

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **COUNCIL APPROVES FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET**

### **COMMITTEE ON HEALTH PRIORITIES RECEIVE FUNDING**

**Washington, D.C.** - Today, the D.C. Council approved an \$8.7 billion budget for fiscal year 2009 (FY 09). The approved budget appropriates \$2.3 billion for the Departments of Health and Mental Health. It represents a renewed commitment to a number of successful health initiatives begun under the leadership of Councilmember David Catania (At-Large), Chairman of the Committee on Health.

“I am delighted to report that the priorities of the Health Committee were reflected in this budget,” said Catania. “The Committee put significant resources in areas where services are needed, and I am pleased that this was recognized by the full Council.”

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 Council’s vote today marks the culmination of the FY 09 budget process. The Health Committee held a total of eight oversight and budget hearings beginning in February and ending in April of this year. The Committee marked-up the budget on April 30, 2008. The Council gave initial approval to the budget on May 13, 2008.

To view the full Committee on Health FY 09 Budget, [click here](#).

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