

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 amend 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; and 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 Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) During the public health emergency, the Mayor and the Department of Health waived some licensure requirements under Department of Health Administrative Order 2020-02 (“Order 2020-02”) that 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 appropriate healthcare staffing.

(b) On July 25, 2021, the Mayor did not renew the public health emergency, and Order 2020-02 expired 60 days after the expiration of the public health emergency on September 23,

33 2021. But healthcare providers were finding significant wait times for District licensure
34 application approvals that went beyond the 60 days.

35 (c) In October of this year, the Council enacted the Preserve Our Healthcare Workforce
36 Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, effective October 25, 2021 (D.C. Act 24-189; 68 DCR
37 11343) ("emergency legislation"), to allow qualified volunteer health care professionals and
38 licensed health care providers to practice in the District without a District license until August
39 10, 2022 remedied the above-referenced issues. The emergency legislation expires on December
40 21, 2021.

41 (d) Temporary legislation, the Preserve Our Healthcare Workforce Temporary
42 Amendment Act of 2021, passed on 2nd reading on November 2, 2021 (Enrolled version of Bill
43 24-400), must still complete the 30-day review period required by section 602(c)(1) of the
44 District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official
45 Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and will not become law until after the expiration of the emergency
46 legislation

47 (e) It is important that the provisions of the emergency legislation continue in effect,
48 without interruption, until the temporary legislation is in effect.

49 Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute
50 emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Preserve Our Healthcare Workforce
51 Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

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