



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D

Resolution Urging Mental Health Supports in Schools and Our Community

Introduced April 25, 2023

WHEREAS; Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1D is committed to ensuring support for the mental health and well-being of our children and families;

WHEREAS; One in five District youth have a mental health condition¹, with half of the mental health conditions developing by age 14, and one in four youth will face an adverse childhood experience (ACE);²

WHEREAS; The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Reports shows 18.5% of high schoolers in the District reported having attempted suicide with alarmingly higher rates among females and LGB youth and triple the rate for transgender youth³;

WHEREAS; People struggling with mental health problems and disorders are more susceptible to factors that can lead to poverty, disaffiliation, and personal vulnerability⁴; and,

WHEREAS; Every **\$1 investment** in prevention and early intervention for mental illness and addiction programs yields **\$2 to \$10 in savings** in health costs, criminal and juvenile justice costs, and low productivity⁵;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: ANC1D continues to push for prioritizing mental health supports *in our schools and across our communities*, ensuring early intervention and access to critical services for residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: ANC1D requests that Council ensure our Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) who are essential to our School Based Mental Health, are able to provide kids critical services, don't face cuts by adding **\$5.7 million** to the program's budget;

¹ <https://dbh.dc.gov/service/children-youth-and-family-services>

² https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/page_content/attachments/EduRetention_1pager_022423.pdf

³ <https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/2019%20DC%20YRBS%20Report.pdf>

⁴ <https://ighhub.org/understanding-homelessness/causes-intersections/mental-health#:~:text=People%20living%20with%20mental%20health,they%20have%20very%20little%20income>

⁵ Joint analysis done by National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine the <https://steinberginstitute.org/fact-sheet-cost-benefits-early-intervention-mental-illness/>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC1D respectfully requests Council to restore the **\$2 million** that was cut from DBH's budget to provide outreach to homeless individuals in the District, in addition to allocating **\$1.7 million in funding** to establish a traveling mental health unit to meet youth where they physically congregate.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ANC1D authorizes Commissioner Kelly Willis to represent the Commission at related hearings and provide written testimony supporting the resolution.

Certification:

At a regularly scheduled and publicly noticed meeting held on April 25, 2023 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D considered the above resolution. With a quorum of 5 Commissioners present, the Commission voted with 5 yeas, 0 nos, and 0 abstentions to adopt the above resolution.