



MEDIA ALERT

July 14, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Phallan Davis 202-741-0915 direct or email pdavis@dccouncil.us

Councilmember Bowser introduces new legislation today for CAPCO and Healthy DC program

Washington, DC – In today’s legislative session, Councilmember Muriel Bowser co-introduced along with Chairman Vincent C. Gray and Councilmember David Catania the “Hospital and Medical Services Corporation Regulatory Amendment Act of 2009.” The Council approved the “Medical Insurance Empowerment Surplus Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2009.”

The “Hospital and Medical Services Corporation Regulatory Amendment Act of 2009” is intended to create a public-private partnership that will ensure that the District is able to provide quality affordable health insurance to more residents in the soon-to-be implemented Healthy DC program.

Councilmember Bowser said “This bill is the result of months of negotiations, and I am pleased to move forward with the agreement of my colleagues who have all worked long and hard on this issue over the last many months, and for years in some cases.”

This agreement, the final details of which will be negotiated over the summer, will allow the District to cover more low-income residents in the Healthy DC program, and will enhance the affordability and attractiveness of the current open enrollment program. If the deal is unsuccessful, then the enhanced provisions already in place will become effective.

Also in this legislative session, Councilmember Bowser introduced the “Certified Capital Companies Improvement Amendment Act of 2009.” The certified capital companies, “CAPCOs” for short, are venture capital firms that receive money from insurance companies and invest the money in District businesses. In return, the District provides tax credits to the insurance companies.” In March, the District of Columbia Auditor released a report that described many design and execution problems with the CAPCO program. According to the Auditor, a net of 31 jobs have been created in the District. The Auditor also commented that the CAPCO program was poorly managed by the District’s Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking.

“I discussed this issue extensively during the DISB performance hearing in March and I held a joint public roundtable with Councilmember Kwame Brown in April to examine the program. In response to the problems that we uncovered, we brought this legislation to improve the program.”

###

A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs and is also a member of the Committee on Economic Development, Committee on Human Services, Committee on Public Works and Transportation and the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit www.murielbowser.com for more information on Councilmember Bowser.

For any media inquires, please contact Communications Director Phallan Davis at 202-741-0915 or pdavis@dccouncil.us

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 406, Washington, DC 20004
202-724-8052 phone 202-741-0908 fax
