

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need for workers in high-need health care positions; to remove economic barriers to allow more eligible individuals to participate in a scholarship program to increase the number of health care workers in high-need positions and to expand the Health Professional Recruitment Program to include specialty and sub-specialty professionals and part-time participation for professionals to serve District residents in certain circumstances.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the as the “High Need Healthcare Career Scholarship and Health Professional Loan Repayment Program Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to address economic barriers for individuals interested in healthcare careers to help address the healthcare work force shortage for high-need healthcare positions and serve District residents.

(b) The Mayor’s Commission on Healthcare Systems Transformation composed of 27 key healthcare leaders across the District examined multiple challenges resulting in health inequities in the District.

35 (c) The Committee on Equitable Geographic Distribution of Acute, Urgent, and Specialty
36 Care, specifically discussed the need for recruiting specialty and sub-specialty healthcare
37 workers to serve medically under-resourced areas within the District.

38 (d) In order for the District to recruit more people to serve the health care needs for
39 certain high need health care positions, it is important to address the economic barriers for
40 education and training programs for these high need health care careers.

41 (e) One of the key findings of both the Mayor's Commission on Healthcare Systems
42 Transformation and the Committee on Equitable Geographic Distribution of Acute, Urgent and
43 Specialty Care was to expand the loan repayment programs to include specialty and subspecialty
44 practitioners.

45 (f) Removing economic barriers such as the urgent need many medical professionals face
46 with mounting educational debt will incentivize them to practice in the medically underserved
47 areas in Wards 7 and 8.

48 (g) The combination of both the scholarship and expanding the loan repayment program
49 will help attract more high need healthcare professionals to serve patients in medically
50 underserved areas and create better health outcomes for these District residents.

51 (h) A delay in providing this authorization could result in further delay of providing the
52 healthcare supports needed for District residents.

53 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
54 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the High
55 Need Healthcare Career Scholarship and Supports Program Emergency Act of 2022 be adopted
56 after a single reading.

57 Sec. 4. The resolution shall take effect immediately.