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



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: September 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “People First Respectful Language
Modernization Amendment Act of 2011”

REFERENCE: Draft legislation shared with OCFO on August 18, 2011

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend provisions of the D.C. Official Code¹ by removing language referring to persons with disabilities and replacing it with updated language considered to be more respectful. For example, the proposed legislation would replace:

- “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability;”
- “persons with mental retardation” or “mentally retarded persons” with “persons with intellectual disability;”
- “handicapped” or “handicapped persons” with “persons with disabilities;”
- “the Mentally Ill” with “persons with mental illness;” and
- “wheelchair-bound residents” with “residents who use wheelchairs.”

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Replacing terminology in the D.C. Official Code would not have any fiscal impact.

¹ The provisions deal with Social Security, Affirmative Action, Public Assistance, Adult Protective Services, the Placement of Students with Disabilities and other subjects.