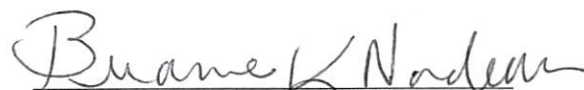
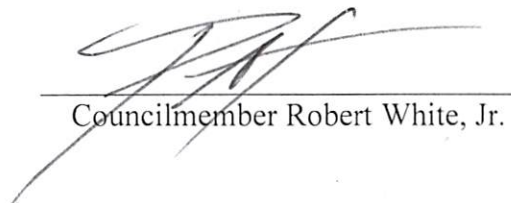


1 
2 Councilmember Charles Allen


Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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6 Councilmember Anita D. Bonds


Councilmember Robert White, Jr.

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9 A BILL

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13 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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18 To amend the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Establishment Act of 2004 to better
19 inform youth exiting the care of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services of
20 programs and services that would assist in providing information on work or vocational
21 training, education, housing and mental health services; to require DYRS to ensure that
22 committed youth are placed in housing according to the gender as identified by the youth;
23 requires all DYRS housing providers receive instruction on cultural competency and
24 sensitivity training for the care of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender youth placed
25 away from home; to ensure that youth age 16 or over have access to educational options
26 available including coursework for vocational and postsecondary education programs; to
27 provide counseling services for youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or
28 transgender; DYRS shall create individual care plans to for youth who are homeless or at
29 a high risk of becoming homeless; the Department of Human Services ("DHS") shall
30 accept voluntary referrals for services to provide assistance for youth until the end of
31 their 21st year who have been identified as a "child in need of supervision" but has
32 reached the age of 18 or youth who have been determined by DHS, DYRS or the Child
33 and Family Services Agency to be a victim of commercial sexual exploitation; DHS
34 shall refer youth for an assessment of trauma and provide a social worker to create a work
35 plan to provide assistance; DHS shall provide housing to youth who are homeless or at a
36 high risk of becoming homeless in a Supervised Independent Living Placement facility.
37

38 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
39 act may be cited as the "Youth Exiting with Support Amendment Act of 2018".

Sec. 2. The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Establishment Act of 2004,
effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-335; D.C. Official Code § 2-1515.01 *et seq.*), is amended
as follows:

(a) Section 104 (D.C. Official Code 2-1515.04) is amended by adding new paragraphs (18), (19),
(20), (21), and (22), to read as follows:

“(18) Within 180 days after the effective date of this legislation, the Department
shall develop a manual for committed juveniles that would provide information on programs and
services necessary for the successful transition out of the Department’s care which shall be
provided to youth within one year of the end the term of the youth’s commitment.

“(19) Within 90 days following the development of this manual, DYRS shall
develop an aftercare and transition services mobile electronic application which shall be
available to youth upon their commitment to DYRS.

“(20) Both the manual and electronic application shall provide information on
accessing the following services for committed youth:

- “(i) Employment placement counseling, training and services;
- “(ii) Post-secondary education support and financing;
- “(iii) Transitional housing programs;
- “(iv) Legal services;
- “(v) Documents of identity such as government identity card, birth
certificate, social security card, and any other documents needed to establish identity.
- “(vi) Medical and mental health services;
- “(vii) Parenting support services;
- “(viii) Financial training classes; and

“(ix) Locations of centers for youth development and recreation, including a schedule of programming and instructions or guidelines for participation.

“(21) At least 30 days prior to the release of a committed youth from a secure facility, and 180 days following the release of the youth, the Department shall make an assessment of the youth’s housing security.

“(22) The Department shall develop specific transition protocols that guide actions that need to occur including:

“(A) Screening and assisting in application for Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, subsidized housing, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits;

“(B) Screening and assisting applications for establishing disability benefits and services from Rehabilitation Services Administration;

“(C) Creating protocols for screening and reviewing juvenile criminal records and assistance in applying for sealing of arrest or court records where eligible; and

“(D) Screening and creating protocols for continued mental health care post commitment; and

“(E) Determining the status of the youth’s academic credits.”

Sec. 3. Placement of Youth.

The Department shall ensure that all youth detained, committed, or sheltered identifying as LGBTQ placed in housing from away from home:

(1) Are placed according to the gender as identified by the youth, regardless of the gender or sex listed in their court or child welfare records;

(2) Require adults supervising and caring for the youth receive instruction on race-based traumatic stress, cultural competency and cultural sensitivity relating to; and best practices for, providing adequate care to LGBTQ youth, with particular care for youth in a racial minority in out of home care;

(3) For youth age 16 years of age or older, have access to existing information regarding the educational options available, including, but not limited to, the coursework necessary for vocational and postsecondary educational programs, and information regarding financial aid for postsecondary education;

(4) Have access to age-appropriate, medically accurate information about reproduction health care the prevention of unplanned pregnancy, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections as determined by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education regardless of the location of the youth's placement;

(5) Have individualized plans of care; and

(6) For youth identifying as LGBTQ placed in residential facilities, have access to counseling.

Sec. 4. Extension of Services for Homeless or At-Risk Youth Care.

(a) Youth may be voluntarily referred to the Department of Human Services ("DHS") for assistance from age 18 until the end of their 21st year.

(b) Upon referral, DHS shall ensure a youth receives an assessment for trauma and assign a social worker who shall provide a care plan which will coordinate the following services:

(1) Physical security, placement and housing security;

(2) Education counseling;

(3) Therapy for the youth and family;

- (4) Substance abuse therapy;
- (5) Physical health;
- (6) Caregiver education; and
- (7) Mentoring and peer support.

(c) The Department of Human Services shall house youth who are homeless or at a high risk of becoming homeless in a Supervised Independent Living Placement.

(d) Youth seeking housing shall:

- (A) Be enrolled in an educational institution;
- (B) Have verified employment or attend job-readiness program; or
- (C) Have a medical condition that prevents the youth from meeting the requirements of (A) or (B) of this subsection.

(e) For the purposes of this section, the term “eligible youth” shall include:

(1) Youth previously committed to the Department, under Section 16-2320 as a “Child In Need of Supervision” whose period of commitment has ended at age 18;

(2) Youth who have been determined by the Department, the Department of Human Services, or the Child and Family Services Agency as a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation; or

(3) Youth previously committed to CFSA, under Section 16-2320 as a “neglected child” whose period of commitment has ended prior to age 21.

(f) For purposes of this section, the term “LGBTQ” means a person who self-identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, queer, or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

(g) For the purposes of this section, the term “child with a disability” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 602(3) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, approved December 3, 2004 (118 Stat. 2652; 20 U.S.C. § 1401(3)).

(h) For the purposes of this section, the term “survivor of sex trafficking” shall have the same meaning as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, approved October 28, 2000 (114 Stat. 1469; 22 U.S.C. § 7102(10);

Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

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

Sec. 6. Effective date.

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