



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ZACHARY PARKER

Ward 5 Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Health
Human Services
Transportation and the Environment

October 4, 2025

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today I am proud to introduce the Safe Pregnancy, Delivery, and Postpartum Care for Youth at DYRS Amendment Act of 2025. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation. This legislation is co-introduced by Councilmembers Charles Allen, Anita Bonds, Janeese Lewis-George, and Robert White, Jr., and Brooke Pinto.

This bill aims to improve health outcomes for pregnant youth at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). A recent finding by the Office of the Independent Juvenile Justice Facilities Oversight of DYRS¹ revealed that some female youth are not receiving pregnancy tests upon admission. Without these tests, DYRS medical staff will be unable to make adequate health decisions for patients. This is particularly important in relation to the prescription of medication, which can be dangerous if providers are unaware of a patient's reproductive status. This legislation mandates making pregnancy testing available for all female youth upon admission. To ensure that all pregnant youth at DYRS receive the care they are entitled to, this legislation requires DYRS produce an intelligible protocol for caring for all pregnant youth at its facilities.

This legislation:

- requires DYRS make available a pregnancy test to all female youth upon admission to a facility;
- require DYRS, upon confirmation of detained youth's pregnancy, provide that youth with the standards and policies for pregnant youth at DYRS facilities;

¹ Follow-up Assessment of Psychotropic Medication Management at the Youth Services Center and New Beginnings Youth Development Center. Office of Independent Juvenile Justice Facilities Oversight. 2024.

- requires DYRS to provide confidential, appropriate, and culturally response maternal healthcare treatment to all pregnant youth pre- and post-partum; and
- requires DYRS to create and submit to Council a written policy pertaining to pregnant youth at all DYRS facilities.

This legislation will ensure that pregnant youth at DYRS are treated with dignity and provided with responsive maternal medical care at all stages of pregnancy. I look forward to promoting this important bill alongside by colleagues.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Committee Director, Thomas Franco, at tfranco@dccouncil.gov or my Legislative Assistant, Allison Bailey, at abailey@dccouncil.gov with any questions or concerns.

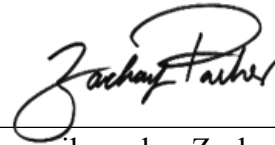
Signed,



Zachary Parker
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs
Council of the District of Columbia

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3 Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Zachary Parker

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7 Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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11 Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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16 A BILL

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20 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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24 To amend the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Establishment Act of 2004 to require
25 the Department to develop policies for and provide prenatal and postpartum care to
26 pregnant youth in its care.

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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
29 act may be cited as the “Safe Pregnancy, Delivery, and Postpartum Care for Youth at DYRS
30 Amendment Act of 2025”.

31 Sec. 2. The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Establishment Act of 2004,
32 effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-335; D.C. Official Code § 2-1515.01 *et seq.*) is amended
33 by inserting a new section 111 to read as follows:

34 “Sec. 111. Safe and supported pregnancy and delivery for detained youth.

35 “(a) The Department shall make available a pregnancy test to all female youth upon
36 admission to a facility under its control and additionally when required as a baseline assessment
37 for prescription of a recommended medication by a physician.

38 “(b) Upon confirmation of a detained youth’s pregnancy, the Department shall advise the
39 youth orally or in writing, of the standards and policies governing pregnant youth in the
40 Department's care.

41 “(c) The Department shall ensure that pregnant youth in its care receive confidential,
42 appropriate, timely, culturally responsive, and comprehensive healthcare, evaluation, and
43 treatment from maternal healthcare providers licensed in the District, including:

44 “(1) Healthcare for conditions that emerge during pregnancy or postpartum,
45 including contact with a maternal care provider within the first 3 weeks postpartum followed by
46 ongoing care as needed, concluding with a comprehensive postpartum visit no later than 12
47 weeks after birth;

48 “(2) Specialized pregnancy or postpartum healthcare, if necessary, which may be
49 referred to external healthcare providers, in accordance with the Limitations on the Use of
50 Restraints Amendment Act of 2014, effective July 25, 2015 (D.C. Law 20-280; D.C. Official
51 Code 24-276.01 et seq.);

52 “(3) Counseling regarding:

53 “(A) Family planning;

54 “(B) Prenatal Counseling and Education;

55 “(C) Birth control;

56 “(D) Test results; and

57 “(E) Counseling for perinatal mental health conditions.

“ (4) Medical, healthcare, and personal care supplies prescribed or recommended by a licensed healthcare provider treating an individual or reasonably requested by an individual, which shall be provided at no cost to the individual, including:

“(A) Equipment and cleaning supplies necessary to safely pump, store, and transport breast milk, including nursing brassieres, breast pumps, breast milk storage bags, detergent, bottle brushes, drying racks, a refrigerator of sufficient capacity, and a cooler; and

“(B) The diet that is required by Department policy or is medically recommended during pregnancy and postpartum.

“(d) No later than 60 days following enactment of the Safe Pregnancy, Delivery, and Postpartum Care for Youth at DYRS Amendment Act of 2025, the Department shall develop and deliver to Council written policies and procedures pertaining to pregnant youth in its facilities that address the requirements in this section.”.

Sec. 3. 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. 4. 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.