



March 29, 2024

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Enclosed for consideration and enactment by the Council of the District of Columbia is the “District of Columbia Healthcare Alliance Financial Eligibility Rulemaking Approval Emergency Act of 2024”, along with an accompanying emergency declaration resolution.

The legislation will approve proposed final rules of the Department of Health Care Finance (“DHCF”) regarding the operation of the DC Healthcare Alliance program that will update the modified adjusted gross income financial methodology and increase the reasonable compatibility standard for verifying electronic data sources when an individual attests to their financial information. These changes will provide more room for errors that may be no fault of applicants or beneficiaries, and create a more streamlined and efficient automation of application and renewal processing that will reduce the risk of eligible Alliance beneficiaries losing health coverage.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed legislation, please contact Chief of Staff, DHCF, Melanie Williamson, at (202) 478-5809.

I urge the Council to take prompt and favorable action on the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser



Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to approve proposed final rules submitted to the Council pursuant to section 7a of the Health Care Privatization Amendment Act of 2001 to provide for implementation of updated financial eligibility requirements and standards on eligibility determinations for the DC Healthcare Alliance program.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That

this resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Health Care Alliance Financial Eligibility Rulemaking Approval Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) There is an immediate need to approve proposed final rules of the Department of Health Care Finance regarding the DC Health Care Alliance (“Alliance”) program.

(b) Pursuant to section 7a of the Health Care Privatization Amendment Act of 2001 (“Act”), effective March 30, 2004 (D.C. Law 15-109; D.C. Official Code § 7-1406), the Council must approve, by act, proposed final rules that implement the Act, which established the Health Care Safety Net Administration, which administers the Alliance program.

(c) The Department of Health Care Finance in March 2023 issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to update its rules governing Alliance program eligibility to create

35 parity with certain Medicaid eligibility requirements and processes, including most of the
36 Medicaid modified adjusted gross income (“MAGI”) financial methodology.

37 (d) The rule changes the financial eligibility methodology to further align with
38 policy changes to the MAGI financial methodology by incorporating federal legislative
39 changes, which will further streamline eligibility processes.

40 (e) In response to the restart of Alliance program renewals on July 1, 2022, the
41 rules also adopt upcoming Medicaid policy changes to increase the reasonable
42 compatibility standard for verifying electronic data sources when an individual attests to
43 their financial information, which will provide more room for errors that may be no fault
44 of the applicants or beneficiaries, and create a more streamlined and efficient automation
45 of application and renewal processing that reduces the risk of eligible Alliance
46 beneficiaries from losing health coverage.

47 (e) Approval on an emergency basis is necessary to reduce barriers to District
48 residents establishing and continuing Alliance program eligibility.

49 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the
50 circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it
51 necessary that the DC Health Care Alliance Financial Eligibility Rulemaking Approval
52 Emergency Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

53 Sec. 4. Effective date. This resolution shall take effect immediately.