

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General



April 3, 2009

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairperson
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 402
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Bill 18-66, the "Domestic Partnership Judicial Determination of Parentage Act 2009"

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am pleased to send you the enclosed copy of a letter I received from Juanita De Vine, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Support Enforcement ("OCSE"), in response to my request for an expedited review of Bill 18-66, the "Domestic Partnership Judicial Determination of Parentage Act of 2009" ("bill"). As you will see from the letter, OCSE has determined that recent revisions to the bill sufficiently address the compliance concerns OCSE raised during its review of the original version, and that, as revised, the bill presents no apparent conflict with federal child support requirements. This federal determination will allow the District to implement the bill with confidence, and will provide guidance concerning OCSE's position on the issues presented by the bill to other states that are considering the enactment of similar measures.

Thank you for your willingness to incorporate my recommendations and those of my staff and the other stakeholders into the final version of the bill. I look forward to the enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Nickles
Attorney General for the District of Columbia

PJN/lae

Enclosure

cc: Brian Moore, Legislative Counsel, Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary
Wayne C. Witkowski, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel Division
Tonya A. Sapp, Deputy Attorney General and Director of Legislative Affairs
Benidia A. Rice, Deputy Attorney General, Child Support Services Division
Laurie A. Ensworth, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Legal Counsel Division
Rudolf L. Schreiber, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Health
Christopher Dyer, Director GLBT Affairs, Executive Office of the Mayor
Shomari Wade, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Nancy D. Polikoff, Esq., Professor of Law, Washington College of Law
Liz Seaton, Esq., Director of Projects and Managing Attorney, National Center for Lesbian Rights
Shannon Minter, Legal Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights
Richard Rosendall, Vice President for Political Affairs, Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance
Robert Summersgill, Activist
Vincent Gray, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Yvette Alexander, Council of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Council of the District of Columbia
Muriel Bowser, Council of the District of Columbia
Kwame Brown, Council of the District of Columbia
Michael Brown, Council of the District of Columbia
David Catania, Council of the District of Columbia
Mary Cheh, Council of the District of Columbia
Jack Evans, Council of the District of Columbia
Jim Graham, Council of the District of Columbia
Harry Thomas, Jr., Council of the District of Columbia
Tommy Wells, Council of the District of Columbia



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families, Region III

Suite 864
150 S. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3499

March 31, 2009

Peter J. Nickles
Attorney General for the District of Columbia
Office of the Attorney General
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

COPY

Dear Mr. Nickles:

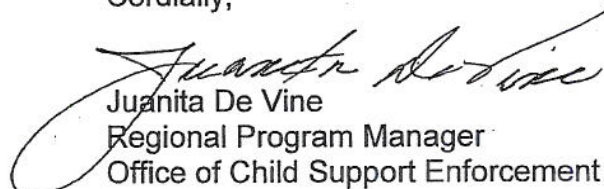
This is in response to your March 16, 2009, correspondence to our office requesting our review of Bill 18-66, titled "The Domestic Partnership Judicial Determination of Parentage Act of 2009."

We have completed our review and noted that this bill has sufficiently addressed the concerns raised in our September 24, 2008 letter on the previous version of this legislation. Specifically, the proposed changes to section 101 of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act and to the definition of 'born-out-of-wedlock' in section 16-907 of the DC Code have been removed from the bill.

While it is impossible to conceive of every scenario that might be implicated by the change in rights and obligations brought about by the legislation, the revised bill presents no apparent conflict with Federal requirements for the Child Support Enforcement program under title IV-D of the Social Security Act. The Office of Child Support Enforcement does not anticipate compliance issues for the DC program based on the rights and obligations acknowledged/created by the proposed legislation.

I hope this information will be useful to you.

Cordially,


Juanita De Vine
Regional Program Manager
Office of Child Support Enforcement

cc: Benidia Rice, Director
Child Support Services Division