



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Bowser supports legislation to keep DC families healthy**

(Washington, DC) – Today, Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, co-introduced with Councilmember David Catania *mini-COBRA*.

This legislation, which will allow District workers who have been involuntary terminated or laid off to enjoy the health coverage benefit subsidy provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Council unanimously approved the legislation on an emergency basis. This means that it is in effect for 90 days. A permanent bill was also introduced, which Councilmember Bowser plans to move through her committee this spring.

“We learn of layoffs everyday, and through no fault of their own, many employees that reside in the District of Columbia find themselves out of work”, said Councilmember Bowser, “I believe that our District government bears a responsibility to prioritize the health of our citizens, especially during times of economic distress”.

Previous provisions of the District’s *mini-COBRA* law will be amended to ensure that District residents will be eligible for all the benefits contemplated by the federal stimulus package. The bill will change District law allowing residents of the District of Columbia to receive benefits of the federal law outlined in the federal stimulus package. Additionally, it will provide an additional six months of eligibility to receive *mini-COBRA*. Furthermore, the federal stimulus package provides a federal subsidy of 65% of the costs of continuing coverage, with the remaining 35% to be paid by the former employee.

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