

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.

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Testimony on Bill 21-0199, “Domestic Partnership Termination Recognition Amendment Act of 2015”

Committee on the Judiciary

October 8, 2015

Good morning, Chairman McDuffie. I am Saul Cruz, Secretary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance, which has fought for LGBT equality in the District since 1971. With me is GLAA President Rick Rosendall.

We support Bill 21-199, the Domestic Partnership Termination Recognition Amendment Act of 2015. It amends the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992 "to allow couples who formed domestic partnerships in other jurisdictions or the District of Columbia to terminate the domestic partnership and have that termination recognized by other jurisdictions."

This bill is a cleanup measure to account for the variety of different laws in different jurisdictions regarding our relationships. It will allow someone seeking to enter into a new domestic partnership or marriage in the District to terminate a prior relationship from another state, without establishing residency in that state as some state laws require.

An earlier version of this bill was introduced in the previous Council session by then-councilmember Graham at my request. The current version has been revised by staff to ensure that it accomplishes the intended purpose. We appreciate those efforts. We thank the bill's eight co-introducers: Councilmembers Allen, Cheh, Evans, Grosso, McDuffie, Orange, Silverman, and Chairman Mendelson.

Thank you. We are available to answer any questions.