



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to extend the Migrant Services and Supports Temporary Act of 2022 with clarifying language pertaining to eligibility requirements and supports provided by the Office of Migrant Services.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Migrant Services and Supports Extension Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. (a) An unprecedented influx of migrants, totaling approximately 10,373 individuals, have arrived in Washington, DC from Texas and Arizona on over 290 buses since October 6, 2022, with an additional 8,000 migrants arriving on over 300 buses prior to April 13, 2022.

(b) The challenges faced by these migrants necessitate continued attention and comprehensive support that extends beyond the capabilities of our esteemed non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) partners alone, which have expressed limitations in terms of staffing, resources, and logistics.

33 (c) To address these needs, the Council enacted the Migrant Services and Supports
34 Temporary Act of 2022 on October 4, 2022, which will expire on August 3rd, 2023 without
35 further Council action.

36 (d) The Office of Migrant Services (OMS) continues to provide a range of vital services
37 to support migrants and any abrupt discontinuation of these services will lead to significant harm
38 to migrants and District residents.

39 (e) The Council clarified the eligibility, procedural protections, and support services for
40 migrants in the Migrant Services Eligibility Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023,
41 passed on second reading on May 2, 2023.

42 (f) Even with this legislation and dedicated resources, the scale of this challenge requires
43 collective action and shared responsibility, including active participation by the federal
44 government in addressing the needs of migrants.

45 (g) The provisions of the Migrant Services and Supports Temporary Act of 2022 and
46 Migrant Services Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023 must be extended without
47 delay to continue to provide necessary assistance and aid to migrants who have been forced to
48 seek refuge within our borders, while concurrently preserving the programs and resources
49 essential for the welfare of existing District residents.

50 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
51 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
52 Migrant Services and Supports Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 should be
53 adopted after a single reading.

54 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.