



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

CHRISTINA HENDERSON
Councilmember, At-Large
Chairperson, Committee on Health
Transportation and the Environment

Committee Member
Hospital and Health Equity
Judiciary and Public Safety

Statement of Introduction
Extended Students' Right to Home or Hospital Instruction Amendment Act of 2023
June 5, 2023

Today, along with Councilmembers Charles Allen, Robert C. White, Jr., Anita Bonds, and Vincent C. Gray, I am introducing the Extended Students' Right to Home or Hospital Instruction Amendment Act of 2023. The bill will add pre-birth complications, childbirth, and postpartum recovery to the list of health conditions which render students eligible for home or hospital instruction under the Students' Right to Home or Hospital Instruction Act of 2020.

Under the Students' Right to Home or Hospital Instruction Act of 2020, local education agencies (LEAs) in the District are required to adopt and implement a home and hospital instruction program that provides academic instruction and support to students who have been or will be absent from their school of enrollment for ten or more consecutive or cumulative school days during a school year due to a health condition. OSSE manages an appeals process and is in the final stages of promulgating implementing regulations for the program.

Currently, when students miss school due to a physical or mental illness, injury, or impairment which prevents them from participating in the day-to-day activities typically expected during school attendance, they are eligible to receive home or hospital instruction provided by their LEA. However, students experiencing health conditions such as pre-birth complications, childbirth, and postpartum recovery are excluded from home and hospital instruction programs under the law as interpreted by OSSE.¹

Data from the CDC 90% of women who do not give birth during adolescence graduate from high school, but that number drops to 50% for teen mothers.² Additionally, in a survey from the Institute of Women's Policy Research, a third of young women reported that becoming a parent played a major role in their decision to leave school.³

We know that pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum recovery-related health conditions mostly affect teenage girls and birthing persons, significantly alter students' health, and lower the chance of students graduating from high school. This legislation would dismantle gender biases in the current health condition criteria and advance DC's commitment to providing all students with quality education.

¹ 70 DCR 6853.

² [CDC, About Teen Pregnancy.](#)

³ [Cynthia B. Costello, "Pathways to Postsecondary Education for Pregnant and Parenting Teens" \(Institute for Women's Policy Research, 2014\).](#)

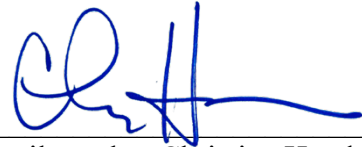


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Often, institutions fail to consider the physical, mental, and emotional toll pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum recovery takes on young girls, women, and birthing people. I believe that the Council can and should allow students experiencing pre-birth complications, childbirth, and postpartum recovery-related health conditions to be eligible for home and hospital programs. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation and guarantee instruction tailored to all students in the District of Columbia whose health needs require common-sense accommodations.

1 

2 Councilmember Charles Allen



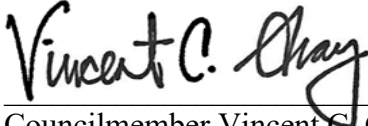
Councilmember Christina Henderson

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6 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



Councilmember Anita Bonds

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10 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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13 A BILL

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18 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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23 To amend the Students’ Right to Home or Hospital Instruction Act of 2020 to include pre-birth
24 complications, childbirth, and postpartum recovery as a health condition that qualifies a
25 student for home or hospital instruction.

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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
28 act may be cited as the “Extended Students’ Right to Home or Hospital Instruction Amendment
29 Act of 2023.”

30 Sec. 2. Section 2(1) of the Students’ Right to Home or Hospital Instruction Act of 2020,
31 effective March 16, 2021 (D.C. Law 23-204; D.C. Official Code § 38-251.01(1)), is amended to
32 read as follows:

33 “(1) "Health condition" means a physical or mental illness, injury, pre-birth
34 complications, childbirth, postpartum recovery, or impairment that prevents a student from
35 participating in the day-to-day activities typically expected during school attendance.”.

36 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

40 Sec. 4. Effective date.

41 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
42 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
43 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
44 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
45 Columbia Register.