

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE
VOTE*

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Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Start: 10:07 a.m.

Recess: 10:21 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: *Hon. Deputy Speaker Ayala, Chair*

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Chris Banks
Tiffany Cabán
Chi A. Ossé
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung

Other Council Members Attending: Schulman

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

A P P E A R A N C E S

(NONE)

SERGEANT CUZNER: This is a microphone check for the Committee on General Welfare, located in the Committee Room, recorded on March 26, 2025 by Pat Cuzner, check, check, check, check, check, check, check, check, check, check, check.

(PAUSE)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to the New York City Council Hearing Vote on the Committee on General Welfare. At this time please silence all electronics and do not approach the dais. I repeat, please do not approach the dais. Thank you for your cooperation.

Chair, you may begin.

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING IN)

Thank you, good morning, everyone, and welcome to today's hearing. My name is Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy Speaker of the New York City Council and the Chair of the General Welfare Committee.

Today our committee will be voting on two pieces of legislation:

Proposed Introduction Number 1194-A, sponsored by Council Member Schulman, would expand eligibility for services provided by... (BACKGROUND NOISE)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: (INAUDIBLE)

(PAUSE)

(GAVEL SOUND)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to today's hearing. My name is Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy Speaker of the New York City Council and the Chair of the General Welfare Committee.

Today our committee will be voting on two pieces of legislation:

Proposed Introduction Number 1194-A, sponsored by Council Member Schulman, would expand eligibility for services provided by the HIV/AIDS Services Administration or HASA to include any person living with HIV infection.

Proposed Resolution Number 175-A, sponsored by Council Member Ossé, calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.442/A.3355, which would amend the Social Services Law to mandate each local department of social service link persons living with HIV with benefits and services and provide that persons living with HIV who are receiving housing assistance shall not be required to pay more than 30% of household income towards shelter costs.

According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in 2023, over 1,600 people were newly diagnosed with HIV, of which 40% lived in high or very high poverty zip codes.

As of December 31, 2023, there were a total of over 134,000 thousand New York City residents living with HIV, and over 70% of these New Yorkers live in medium, high, or very high poverty.

HASA provides critical assistance to New Yorkers living with HIV, including access to rental assistance, home care services, help to complete benefits applications, and mental health, and substance misuse and treatment referrals.

These important pieces of legislation will help protect New Yorkers with HIV by codifying access to these vital supports in City and State Law.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge my colleagues who are here, Council Member Riley, Council Member Cabán, Council Member Avilés, Council Member Ossé, Council Member Stevens, Council Member Ung, and Council Member Banks.

I would also like to thank the committee staff who worked to prepare this hearing today, and this hearing and vote, Sahar Moazami, Assistant Deputy

Director; Penina Rosenberg, Policy Analyst; Elisabeth Childers-Garcia, Finance Analyst; and finally, my staff, Elsie Encarnacion my Chief of Staff.

I would now like to turn if over to Council Member Schulman to deliver a statement on her bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you, Chair Ayala.

Good morning, everyone, I'm Council Member Lynn Schulman, Chair of the Health Committee and the proud sponsor of Introduction 1194-A.

Today, the Council is taking a historic step to ensure that every New Yorker living with HIV has access to the vital support and services they need. By expanding eligibility for the HIV/AIDS Services Administration, also known as HASA, we are breaking down outdated barriers and aligning our policies with reality of modern HIV care, because early intervention and comprehensive support save lives.

For too long, many people living with HIV have been denied the housing, nutrition, and case management services that can make the difference between stability and crisis. This legislation is about dignity, equity, and our ongoing commitment to ending the HIV epidemic in New York.

I want to thank Speaker Adrienne Adams for her leadership, General Welfare Chair, Diana Ayala, my colleagues in the Council, for their support, and the tireless advocates who have fought for this change.

Together, we are making New York City a place where no one is left behind. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Thank you, Council Member Schulman.

I will now like to turn it over to the Clerk to do the roll call for this vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call for the Committee on General Welfare, items are coupled.

Chair Ayala?

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Ung?

CHAIR MEMBER UNG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 8 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions, both items have been adopted by the Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Okay, we are going to hold it open for Council Member Restler who is on his way. Everybody else, you can...

(PAUSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee on General Welfare, Proposed Introduction Number 1194-A and Preconsidered Resolution 175-A, Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote is now 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions, Madam Chair, that is a full committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Thank you, and with that, this vote is closed. (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING OUT)

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 1, 2025