



Council of the District of Columbia
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Elissa Silverman
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Development

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January 15, 2019

Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes
Director, D.C. Department of Employment Services
4058 Minnesota Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20019

Dear Director Morris-Hughes:

Happy New Year! Best wishes for a healthy, happy, and productive 2019!

This is an important year for our landmark paid family and medical leave program. The Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, which I chair, is committed to working with you and the Bowser administration in creating the best program possible. We are only six months away from our first major milestone, the collection of contributions from employers. This is of great interest to both businesses and workers.

My colleagues and I have received a lot of inquiries about the status of implementation. In order to ensure a productive and informative discussion at our next public roundtable on implementation of B21-264, The Universal Paid Leave Act, I ask you to provide written answers in advance to these fundamental questions. Please provide responses to the Committee by Thursday, January 24, 2019.

Rulemaking

The rules implementing the taxation component of paid family and medical leave will provide important guidance to local businesses about how to satisfy their obligations under the law. According to the Universal Paid Leave 2019 Quarter 1 Report, the agency plans to issue its final rules implementing the taxation component of the law in early 2019. The rules must also be reviewed by D.C. Council.

- On what date will the final rules on taxation be published?
- The Universal Paid Leave 2019 Quarter 1 Report indicates the proposed rules and regulations for benefits is currently under "official review." Please explain who is conducting the review and when the agency expects to issue these proposed rules.
- In the Universal Paid Leave 2018 Quarter 4 report, DOES indicated that it notified local businesses about the proposed tax rulemaking via a mailing list of approximately 13,000.
 - Was this via email and/or US postal mail?
 - What are the sources of this mailing list?
 - How can an interested business or individual sign up for this list?

Paid Family Leave and Public Engagement Contract

In November 2018, Collaborative Communications was awarded a contract for “Paid Family Leave and Public Engagement.”

Please provide the Committee with copies of the following documents, if completed:

- Requirement 4.3, “ways to engage DOES employees;”
- Requirement 4.6, “plan to engage employers, employees and medical providers digitally;” and
- Requirement 4.7, “launch timeline for the branding effort.”

Phased Staffing Plan

Please provide a list of all Office of Paid Family Leave staff members, specifying name, title, suboffice (Division of Tax, Division of Benefits, Benefit Payment Control, Appeals, Medical, Call Center, or Support), and a brief description of their responsibilities.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Committee Director Liz Weiss via email or contact her by telephone at (202) 727-1974.

Sincerely yours,



Elissa Silverman
Chair, Committee on Labor and Workforce Development



Charles Allen
Member, Committee on Labor and Workforce Development



Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia



Robert C. White, Jr.
Member, Committee on Labor and Workforce Development



David Grosso
Member, Committee on Labor and Workforce Development