

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

VOTE*

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Thursday, May 1, 2025
Start: 10:21 A.M.
Recess: 10:47 A.M.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Lynn C. Schulman, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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2 SERGEANT LOUIS: Mic check, mic check, this is
3 the mic check on the vote for the Committee on
4 Health. Today's date is May 1, 2025, in the
5 Committee Room, recorded by Walter Lewis.

6 (PAUSE)

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, good morning,
8 welcome to the New York City Council Vote for the
9 Committee on Health.

10 At this time, please silence all electronic
11 devices. And do not approach the dais.

12 Chair, you may begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: [GAVEL] Good morning,
14 everyone, I am Council Member Lynn Schulman, Chair of
15 the New York City Council's Committee on Health.

16 Today we will be voting on two resolutions,
17 Proposed Resolution 165-B, sponsored by Council
18 Member Mercedes Narcisse, and Proposed Resolution
19 822-A, sponsored by myself.

20 Proposed resolution 822-A calls on the New York
21 State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,
22 S.705/A.2140, also known as the Fair Pricing Act.

23 This legislation addresses a pressing issue, inflated
24 costs of routine outpatient services such as x-rays,
25 MRIs, and immunizations, when performed in hospital

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2 settings, compared to independent clinics or doctor's
3 offices. This discrepancy often results from
4 hospitals acquiring outpatient facilities and
5 imposing higher facility fees, leading to increased
6 financial burdens for patients. Under this
7 legislation, payments for routine medical services
8 would be capped at 150% of Medicare rates regardless
9 of service location. This site neutral payment policy
10 aims to eliminate unjustified price variations
11 ensuring that patients are not overcharged because of
12 where they receive care. Additionally, the Act
13 prohibits hidden facility fees and mandates greater
14 transparency in health care pricing.

15 Notably, research from the Brown University of
16 Public Health concluded that if the Fair Pricing Act
17 were implemented in 2022, it would have saved New
18 Yorkers approximately \$1 billion, and would have
19 reduced government spending on health care programs,
20 including saving the New York City health benefits
21 program over \$120 million.

22 Therefore, by adopting this resolution, we
23 advocate for a fairer health care system that
24 prioritizes patients well-being over profit margins.

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2 I urge my fellow committee members to support
3 this initiative reinforcing our commitment to
4 accessible and affordable health care for all New
5 Yorkers.

6 Before we move to the vote, I will pass the mic
7 to Council Member Narcisse to make a statement on her
8 resolution.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you, Chair. You
10 already gave all the background so thank you for all
11 that.

12 But what I'm talking about is equity in
13 healthcare. So many of us happen to be, I don't want
14 to say lucky or blessed to be able to have a child
15 without any problem, but some of our neighbors,
16 friends, and families are struggling. And how you
17 explain to them that is something that is your
18 problem when you cannot afford it? And I don't think
19 health care should be about money, it should be a
20 right to everyone. And this is a health care issue,
21 too, for so many that think that everyone should be
22 able to have a baby with no problem. But there are a
23 lot a lot of folks out there that are having
24 difficulty, and it's a very challenging thing when
25 you listen to folks that are, you know, really

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2 willing to have a baby and cannot. How do we explain
3 that as a society?

4 So, I feel like everyone deserves the
5 opportunity, and it's not something they choose for
6 their own self, they cannot have a baby, but it's a
7 very difficult process for those that cannot have it.

8 So, I encourage my colleagues not to look into
9 what you feel, but think about the brothers, sisters,
10 the neighbors that you're dealing with that are
11 having the challenges and giving them the
12 opportunity. So for that, I would encourage all my
13 colleagues to vote aye for them.

14 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Thank you.

15 Clerk, we are ready to begin the vote.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,
17 Committee Clerk; roll call vote for the Committee on
18 Health; items are coupled.

19 Chair Schulman?

20 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (ABSENT)

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: (NO RESPONSE)

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye, and I want to congratulate my colleagues on these important resolutions.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: (SPEAKING FOREIGN LANGUAGE) Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marmorato?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye on Resolution 165-A, and I vote no on Resolution 822-A.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: The following results, Preconsidered Resolution 165-B has been adopted by the Committee with 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions. And Preconsidered Resolution 822-A, has been adopted by the Committee with 5 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative, and no abstentions.

The roll will be held open at the request of the Chair.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: I have asked for the roll
3 to be kept open for Council Member Ariola, who is on
4 her way in thank you.

5 (PAUSE)

6 (BACKGROUND NOISE)

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Quiet, please! Quiet, please!

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet down, (BACKGROUND
9 NOISE) (INAUDIBLE)!

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Sergeants, are we rolling?

11 (PAUSE)

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call for the
13 Committee on Health, Council Member Feliz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 (PAUSE)

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote count, Committee on
18 Health, Resolution 165-B has been adopted by the
19 Committee with 7 in the affirmative, 0 in the
20 negative, and no abstentions. And Preconsidered
21 Resolution 822-A is adopted by the Committee with 6
22 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative, and no
23 abstentions.

24 Chair Schulman to close.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Thank you, the hearing
3 for the Health Committee is now adjourned. And I want
4 to thank everyone for their votes on behalf of the
5 two resolutions that we had today, particularly the
6 Fair Pricing Act, thank you.

7 [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 June 12, 2025