



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am vetoing Bill 25-780, the "Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Emergency Amendment Act of 2024." This bill puts the safety and security of District of Columbia Housing Authority residents at risk.

As part of the application process, the Housing Authority must conduct due diligence on applicants which includes assessing the validity of their identification and other eligibility factors at both initial eligibility but also for continued assistance. The self-certification process outlined in this legislation impugns that due diligence and would preclude the Housing Authority from performing the public safety background checks that are crucial for creating a safe living space for all families and individuals.

In previous iterations of this legislation, I have asked Council to examine this process and develop legislation that lowers the administrative burden to obtaining and presenting identification credentials for housing purposes outside of self-attestation. Council has not done so. I cannot continue to let the potential security threat to our District residents continue. For these reasons I am vetoing Bill 25-780.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser