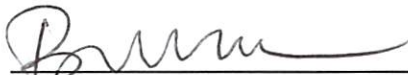


1   
2 Councilmember Elissa Silverman

  
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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6 A BILL  
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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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15 To require the Department of Behavioral Health to conduct a study to evaluate the impact of the  
16 threat of imminent action by the federal government to remove immigrant residents from  
17 the District on the mental health and substance abuse of the District’s communities of  
18 immigrant populations.  
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
21 act may be cited as the “Study of Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Immigrant  
22 Communities Act of 2017”.

23 Sec. 2. Study of mental health and substance abuse in immigrant communities.

24 (a) The Department of Behavioral Health shall conduct a study to evaluate the impact of  
25 the threat of imminent action by the federal government to remove immigrant residents from the  
26 District on the mental health of the District’s immigrant populations. The study shall:

27 (1) Review how mental trauma presents in immigrant communities in the District  
28 due to fear of removal from their home and country;

29 (2) Evaluate access to and the use of mental health services for immigrant  
30 populations where English is not the primary language, including how immigrant populations  
31 learn of mental health services and any barriers to access to mental healthcare services that may  
32 exist;

33 (3) Evaluate access to and the use of alcohol and substance abuse programs  
34 directed to immigrant populations where English is not the primary language, including any  
35 barriers to access to alcohol and substance abuse programs that may exist;

36 (4) Identify the primary environmental factors leading to alcohol and substance  
37 abuse in immigrant populations; and

38 (5) Identify immigrant population needs in order to improve diagnosis and  
39 provide quality treatment for mental trauma and substance abuse.

40 (b) The study shall recommend what resources and financing sources will be needed, if  
41 any, to protect and preserve the mental and physical health of immigrant populations in the  
42 District with the following considerations:

43 (1) For individuals who have private or public insurance; and

44 (2) For individuals who do not have insurance or qualify for Medicare or  
45 Medicaid.

46 (c) The Department of Behavior Health shall consult with outside community groups  
47 which provide health services for immigrant communities to develop the study, using community  
48 participatory research principals, on but not limited to the following matters:

49 (1) Survey methodology; and

50 (2) Survey questions.

51 (d) The Department of Behavioral Health shall transmit a copy of the study to the  
52 Council and the Mayor by February 1, 2018.

53 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

54           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
55 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
56 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

57           Sec. 4. Effective date.

58           This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
59 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
60 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
61 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
62 Columbia Register.