

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON FACILITIES AND FAMILY SERVICES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE**
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

**CHAIRWOMAN LEWIS GEORGE
COMMITTEE ON FACILITIES AND FAMILY SERVICES
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING**

on

B25-0243 - Child and Family Services Agency Investigation Completion Amendment Act of 2023

and

B25-0043 – Losing Outdated, Violent Exceptions Amendment Act of 2023

on

Thursday, September 28th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

**Live via Zoom Video Conference Broadcast
Council Website (<http://www.DCCouncil.us>)
Councilmember Lewis George’s website (<https://janeeseward4.com/live>)**

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, Chair of the Committee on Facilities and Family Services will hold a public hearing to discuss B25-0243, the Child and Family Services Agency Investigation Completion Amendment Act of 2023 and B25-0043, the Losing Outdated, Violent Exceptions Amendment Act of 2023 (LOVE Amendment act). The hearing will be held on **Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.** via zoom video conference.

B25-0243, the Child and Family Services Agency Investigation Completion Amendment Act of 2023 will extend the timeframe for completing abuse and neglect investigations from 30 to 45 days, unless the allegation involves a child fatality, sex trafficking, or care in a foster home, group home, or licensed day care facility. In these cases, the deadline would be extended to 60 days. Abuse and neglect investigations are currently required to be completed within 30 days.

B25-0043, was introduced by Councilmember Brianne Nadeau and repeals the 1966 religious exemption to ensure that the same definition of neglect applies to all District parents. If a parent “refuses or is unable to assume . . . responsibility for the child’s care, control, or subsistence,” or if the child is left “without proper parental care or control . . . necessary for his or her physical, mental, or emotional health, and the deprivation is not due to the lack of financial means,” then that child is a “neglected child.” Under a law imposed by Congress in 1966, prior to Home Rule, the District’s child welfare agency cannot intervene if a parent says they have a religious reason for refusing medical care for their child. Any child “under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer” cannot, under District law, be found to be a neglected child. Sixteen states allow a court to order medical treatment; sixteen other states have no religious

exception to neglect laws whatsoever. The District joins Georgia and Mississippi in the extreme, outlier position of prohibiting any state intervention in the death or disability of a child.

Those who wish to testify must register using the Council's Hearing Management System by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2023**. Testimony is limited to 4 minutes. Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding by emailing facilities@dccouncil.gov. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. Witnesses will receive instructions on how to participate by Zoom prior to the hearing. If you have additional questions, please contact Nikita Easley, Deputy Committee Director at (202) 741-0909 or at facilities@dccouncil.gov.

Public witnesses will participate virtually via the Internet on the Zoom Video Conference platform. Testimony should be submitted through the Council's Hearing Management System (<https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings>) in advance of the hearing. Testimony will be publicly accessible after it is reviewed by the Committee. If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Statements for the record should be submitted through the Hearing Management System or left by voicemail by calling 202-350-1396 (up to 3 minutes which will be transcribed). The record will close at 5:00 pm on Thursday, October 12, 2023.