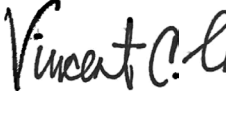




OFFICE OF VINCENT C. GRAY  
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON HOSPITAL AND HEALTH EQUITY  
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairman Phil Mendelson

**FROM:** Councilmember Vincent C. Gray, Chairperson 

**DATE:** April 27, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Request to Place Emergency Measures on the Agenda for May 2, 2023  
Legislative Meeting

---

This memo is to request that the following measures be placed on the agenda for the May 2, 2023 Legislative Meeting:

- **Opioid Overdose Prevention Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023**
- **Opioid Overdose Prevention Emergency Amendment Act of 2023**
- **Opioid Overdose Prevention Temporary Amendment Act of 2023**

Under existing District law, the distribution of fentanyl test strips is generally considered the illegal distribution of drug paraphernalia. The law was recently amended to authorize the distribution of fentanyl testing strips, but it only permitted distribution by community-based organizations. In order for the District to more successfully implement its opioid overdose prevention program, it is important that District government employees acting within the scope of their official duties and District contractors acting within the scope of their contract also be authorized to legally distribute fentanyl test strips and other drug testing equipment. The legislation would therefore permit employees of the District government acting within the scope of their official duties and District contractors acting within the scope of their contract to deliver, or possess with the intent to deliver, drug testing equipment.

Fentanyl remains a major factor in opioid deaths in the District. In order for the District to more successfully implement its opioid overdose prevention program, it is important that District government employees acting within the scope of their official duties and District contractors acting within the scope of their contract also be authorized to legally distribute fentanyl test strips and other drug testing equipment.

On June 28, 2022, the Council passed the “Opioid Overdose Prevention Emergency Amendment Act of 2023”, and accompanying temporary legislation, which is set to expire on May 4, 2023.

The purpose of the “Opioid Overdose Prevention Emergency Amendment Act of 2023” is to retroactively extend the authorization granted in the act, and continue to empower District government employees and contractors in helping to curb the city’s opioid crisis. A delay in providing this authorization could result in additional, unnecessary opioid-related deaths.

Copies of the emergencies are attached. For any questions or concerns, please contact Malcolm Cameron, Legislative Analyst, at (202) 654-6179 or [mcameron@dccouncil.gov](mailto:mcameron@dccouncil.gov).