

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the DC Nursing Education Enhancement Program Act of 2021 to allow the University of the District of Columbia to provide nursing students pursuing an LPN to AASN degree through its Community College with a monthly stipend for living expenses and transportation.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “DC Nursing Education Enhancement Program Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. (a) Nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and home care agencies have long faced challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified health care staff. The COVID-19 health emergency accelerated the growing shortage of health care workers and made it more difficult for employers to find and keep qualified workers. To meet these hiring needs, the Council passed the DC Nurse Education Enhancement Program Act of 2021, effective November 13, 2021 (D.C. Law 24-45; D.C. Official Code § 32-1693.01 *et seq.*) (“DC Nursing Education Act”), as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021 to fund and train District residents as health care workers.

(b) The DC Nurse Education Act established and funded the DC Nurse Education Enhancement Program (“Program”) for the education of District residents. Under the Program, students work toward nursing degrees and nursing care certifications such as Certified Nursing

34 Assistant (“CNA”), Home Health Aide (“HHA”), Medication Aide Certified (“MA-C”),
35 Registered Nurse (“RN”), and Licensed Practical Nurse (“LPN”), and receive various forms of
36 assistance from the District. The Program provides, among other things, living and transportation
37 stipends for students enrolled in nursing courses at the University of the District of Columbia
38 Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Division (“WDLL”). The measure also provides
39 for tuition assistance for WDLL students and for students enrolled in courses at the University of
40 the District of Columbia Community College (“UDC-CC”); however, UDC-CC students are not
41 authorized to receive living and transportation stipends.

42 (c) UDC-CC enrolled 75 students in School Year 2021-2022 and learned that while many
43 students’ tuition was paid through federal Pell Grants, they struggled with paying for expenses
44 related to program participation. These expenses vary, but many students desperately need
45 financial assistance for transportation to and from their classes and purchasing food while on
46 campus. Students struggling with transportation and hunger will not succeed in their courses.

47 (d) Therefore, there exists an immediate need to amend the DC Nursing Education Act to
48 allow UDC-CC to use existing Program funding for stipends for students pursuing an LPN to
49 AASN Degree at UDC-CC. This amendment would provide UDC-CC with the flexibility to
50 meet the needs of its students in the Program and allow students to focus, learn, and thrive in
51 their classes.

52 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
53 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the DC
54 Nursing Education Enhancement Program Amendment Act of 2022 be adopted after a single
55 reading.

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