

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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October 29, 2025
Start: 10:15 a.m.
Recess: 10:26 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Lynn C. Schulman, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Justin L. Brannan
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Simcha Felder
James F. Gennaro
Julie Menin
Mercedes Narcisse
Susan Zhuang

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Amanda Farías

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check.

3 This is a mic check for the vote on Health. Today's
4 date is October 29, 2025, recorded by Walter Lewis in
5 HR1.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to the New York City Vote on Health.

8 Please silent all electronic devices at
9 this time.

10 Also, please do not approach the dais.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: [GAVEL] Good
13 morning, everyone. My name is Lynn Schulman, Chair of
14 the New York City Council's Committee on Health. I
15 want to welcome you all to today's vote and recognize
16 that we've been joined by the following Council
17 Members, Felder, Brannan, Gutiérrez, Ariola, Zhuang,
18 Narcisse, Menin, De La Rosa, Farías, and Gennaro on
19 Zoom.

20 Today, we'll be voting on several
21 important bills and resolutions that advance maternal
22 health, health equity, support families, and
23 strengthen the systems that protect New Yorkers'
24 well-being.

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First, Proposed Intro. 29-A, sponsored by the Majority Leader, Amanda Fariás, recognizes the link between domestic violence and traumatic brain injury. It ensures first responders are trained to identify brain injury, connect survivors to care, and raise public awareness to reduce stigma and improve outcomes.

Next, Proposed Intro. 1001-A, sponsored by Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez, creates a citywide text messaging system to support parents and caregivers with reminders and guidance on children's health, development, education, and child care registration deadlines. In a city as large and diverse as New York, connecting families to reliable information is vital to improving maternal and child health and closing persistent racial disparities, particularly among Black and Latina mothers.

We will also be voting on proposed intro 1146-A, sponsored by the Majority Whip Selvena Brooks-Powers, which expands the newborn home visiting program, offering new parents support from nurses, social workers, and lactation professionals during the first 12 weeks after birth. Extending this program to all priority neighborhoods by the year

2030 is a key step toward reducing maternal health disparities and ensuring every family has access to care and support, regardless of income or zip code.

We'll also vote on Proposed Intro 1284-A, also sponsored by Council Member Gutiérrez, which addresses opioid use disorder among pregnant and postpartum individuals. Recent reports have underscored that substance use is one of the leading, yet preventable, contributors to pregnancy-associated deaths, often compounded by stigma, inadequate screening, and lack of coordinated care. This bill directs the Health Department to educate providers on safe opioid therapies and access to overdose reversal medications through neighborhood health action centers. It recognizes that improving maternal health means providing compassionate, evidence-based support for those navigating substance use and ensuring that no one falls through the cracks during pregnancy or postpartum recovery.

Finally, three resolutions, Proposed Resolution 64-B, sponsored by Council Member Tiffany Cabán, and 867-A and 868-A, sponsored by the Speaker, Adrienne Adams, urge the State Legislature to close gaps in care by supporting fair telehealth

reimbursement for community health centers, expanding paid leave after stillbirth, and ensuring coverage for home blood pressure monitoring during the pregnancy and postpartum periods.

Together, these measures reaffirm our shared commitment to a city where every New Yorker, no matter their background or circumstance, can experience pregnancy, childbirth, and parenthood with dignity, safety, and support. This is how we build a healthier, fairer city, one that stands with families at every step of life's journey.

I want to thank my Colleagues, Legislative Staff, advocates, and City agency partners for their work in bringing these measures forward.

At this time, I would like to invite Amanda Farías, one of the bill sponsors who is present to make a brief statement on her legislation.

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you so much, Chair Schulman, and good morning, everyone. I'm proud to be here before you in strong support of my bill, Intro. 29, legislation I have introduced to require trauma-informed, competent training for all first

responders who respond to incidents of domestic and gender-based violence.

