

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 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
Emergency Amendment Act of 2011”

REFERENCE: Draft legislation shared with OCFO on August 17, 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 the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977¹ to conform to the requirements of the federal Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act Reauthorization Act of 2010 (“CAPTA Reauthorization Act”).² The District must enact these changes by September 30, 2011 in order to receive federal funds that support child abuse and neglect treatment programs.

The proposed legislation would make the following changes:

- Not require the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) to make reasonable efforts to reunify or preserve the family if a parent has committed certain crimes against a child or if the parent must register with a sex offender registry;
- Require health care professionals to notify the CFSA when a child under 12 months of age is diagnosed with a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD); and

¹ Effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.09a(d)(1))

² Approved December 20, 2010 (124 Stat. 3459; 42 U.S.C. § 5106a)

The Honorable Kwame R. Brown

FIS: Draft, "Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Emergency Amendment Act of 2011," as Shared with the OCFO on August 17, 2011.

- Expand and clarify the definition of neglect to include an infant that has been diagnosed with FASD.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Modifying current law to conform to the federal CAPTA Reauthorization Act requirements does not impose a cost on the District's budget and financial plan, but is necessary in order for the District to receive approximately \$86,000 in federal funds for child abuse and neglect treatment programs. These funds have already been incorporated in the FY 2012 budget and financial plan.