AMENDMENT #2

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Date: June 28, 2020
Offered By: Councilmember Vincent C. Gray
Title: Bill 23-0760, the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Act of 2020 and Bill 23-0XXX the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Emergency Act of 2020
Version: ___ Introduced
       ___ Draft Committee Print
       ___ Committee Print
       ___ First Reading
       ___ Amended First Reading
       ___ Engrossed
       ___ Enrolled
       X ANS

Add a new subtitle in Title V. Human Support Services entitled the "District of Columbia Health Professional Recruitment and Retention Amendment Act of 2020".

SUBTITLE X. HEALTH PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

AMENDMENT

Section 5XX1. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the "District of Columbia Health Professional Recruitment and Retention Amendment Act of 2020".
Sec. 5XX2. The District of Columbia Health Professional Recruitment Program Act of 2005, effective March 8, 2006 (D.C. Law 16-71; D.C. Official Code § 7-751.01 et seq.), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 3(a) (D.C. Official Code § 7-751.02(a)) is amended by striking the phrase “recruitment tool” and inserting the phrase “recruitment and retention tool” in its place.

(b) Section (b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Based on the availability of funds, the Program will pay for, among other expenses, the cost of education necessary to obtain a health professional degree. The Program will pay toward the outstanding principal, interest, and related expense of federal, state, or local government loans and commercial loans obtained by the participant for:

“(1) School tuition and required fees incurred by the participant;

“(2) Reasonable educational expenses; and

“(3) Incentive payments that lead to the retention of existing Program participants to practice in Ward 7 or 8; provided, that retention incentives shall be limited to $15,000 per participant per year.

(b) Section 9 (D.C. Official Code § 7-751.08), is amended by adding a new subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

“(a-1) Physicians who specialize and practice in obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, or other medical specialties specifically identified by the Director shall be eligible to have 100% of their total debt, not to exceed $200,000, repaid by the Program over 4 years of service; provided, that the participants provide full-time service in Wards 7 or 8. For each year of participation, the Program will repay loan amounts according to the following schedule:

“(1) For the 1st year of service, 18% of their total debt, not to exceed $36,000;
“(2) For the 2nd year of service, 26% of their total debt, not to exceed $52,000;
“(3) For the 3rd year of service, 28% of their total debt, not to exceed $56,000;
and
“(4) For the 4th year of service, 28% of their total debt, not to exceed $56,000.

(a) Section 16a (D.C. Official Code § 7-751.15a is amended as follows:
(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “loan repayments” and
inserting the phrase “loan repayments and retention incentives in its place”.
(2) To add a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) The Department of Health shall segregate the $1.5 million Local funds enhancement
provided in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget into a separate subaccount, which shall only be
expended for:
(1) Section 3(b)(3) of this Act (D.C. Official Code § 7-751.02(b)(3)); or
(2) Section 9(a-1) of this Act (D.C. Official Code § 7-751.08(a-1)).

**Rationale:** In her Fiscal Year 2021 budget, Mayor Bowser funded Recommendation #1
from the Committee on Equitable Geographic Distribution of Acute, Urgent, and Specialty Care
of the Mayor's Commission on Healthcare Systems Transformation with a one-time $1.5 million
Local funds enhancement to the Department of Health to provide increased loan repayment and
incentives to recruit and retain primary care and designated specialty providers, as well as non-
clinical staff, in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and Medically Underserved Areas
(MUAs). This subtitle contains the conforming amendments to the "District of Columbia Health
Professional Recruitment Program Amendment Act of 2005", which are needed to implement the
recommendation of the Commission.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact to this subtitle. These are simply conforming
change to the D.C. Code required to effectuate the Mayor’s $1.5 million budget enhancement.