At its core, this bill is about ensuring that when a survivor calls for help, the system that answers is capable of doing no further harm. It recognizes that health and safety are not separate matters. In fact, they are deeply intertwined. A first encounter with law enforcement, EMS, or fire personnel can determine whether or not a survivor feels seen, protected, and willing to seek continued care. Every year, thousands of New Yorkers experience intimate partner violence, and far too often, those initial moments of crises are met with well-meaning but unprepared responders. When trauma is not understood, symptoms can be misinterpreted. When cultural or linguistic context is missing, an unbiased approach can be lost in a matter of seconds. Over the last several years, the Council has made record investments to expand access to survivor services across all five boroughs. Just this year alone, we allocated 3 million for culturally specific organizations to provide language access, legal assistance, and trauma-informed care. Intro. 29 builds on that commitment by bringing those same

values to the very first point of contact, the emergency response. Training our first responders on the link between domestic violence and traumatic brain injury has measurable impacts on survivor outcomes, on mental health recovery, and on the broader community's confidence in government systems. A trauma-informed approach saves lives, reduces repeat incidences, and ensures that every survivor, no matter their race, language, or immigration status, has access to an appropriate emergency response. Yesterday morning, I held a rally alongside survivors and providers who are standing behind this legislation. Their lived experience helped to shape a better system and are the true reason we are here today.

Chair Schulman and Colleagues, Intro. 29 is ready for passage. The implementation details are clear. The partnerships are in place, and the moral case is undeniable.

I want to take the time to thank folks involved. Thank you to the Committee Staff, to the greatest partner a girl could ask for, Volunteers of America Greater New York, and to my Chief-of-Staff, Rebecca Nieves, and Legislative Associate Dan Curtin

for getting this bill across the finish line. Thank you all for your time, for your partnership, and for your steadfast commitment to building a safer and more equitable city for all New Yorkers. And I urge my Colleagues to vote yes so that New York City can continue to lead by example, responding to violence with compassion, competence, and care.

CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Thank you. I want to acknowledge that we've been joined by Majority Whip Selvena Brooks-Powers.

I now want to ask Council Member Gutiérrez to give her statement.

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so much, Chair. I'm honored to have two bills being voted on this morning. Intro. 1284, the Safe Pregnancy and Opioid Treatment Act, and Intro. 1001, the Text for Kids Act.

Together with numerous other bills passing today, these bills reflect a package of common sense, inclusive solutions that center real life experiences of New Yorkers. Whether it's helping a parent get a reminder about pre-K enrollment, or ensuring that a pregnant person struggling with addiction can access life-saving care, these are

practical, compassionate steps towards a city that truly supports families. We're tackling the everyday barriers that too often keep New Yorkers from the care, information, and services they deserve. This package isn't the first in this City Council, and it won't be the last, because when women lead, we lead with clarity, with urgency, and with care. Women, women that look like us, have been dying in this city, and it took us getting elected to tackle these issues head-on. I'm so proud to have these bills voted on today, and to be a part of this diverse majority women Council who have been focused on getting our government to create simple, proven tools to make life safer, healthier, and easier for families across New York City. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Thank you very much.

I want to ask Council Member Brooks-Powers, you have a statement?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you, Chair Schulman, and thank you to my Colleagues for your partnership and leadership on this critical bill.

Intro. 1146 expands the City's Newborn Home Visiting Program, a free service that connects new parents with nurses, social workers, and lactation specialists in the first weeks after birth. These visits offer health screenings, infant feeding support, and mental health referrals at a moment when many families feel most vulnerable. Right now, this program is only available in a handful of neighborhoods. In Queens, my home borough, just three zip codes have access, and in Staten Island, there's none at all. That's unacceptable when we know access to care during the first 42 days after delivery can mean the difference between life and death. In our city, Black women are nine times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women. That disparity is an injustice, and expanding this program is one concrete step toward addressing it. Under this bill, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will expand the program to reach 75 percent of all Task Force on Racial Inclusion and Equity neighborhoods within three years, and all such neighborhoods within five.

I want to thank Chair Schulman once again for her support, and again, my Colleagues for

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2 recognizing that maternal health is public health.

3 Together, we're bringing care, compassion, and equity

4 into more New York City homes. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Thank you very
6 much.

7 I now want to ask that we proceed with
8 the vote.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
10 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
11 vote, Committee on Health. All items are coupled.

12 Chair Schulman.

13 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: I vote aye and want
14 to congratulate all the bill sponsors.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brannan.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
20 you. Feliz. De La Rosa.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

3 Congratulations to all my Colleagues for a great,
4 amazing bill when it comes to maternal health. Thank
5 you.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Zhuang.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
9 you. Felder.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I had a lot of
11 questions, but I guess we can't ask them now. I vote
12 aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
14 you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Did I do it right?

16 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Yes.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
18 Marmorato. Ariola.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
21 vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the
22 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been
23 adopted by the Committee.

24 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: I now close out the
25 hearing. [GAVEL]

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 October 31, 2025