



Councilmember Christina Henderson

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Perinatal Mental Health Task Force Establishment Act of 2022 to remove the requirement that the Council of the District of Columbia confirm each appointee; and to extend the deadline for the submission for the final report.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Perinatal Mental Health Task Force Emergency Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Department of Health Care Finance (“DHCF”) plays a critical role in improving maternal health outcomes in the District of Columbia. DHCF has made a commitment to undertake multiple maternal health projects, including covering doula services, expanding postpartum coverage to one year, and extending non-emergency medical transportation benefits to pregnant and postpartum Healthcare Alliance beneficiaries. In order to oversee and effectively implement these projects, DHCF has set up both the Maternal Child Health Advisory Council and the Maternal Health Advisory Group, with appointees named by the agency Director. The addition of the Perinatal Mental Health Task Force, and the Director’s ability to appoint the task force and begin work, is instrumental to the success of these projects. This emergency would

36 remove the requirement that the Council confirm each appointment as part of the 45-day Council  
37 review period and would extend the deadline for the submission of the comprehensive report  
38 from August 31, 2023, to October 1, 2023. These changes would expedite the process of  
39 appointing members to the task force and would give the task force 75 additional days to  
40 complete their work. These changes are necessary to ensure adequate time for the task force to  
41 write its report and make the statutorily required nine policy recommendations. Additionally, it is  
42 necessary to approve this emergency prior to October 1, 2022, as the law currently requires the  
43 Mayor to begin nominating individuals to the Task Force on that date, in alignment with the  
44 beginning of Fiscal Year 2023.

45           Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.