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Split Council Vote Highlights Unintended Consequences of Restrictive Scheduling Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today the DC City Council voted 3-2 to pass the “The Hours and Scheduling Stability Act” out of the Committee on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. The bill would require certain district businesses to post work schedules 14 days in advance. Businesses would incur financial penalties for schedule changes made within the 14-day window, making it unlikely that employees would retain the ability they often have today to change or trade shifts based on commuting or other needs. The bill also mandates that employers offer part-time employees additional hours before hiring new employees.

“While we would have preferred that a bill with such devastating economic consequences for district workers and the business community alike not be considered at all, and certainly not passed out of committee, we are encouraged that the council finally had an open and honest conversation about the unintended consequences of the bill, and that the vote was split,” said Steven Jumper, a spokesperson for the DC Jobs and Growth Partnership. “Today we heard concerns about metro, snowstorms, playoff games and other factors that give business owners scheduling nightmares to begin with. If issues like these are explored further in public forums we are confident restrictive scheduling will fail.”

Now that the bill has been voted out of the Committee on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, it will be brought before the entire D.C. Council. The vote before the entire Council has not yet been scheduled.

Prior to the mark-up the legislation had already caused concern among the business community, Kamal Ali, co-owner of the landmark Ben’s Chili Bowl chain, recently [authored an oped for RealClearPolicy](#), in which he worries that predictive scheduling “not only hampers [his] ability to do business but also scares away potential investment from other businesses looking to set-up shop in the District alongside [him].”

“We thank Councilmembers Charles Allen and Brandon Todd for the due diligence of insisting this legislation receive further consideration before being foisted on district businesses,” said Jumper. “We will continue to work with them, their fellow council members, and Mayor Bowser to assure D.C. stays business friendly for new and existing businesses as well as all types of employees.”

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The DC Jobs and Growth Partnership is committed to ensuring DC continues to move forward and preserve an environment that promotes job growth. We believe it is imperative that city leaders understand the impact their policies and legislation will have throughout the city with regards to retail jobs and programs.