

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act of 2010 to allow qualified volunteer health practitioners to practice in the District, notwithstanding the existence of an emergency declaration, until December 31, 2021.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) During the public health emergency, the Mayor and the Department of Health waived some licensure requirements which allowed healthcare providers the flexibility to increase their staffing with healthcare professionals licensed outside of the District in order to ensure that District residents had the appropriate healthcare staffing needed.

(b) On July 25, 2021, the Mayor did not renew the public health emergency and the licensure waiver is slated to expire in 60 days after the expiration of the public health emergency on September 23, 2021.

31 (c) Healthcare providers, such as the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the DC
32 Primary Care Association, the District of Columbia Hospital Association, and the District of
33 Columbia Health Care Association, are finding significant wait times for District licensure
34 application approvals that go beyond the 60 days transitional period.

35 (d) There is a sincere concern that once the licensure waiver period ends, the backlog in
36 applications and delay in getting new licenses approved will create barriers to service, including
37 losing current providers who have been servicing District residents throughout the public
38 emergency.

39 (e) Having reliable and sufficient healthcare is essential for keeping District residents safe
40 and healthy. A return to prior licensure requirements for local healthcare providers without a
41 longer transition period could create loss of healthcare access for residents while the District is
42 still threatened by not only COVID-19, but variants that have made the virus three times more
43 transmissible and resistant to some of the previous successful methods of treatment for COVID-
44 19.

45 (f) Without emergency action by the Council, the District will lose many healthcare
46 professionals that it has relied upon to ensure sufficient staffing to provide quality healthcare for
47 residents during the public health emergency.

48 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
49 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
50 Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be
51 adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.