

May 5, 2025

The Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW #406
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser,

We, the undersigned organizations, commend your leadership and unwavering commitment to protecting Washington, DC from harmful fiscal constraints imposed by Congress. Your decisive action to invoke a rarely used law to [increase District appropriations by 6 percent](#) was a bold and necessary step, reducing the required budget cuts by \$679 million and shielding DC residents, small business, and our fragile local economy from deeper harm.

Now, we urge you to continue using every tool at your disposal to prevent the remaining \$410 million in forced cuts to the fiscal year 2025 budget. Your leadership has demonstrated that innovation and resilience can safeguard DC's future, and we stand with you in identifying further solutions to maintain essential services and programs.

To build upon your progress, we encourage you to explore additional fiscal tools, including:

- Leveraging the other provision in [Section 817 of the DC Code](#) to also increase special fund appropriations by 25 percent;
- Making use of the Contingency Reserve Fund, which had \$245.4 million available as of December 31, 2024, per the [last quarterly reserves report](#); and,
- Using any forthcoming FY 2025 surplus revenue to retroactively fund services at the very beginning of FY 2026, where possible.

DC's families and communities should not bear the burden of fiscal austerity caused by federal dysfunction. The residents of DC face mounting challenges: sharp declines in local revenue due to mass federal layoffs, rising costs to sustain services, and the threat of Congress slashing critical programs like Medicaid and SNAP at a time of increasing need. Additionally, federal crises—ranging from heightened immigration enforcement to attacks on trans communities—are creating instability for our families and exacerbating deep-seated disparities in health, education, and economic opportunity.

At a time when thousands of DC households struggle with job losses and the ability to afford basic necessities, we must not make cuts to appease Congress when resources exist to uphold vital programs and services. We have the opportunity to chart a different course. We stand ready to support you in identifying solutions that protect DC's most vulnerable residents, preserve economic stability, and reinforce the District's autonomy.

We call on you to submit a revised Supplemental Fiscal Year 2025 budget that fully leverages every available fiscal tool to ensure the continuity and strength of our city. The window to act is narrow, and the consequences of inaction are too great.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia (ACLU-D.C.)
ATU Local 689

Bread for the City
Calvary Women's Services
Caregiver's D.R.E.A.M.
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Children's Law Center
Coalition for DC Public Schools and Communities
Council for Court Excellence
DC Action
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
DC Fiscal Policy Institute
DC for Democracy
DC For Reasonable Development
DC Jobs with Justice
DC Justice Lab
DC KinCare Alliance
DC Statehood Green Party
Decoding Dyslexia DC
District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children
District of Columbia Behavioral Health Association
Easterseals DC MD VA
EmpowerEd
Everyone Home DC
Fair Budget Coalition
First Shift Justice Project
Foundry
Free DC
Friendship Place
GLAA
Green New Deal for DC
HIPS
Jews United for Justice
Justice Policy Institute
League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia
Legal Action Center
Legal Aid DC
Marta Beresin, Deputy Director | Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center
Mothers Outreach Network
New Endeavors by Women
Pathways to Housing DC
People for Fairness Coalition
Playtime Project
Reframe Health and Justice
Save DC Public Land: The 1617 Project
Teaching for Change
The Festival Center
The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
Tzedek DC
Washington Teachers Union
Whitman-Walker Health

Cc: Kevin Donahue, City Administrator, Office of the City Administrator
Jenny Reed, Director, Office of Budget and Performance Management, Office of the City Administrator