

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

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June 26, 2013

Start: 12:31 p.m.

Recess: 12:37 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Committee Rm, 16th Fl.

B E F O R E:
JULISSA FERRERAS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Charles Barron
Council Member Margaret S. Chin
Council Member Annabel Palma

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Sasha Ahuja
Representative
Planned Parenthood of New York City

William Martin
Committee Clerk
New York City Council

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Good

afternoon. My name is Council Member Julissa Ferreras and I'm the Chair of the Women's Issues Committee. I'd like to thank the Speaker as well as Council Members Lappin and Mendez for their attention and collaboration on this issue. I'd also like to thank the staff of the Committee for their work. We've been joined by Council Members Barron of the Committee and we're waiting for some other Members before today's vote. Today we are here to vote on Resolution 1793 which calls upon the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign the Stop Deceptive Advertising in Women's Services Act. This Act, sponsored by Representative Caroline Maloney [phonetic] would give the Federal Trade Commission the ability to regulate crisis pregnancy centers that use underhanded and dishonest tactics to deter women from having abortions, aggressively encouraging them to carry their pregnancies to term. Under the legislation the FTC would have the authority to examine the claims and practices of crisis pregnancy centers as it would be with any other business. As has been noted, this piece of

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2 Federal Legislation is more critical than ever
3 with the New York State's Women's Equality Act
4 failing to pass and with a 201 City Council are
5 requiring pregnancy services centers, many of
6 which are crisis pregnancy centers, to be more
7 transparent about their services still pending in
8 court. As an expectant mother myself I am very
9 concerned about the healthcare women receive at
10 crisis pregnancy centers. This act is a vital
11 step towards protecting women's rights and
12 prenatal care. I applaud Congress Woman Maloney
13 for sponsoring the SDAWS Act and I'm proud to
14 stand with my colleagues in Local Government to
15 urge the Federal Government to pass this
16 legislation. Again, thank you to the staff for
17 putting this together. We're waiting for some
18 other members so that we can vote but we have, do
19 have testimony on this reso from Sasha Ahuja
20 [phonetic], Planned Parenthood of New York City.
21 You may begin your testimony.

22 MS. SASHA AHUJA: Okay. Good
23 afternoon. My name is Sasha Ahuja and I'm
24 testifying on behalf of Joan Mallin [phonetic]
25 President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of New

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2 York City. I'm pleased to be here before all of
3 you today to provide testimony in support of
4 resolution 1793 calling upon Congress and the
5 President to affirm their support for the Stop
6 Deceptive Advertising in Women's Services Act. I
7 want to thank, of course, the Speaker of the City
8 Council, the Honorable Christine Quinn, for this
9 resolution. I just also want to thank the Chair
10 of the Women's Issues Committee, the Honorable
11 Julissa Ferreras for holding this hearing. our
12 board, our staff, and most importantly, the young
13 women and men and young people in our health
14 centers as we speak, thank you for continuing to
15 lead on our issues and for your unwavering
16 support. I also want to take the opportunity to
17 recognize the Honorable Caroline Maloney for her
18 steadfast leadership on Women's Issues and for
19 introducing the Stop Deceptive Advertising in
20 Women's Services Act in Congress. We look forward
21 to continuing to work with all of you on the local
22 level and on the national level to improve the
23 lives of New Yorkers who we serve. For almost a
24 century PPNYC has offered high quality and
25 affordable health services to New York City's

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2 women, men and adolescents. Planned Parenthood
3 provides a whole range of confidential
4 reproductive health services and counseling to
5 women, men and teens in New York City. In 2012
6 alone over 50,000 patients from all boroughs made
7 over 85,000 visits to our health centers with the
8 specific focus on preventative care. The broad
9 spectrum of services that we provide includes
10 lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings,
11 birth control counseling and provision, GYN exams,
12 HIV testing, male reproductive health services,
13 testing and treatment for STI's and both medical
14 and surgical abortion care. As a leading
15 reproductive health provider we know all too well
16 that crisis pregnancy centers or CPC's
17 intentionally engage in deceptive practices which
18 include misleading women and teens about the type
19 of services provided and about the availability of
20 licensed medical providers on site. These
21 deceptions are widely practiced on advertisements
22 placed throughout New York City and throughout the
23 country. Right here in New York City we saw a
24 fantastic victory in 2010 when legislation
25 introduced by Council Member Jessica Lappin passed

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2 to ensure that New Yorkers would no longer be
3 tricked into thinking they are in a medical
4 providers office or wonder if they are receiving
5 honest and accurate information about their
6 reproductive healthcare. That legislation also
7 confirmed that patients would rest assured that
8 the private, confidential information they shared
9 with medical providers would be protected.

10 Council Member Lappin's legislation was promptly
11 blocked once it became law. Right here, today in
12 New York City women are still being deceived by
13 CPC's. The Stop Deceptive Advertising in Women's
14 Services Act would ensure that CPC's will have to
15 stop representing themselves as medical providers
16 and must start informing women and teens who find
17 themselves on their premises about what they do
18 and what they don't do. This legislation will go
19 a long way in ending deceptive practices by CPC's
20 and most importantly will help women get good
21 medical care. By forcing CPC's to be up front and
22 honest we're removing one more barrier that keeps
23 women from seeking the good medical care that they
24 need to stay safe and healthy. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you

1
2 very much for your testimony. We've also been
3 joined by Council Member Chin. Again, this is
4 something that we've all been working for in this
5 Committee and I'm hoping that, I'm urging my
6 colleagues to vote aye and if I could ask the
7 Clerk to call the vote.

8 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William
9 Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee
10 on Women's Issues. Council Member Ferreras?

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: I vote aye.

12 MR. MARTIN: Barron?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

14 MR. MARTIN: Chin?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

16 MR. MARTIN: By a vote of three in
17 the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
18 abstentions all items are adopted. Members,
19 please sign the Committee Report.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: And I'd like
21 to leave the Committee open for another 15 minutes
22 while Annabel Palma makes here way here. Thank
23 you. [pause]

24 MR. MARTIN: [off mic] Mm-hmm,
25 Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye.

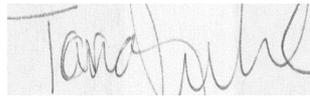
MR. MARTIN: Final vote on the
Committee on Women's Issues, four in the
affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay, the, I
am going to adjourn the Committee on Women's
Issues.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tara Juhl certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Juhl".

Date 7/17/13