

PRESS RELEASE

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HEALTH COMMITTEE APPROVES \$2.3 BILLION SPENDING PLAN FOR 2009

CATANIA CALLS BUDGET “THOROUGH” AND “TRANSPARENT”

Washington, D.C. - Today, the Committee on Health, chaired by Councilmember David Catania (At Large), approved over \$2.3 billion in spending for the Departments of Health, Mental Health, and Health Care Finance for the 2009 fiscal year (FY 09). This is the fourth budget approved by the Committee during Catania’s chairmanship and represents a renewed commitment to a number of successful health initiatives begun under his leadership. The spending plan was approved by a 3-0 vote of Committee members Tommy Wells (Ward 6), Phil Mendelson (At Large), and Catania. Councilmembers Harry Thomas, Jr. (Ward 5) and Marion Barry (Ward 8) were absent from the mark-up.

“This budget is thorough and transparent,” said Catania. “The Committee put significant resources in areas where services are needed.”

The Health Committee’s FY 09 budget includes specific appropriations to:

- enhance HIV/AIDS prevention and care;
- reduce avoidable hospitalizations;
- expand programs to recruit health professionals;
- increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary and specialty care physicians;
- administer prenatal services and postpartum counseling;
- combat childhood obesity;
- support pre-school immunizations;
- reduce mother to child transmission of HIV;
- provide school mental health services;
- detect cancers early through increased screening; and
- combat chronic diseases.

The Committee’s action today marks the culmination of several weeks of oversight and budget hearings. The approved plan will now become part of the Committee of the Whole budget for the District of Columbia. The first vote on the city’s FY 09 budget is scheduled for May 13, 2008. To view the full Committee on Health FY 09 Budget, [click here](#).

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