

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency, due to congressional review, with respect to the need to allow a subsidy to be transferred to a relative caregiver when a grandparent is no longer able to care for the child.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Grandparent Caregivers Program Relative Subsidy Transfer Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2015”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Grandparent Caregivers Program (“GCP”) was established by the Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2005, effective March 8, 2006 (D.C. Law 16-69; D.C. Official Code § 4-251.01 *et seq.*). The GCP provides a monthly stipend to eligible low-income District of Columbia residents to help raise their grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great nieces, or great nephews. Caregivers use the financial assistance to help care for child relatives residing with them.

(b) The GCP is intended to keep children out of foster care when there is a family member who is willing to care for the child but needs financial help to do so.

(c) The Child and Family Services Agency (“CFSA”) has found that elderly caregivers receiving a subsidy have become unable to provide care for a child because of failing mental or physical health or because of death. Unless another relative is willing to care for the child, the child is vulnerable and at risk of entering foster care. If a relative is willing to care for the child but needs financial support to do so, it makes good sense to allow the GCP subsidy to be transferred to that relative. Continuing the subsidy remains true to the intent of the law, which is to keep children from being placed in foster care. Continuing the subsidy also strengthens the safety net in place for these children. In addition to the emotional benefit of keeping children within a family, the GCP subsidy is far more cost effective than foster care.

(d) The emergency legislation will expire on March 8, 2015, one day after the temporary legislation is projected to become law. It is important that the provisions of the emergency legislation continue in effect, without interruption, until the temporary legislation becomes law.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the

47 Grandparent Caregivers Program Subsidy Transfer Congressional Review Emergency
48 Amendment Act of 2015 be adopted after a single reading.

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

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