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DC Action Commends Passage of the Home Visiting Services Reimbursement Amendment Act

Washington, DC (January 9, 2024) -- Today the District took a vital step toward securing increased federal and local investments for the District's home visiting services through Medicaid reimbursement. By passing [B25-0321](#) with unanimous consent, *The Home Visiting Services Reimbursement Amendment Act*, DC is on its way to join the [28 states](#) that have active Medicaid reimbursement programs for home visiting.

"Councilmember Brianne Nadaeu has been a champion for families in the District through her consistent support of home visiting, and we commend her work to introduce and support the *Home Visiting Services Reimbursement Act* with her colleagues and co-sponsors Councilmembers Janeese Lewis-George, Charles Allen, Zachary Parker and Robert White," said Program Coordinator for the DC Home Visiting Council, Mary Katherine West. "We also appreciate Councilmember Christina Henderson for her leadership and support for this bill through the Committee on Health."

Home visiting is a family support service that connects expecting families and families with children five and under with a highly trained support worker who can assess their strengths and needs, educate and support them through the child's development, and connect them to resources. [Thirteen organizations operate 17 home visiting programs in the District.](#) Many home visiting programs are supported by yearly grants which fluctuate often, causing instability in funding.

The Home Visiting Services Reimbursement Amendment [will provide programs the opportunity](#) to have their service costs reimbursed through Medicaid. Sustainable funding will help programs provide more seamless services to the District's families. In October, the Committee of Health held a hearing on the bill where [35 public witnesses](#), including home visiting program directors and managers, home visitors, home visiting participants, and advocates, voiced their support for the bill. Tiffany Williams, President and CEO of Martha's Table, a home visiting provider in the District,

[testified](#), saying: “Leveraging Medicaid to fund evidence-based home visiting is cost effective and ensures needed, increased investments in preventative services that support and strengthen our families and help them thrive.”

Home visitors make an incredible difference in the lives of District families. Rakeeta Steele, a participant of home visiting at the Family Place [testified](#), “When I need someone to talk to, need help with food, clothes and items for the boys, someone to process through things I am struggling with in life as a mother or an individual, [my home visitor] is there to listen to me, help me along the way and push me to do more, [my home visitor] Cybele is there. Now I am training to become a Family Support Coach so I can offer the same support I was given to other young mothers who need it. Please support home visiting, as I am proof that this support is worth every dollar for families in the District.”

DC Action commends the DC Council for passing this bill and encourages Mayor Bowser to sign it as soon as it reaches her desk. We look forward to collaborating with the DC Council, the DC Department of Health Care Finance, and the home visiting community to fund and implement this bill so that home visiting services can continue to support District families.

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[DC Action](#) uses research, data, and a racial equity lens to break down barriers that stand in the way of all kids reaching their full potential. Our collaborative advocacy initiatives bring the power of young people and all residents to raise their voices to create change. Through the [DC Home Visiting Council](#), we organize home visiting providers, local government agency representatives, early childhood advocates, managed care organizations, and other partners to strengthen the understanding, implementation, and sustainability of home visiting as a strategy to support positive child and family outcomes in the District of Columbia. DC Action is also the home of [DC KIDS COUNT](#), an online resource that tracks key indicators of child and youth well-being.