

Vincent C. Gray  
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To amend, on an emergency basis, the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act of 2010 to allow qualified volunteer health care professionals and licensed health care providers to practice in the District without a District license until August 10, 2022; the Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008 to allow an individual to provide emergency medical services without a District license or certification until August 10, 2022; the Health Occupation revision Act of 1985 to allow health care professionals to practice in the District without a District license until August 10, 2022; and to make conforming amendments to the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Preserve Our Healthcare Workforce 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.

33 (b) On July 25, 2021, the Mayor did not renew the public health emergency and the  
34 licensure waiver, Department of Health Administrative Order 2020-02, is slated to expire in 60  
35 days after the expiration of the public health emergency on September 23,2021.

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

40 (d) Having reliable and sufficient healthcare is essential for keeping District residents  
41 safe and healthy. A return to prior licensure requirements for local healthcare providers without  
42 a longer transition period could create loss of healthcare access for residents while the District is  
43 still threatened by not only COVID-19, but variants that have made the virus three times more  
44 transmissible and resistant to some of the previous successful methods of treatment for COVID-  
45 19.

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

49 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
50 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the  
51 Preserve Our Healthcare Workforce Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021 be adopted after  
52 a single reading.

53 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.