



## 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 Streamlining Services for Children Amendment Act of 2025. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation.

At present, the youth services system in D.C. exists as a complicated web lacking clear leadership and directional structure. This legislation addresses this issue by creating an office within the Child and Family Services Agency to analyze and make recommendations on this patchwork of services and programs aimed at supporting children and families. This bill also creates an interagency council to ensure clear coordination of services at the highest levels of agency leadership with input from stakeholders. By better aligning these services, we can create a more effective and efficient network of resources for families who will be able to access benefits without undue delay.

This legislation:

- establishes the District Office for Children within the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) for the purpose of advising on and promoting the wellbeing of children and families;
- establishes the Interagency Council for Children to facilitate interagency services and policymaking for positive outcomes for youth; and,
- requires a specific composition of the Interagency Council for Children to include representatives from agencies across the youth wellness space.

This legislation will ensure that children across the District get the services, interventions, and program assistance they need to thrive. 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](mailto:tfranco@dccouncil.gov) or my Legislative Assistant, Allison Bailey, at [abailey@dccouncil.gov](mailto:abailey@dccouncil.gov) with any questions or concerns.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zachary Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zachary" and last name "Parker" clearly legible.

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



Councilmember Zachary Parker

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977 to establish a District Office for Children and an Interagency Council for Children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Streamlining Services for Children Amendment Act of 2025”.

Sec. 2. The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977 is amended as follows:

(a) A new section 302b is added to read as follows:

“Sec. 302b. Establishment of the District Office for Children

“(a) There is established within the Child and Family Services Agency a District Office for Children.

“(b) The District Office for Children shall be administered by a Deputy Director of the Child and Family Services Agency who reports directly to the Director of the Child and Family Services Agency.

“(c) The District Office for Children shall:

“(1) Convene, organize, and staff an Interagency Council for Children;

“(2) Improve engagement and communication with District youth and families internal and external to the welfare system, including by developing a coordinated, centralized

website and other communications platforms for District families with children;

“(3) Advise the Mayor on policies related to the well-being of children and families, including economic mobility;

“(4) Promote values, policies and practices that continually advance the well-being of the District’s children and families;

“(5) Leverage federal initiatives and programs to support the District’s children and families;

“(6) Submit by March 1 an annual report to the Council and the Mayor that includes:

“(A) Recommendations for streamlining youth services, reducing inefficiencies and redundancies, and improving the delivery of services to youth and families; and

“(B) An assessment of progress towards goals identified by the Interagency Council for Children, including communication, direct services, programming, employment, truancy reduction, and system involvement.

“(7) Engage with the District Youth Council.”

(b) A new section 302c is added to read as follows:

“Sec. 302c. Establishment of the Interagency Council for Children

“(a) There is established in the District an Interagency Council for Children for the purpose of facilitating interagency, cabinet-level leadership in planning, policymaking, program development, and alignment of District services provided for the wellbeing and positive outcomes of youth.

“(b) The Interagency Council is composed of:

“(1) The Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services;

“(2) The Deputy Mayor for Education;

“(3) The Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice;

“(4) The Deputy Mayor for Economic Development;

“(5) The administrative head of each of the following entities or divisions

thereof, or their designee, provided that the designee reports directly to the administrative

head of the agency or division:

“(A) The Department of Child and Family Services;

“(B) The Department of Behavioral Health;

“(C) The Department of Health;

“(D) The Department of Human Services;

“(E) The Department of Human Services;

“(F) The Department of Parks and Recreation;

“(G) The District of Columbia Public Library;

“(H) The Office of the State Superintendent for Education;

“(I) The Department of Employment Services;

“(J) The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services;

“(K) The Attorney General of the District of Columbia;

“(L) The Metropolitan Police Department;

“(6) The Chairperson or Chairpersons of the D.C. Council committee or

committees with jurisdiction over the Child and Family Services Agency and the Department of

Youth Rehabilitation Services, or their designees;

“(7) The Ombudsperson for Children; and

78 “(8) One representative each from a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5  
79 organizations that provide services to or advocate for the needs of youth in the District.

80 “(c) All non-government members of the Interagency Council described in subsection  
81 (b)(8) of this section shall be nominated for appointment by the Mayor and approved by the  
82 Council. The Mayor shall transmit to the Council nominations of each non-government member  
83 of the Interagency Council for a 60-day period of review, excluding days of Council recess. If the  
84 Council does not approve or disapprove a nomination by resolution within the 60-day review  
85 period, the nomination shall be deemed approved.

86 “(e) The Interagency Council for Children shall:

87 “(1) Coordinate District policies and programs to reduce truancy;

88 “(2) Coordinate District policies and programs targeting child poverty;

89 “(3) Establish and maintain trauma and resilience informed practices across  
90 District government;

91 “(4) Align and coordinate youth workforce development, internship, and training  
92 programs;

93 “(5) Ensure District agencies provide aligned support for students with  
94 disabilities, and justice and welfare system-involved youth;

95 “(6) Establish best practices to leverage federal initiatives and programs to  
96 support the District’s children and families;

97 “(7) Establish measurable targets for the District’s youth facing programs,  
98 including communication, direct services, programming, employment, truancy reduction, and  
99 system involvement; and

100 “(8) Coordinate, establish, and monitor other policies and practices to support

effective and supportive engagement with District youth across District government.”.

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.