

**STAFF PROPOSED TIME-LIMITED SEP RELATED TO THE ENACTMENT OF
A NEW DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENT
January 29, 2019**

BACKGROUND: The Federal Government effectively repealed the federal individual responsibility requirement in *the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017*. Much media attention focused on that repeal.

Then, in order to fill the void left by the federal government and to maintain lower premium increases, the District of Columbia implemented its own local individual responsibility requirement that became effective January 1, 2019. The District's local individual responsibility requirement hasn't gotten much media attention and there is concern that District residents may not find out about it until they are preparing or file their 2018 income taxes.

The goal of this proposed SEP is to provide those impacted individuals with an opportunity to enroll in coverage upon learning of the District individual responsibility requirement. This proposed SEP is consistent with an earlier time-limited SEP that was enacted by HBX, after review and approval by the Standing Advisory Board and the HBX Board, in connection with the implementation of the federal individual responsibility requirement on 2014 federal income tax filings.

DESCRIPTION: Uninsured residents who learn of the individual responsibility requirement when filing their District income taxes for 2018 would have a 60 day SEP to obtain health insurance and minimize the impact of the tax penalty. If they contact DC Health Link before they file, the SEP starts the day they contact DC Health Link. If they contact DC Health Link after they file, the SEP starts the date they filed. Since this SEP is just for those who are learning about the new law for the first time, individuals would only be eligible for this SEP once. Enrollment is prospective only and would be the first of the month following plan selection.