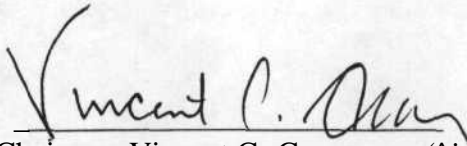
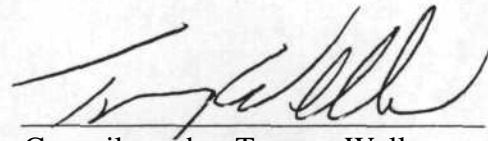


1 
2 Chairman Vincent C. Gray (^j)


Councilmember Tommy Wells
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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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12 _____
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14

15 To declare the Sense of the Council that there is a need for new legislation to modernize
16 District of Columbia laws regarding rights and services for residents with
17 intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, and to state the
18 guiding values and principles for this new legislation.
19

20 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That
21 this resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council Regarding Rights and Services
22 for Residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families
23 Resolution of 2007."
24

25 Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

26 (a) It is the policy of the District of Columbia that residents with intellectual and
27 developmental disabilities have all the civil and legal rights enjoyed by all other residents
28 of the District of Columbia and the United States;

29 (b) All District of Columbia residents benefit when individuals with intellectual
30 and developmental disabilities live with independence and dignity in the most inclusive
31 and most integrated community setting and have the freedom and opportunity to fully
32 participate in the cultural, economic, educational, political, and social fabrics of their
33 communities;

1 (c) Residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities are effective
2 advocates who speak up on their own behalf and should be engaged as active partners by
3 District of Columbia government, service providers and communities;

4 (d) Residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities are best able to
5 determine their own needs and should be afforded all information, opportunities and
6 supports that may be required to make meaningful choices about where they live, work
7 and play and, to the greatest extent possible, to control the design and delivery of their
8 services;

9 (e) Families, by far, provide the greatest quantity and, in many instances, quality
10 of services and supports for their family members with intellectual and developmental
11 disabilities;

12 (f) The District of Columbia should implement a model system of effective,
13 quality services and supports for residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities
14 and their families which fully recognizes individual rights, abilities and preferences and:

15 (1) Is rooted in best practices, ongoing innovation, and high standards of
16 excellence;

17 (2) Seeks to maintain a high quality of life and encourage the maximum
18 development of the ability and potential of each individual;

19 (3) Offers flexibility and a full range of service options, including
20 comprehensive family supports, across an individual's lifespan;

21 (4) Adopts an individualized, person-centered approach which is
22 responsive to the unique strengths, abilities, needs, culture, values and preferences of
23 each individual and family;

1 (5) Builds natural and community supports and ensures that each
2 individual has meaningful opportunities to develop and maintain relationships with
3 family, friends, coworkers, and other District of Columbia residents;

4 (6) Is delivered by a diverse workforce that is well-qualified, highly
5 motivated, receives ongoing training, demonstrates necessary skills, and regularly uses
6 best practices; and

7 (7) Is distributed with fairness and equity and produces measurable
8 outcomes which demonstrate that services have met the goals, needs and satisfaction of
9 each individual and family;

10 (g) After twenty-nine years, the Mentally Retarded Citizens Constitutional Rights
11 and Dignity Act of 1978, effective March 3,1979 (D.C. Law 2-137; D.C. Official Code §
12 7-1301.02 *et seq.*) no longer reflects existing federal laws and programs, best practices in
13 service delivery, and contemporary knowledge of the rights, abilities and preferences of
14 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

15 (h) There is a clear need for new legislation to reorganize and modernize District
16 of Columbia laws governing services and supports for individuals with intellectual and
17 developmental disabilities and their families, which should be developed by a coalition of
18 residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, advocates,
19 service providers and other community stakeholders;

20 Sec. 3. It is the Sense of the Council that the values and principles laid out in this
21 resolution shall be reflected in new legislation introduced during the current Council
22 session to reorganize and modernize District of Columbia laws governing services and
23 supports for residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

1 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of
2 publication in the District of Columbia Register.