

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:** March 1, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “People First Respectful Language  
Modernization Amendment Act of 2012”

**REFERENCE:** Bill 19-189 - Draft Committee Print shared with the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on February 29, 2012

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**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 Code<sup>1</sup> 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.”

The bill also requires all signage and policies to reflect the new terminology within six months and all publications to reflect the changes within one year of the effective date of the bill.

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

The Honorable Kwame R. Brown

FIS: B19-189 "People First Respectful Language Modernization Amendment Act of 2012," Draft Committee Print as Shared with the OCFO on February 29, 2012.

### **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. Additionally, ensuring all signage, policies, and publications reflect the changes within the required timeframe would not have significant cost implications, as the majority of documents already incorporate the proposed changes.