

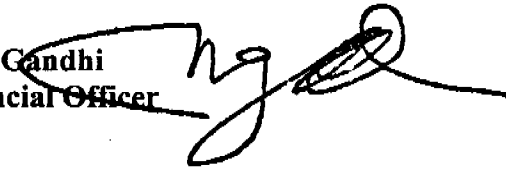
**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: APR 27 2007

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Safe and Stable Homes for Children and Youth Act of 2007"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 17-041 as Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the Mayor's proposed FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. There is no expected fiscal impact. Any unforeseen costs would have to be absorbed within existing agency resources.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend Title 16 of Chapter 20 of District of Columbia Official Code to guarantee the right of caregivers other than parents to seek custody of a child in certain situations, but would also recognize and enforce existing constitutional rights of parents. The legislation would create a rebuttable presumption that custody with the parents is in the child's best interests and would allow a lower standard of evidence (preponderance) for a third party who has assumed parental responsibility (as opposed to a third party that has not assumed this responsibility yet) and is seeking custody.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the Mayor's proposed FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The intent of the legislation is to codify the right of third party caregivers to seek custody of a child when it is in the child's best interest but in the framework of protecting parental rights.