

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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February 27, 2025

Start: 10:14 a.m.

Recess: 10:42 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Kristy Marmorato
Julie Menin
Mercedes Narcisse
Susan Zhuang

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Health vote. Today's date
4 is February 27, 2025, located in the Chambers.
5 Recording is done by Rocco Mesiti.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
8 Committee on Health.

9 At this time, we ask that you silence all
10 electronic devices, and at no time is anyone to
11 approach the dais.

12 If you would like to sign up for in-
13 person testimony or have any other questions
14 throughout the hearing, please see one of the
15 Sergeant-at-Arms.

16 Chair Shulman, we are ready to begin.

17 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Good morning,
18 everyone. I am Council Member Lynn Schulman, Chair of
19 the New York City Council's Committee on Health.
20 Thank all of you for joining us for today's vote on a
21 Proposed Pre-Considered Resolution sponsored by me,
22 calling on the New York State Legislature to pass and
23 the Governor to sign Assembly Bill 2705 and Senate
24 Bill 4801, relating to the amount of state aid
25 reimbursement for public health services by a

municipality in the City of New York when the municipality is providing some or all of certain identified core public health services, otherwise known as Article VI public health funding. The resolution we are voting on today calls for the immediate restoration of State Public Health Law Article VI public health funding for New York City. In 2019, New York State reduced the reimbursement rate for New York City by 16 percent, from 36 percent down to 20 percent, and this cut has yet to be reversed. The loss of funding resulting from the reduced reimbursement rate has led directly to a loss of funding for essential on-the-ground community health programs, including family and reproductive health care, communicable disease control, chronic disease prevention, community health assessments, and emergency preparedness. During discussion of my resolution at the Committee's February 19th oversight hearing, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene testified that New York City loses out on upwards of 90 million dollars per year in state public health funding due to these cuts. New York City was the only jurisdiction in the state that suffered these cuts, worsening existing inequities in our health system

and disproportionately impacting communities of color and families with low incomes. Per DOHMH, New York City is home to the largest portion of Medicaid recipients in the State of New York. These cuts disproportionately hurt our most vulnerable communities, but the solution is here right in front of us. Assembly Bill 2705, introduced by Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, and Senate Bill 4801 by Senator Gustavo Rivera would restore the reimbursement rate to no less than 36 percent, ensuring the full restoration of these programs and helping DOHMH and our City partners to build a healthier New York City. It is crucial that the State advance this life-saving legislation as soon as possible, which will restore millions of dollars for critically needed health services. These cuts impact those who are the most vulnerable in need of health care and are totally unnecessary. Given the current uncertainty of our federal public health funding, the issue of State Article VI funding is of the utmost importance. The Legislature and the Governor must act now to ensure that New York City residents receive equal access to the care they need. As Chair of the Health Committee, I have advocated and will continue

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2 to advocate for a restoration of Article VI funding.

3 I look forward to working with our state partners to

4 pass this urgently needed legislation.

5 I want to conclude by thanking Speaker

6 Adams for her support in prioritizing this issue. I

7 also want to thank the Committee Staff for their

8 work, Committee Counsels Chris Pepe and Sarah Sucher,

9 policy analyst Joshua Newman, and the finance staff,

10 Danielle Heifetz and Florentine Kabore, as well as my

11 team, Jonathan Boucher, Kevin McAleer, and Abigail

12 Zucker.

13 I now turn it over to the Clerk to call

14 the roll.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

16 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.

17 Roll call vote, Committee on Health on Pre-Considered

18 Proposed Resolution, amended. Chair Schulman.

19 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

23 you. Feliz. De La Rosa.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

4 Zhuang.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

7 Marmorato. Ariola.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

9 Congratulations, Chair.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a

11 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,

12 and no abstentions, Resolution has been adopted by

13 the Committee, and the roll will be held open at

14 request of the Chair.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

16 Continuation roll call, Committee on Health, Council

17 Member Marmorato.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is

20 now currently seven in the affirmative, zero on the

21 negative, and no abstentions. And the roll is still

22 open.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: William

24 Martin, Committee Clerk. Continuation roll call,

25 Committee on Health, Council Member Feliz.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final

6 vote in Committee on Health is now nine in the

7 affirmative, zero on the negative, and no

8 abstentions. Chair Schulman to close.

9 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: This hearing is now

10 closed. [GAVEL]

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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 February 28, 2025