

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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May 16, 2024
Start: 11:38 a.m.
Recess: 11:54 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Rita C. Joseph, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana Hanif
Kamillah Hanks
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farrah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Education, recorded on May
4 16, 2024, located in the Committee Room by Nazly
5 Paytuvi.

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

9 At this time, please silence all
10 electronic devices.

11 Chair Joseph, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: [GAVEL] Good morning
13 and welcome everyone to today's Committee on
14 Education vote on Proposed Introduction 341-A,
15 sponsored by Council Member Mercedes Narcisse,
16 related to requiring the New York City Department of
17 Education to report the number of students reported
18 to the Office of School Health as having diagnosed
19 with sickle cell disease or trait. The Committee
20 previously heard testimony on Introduction 341-A as
21 part of an April 17, 2024, hearing on school-based
22 health centers, school-based mental health clinics.
23 Currently, the New York City Public Schools submits
24 an annual student health report to the Council, which
25 includes information on the number of students

2 reported to the Office of Health as having a
3 diagnosis of allergies, asthma, diabetes type 1, or
4 diabetes type 2. This bill would require the New York
5 City Public Schools to provide in its annual report
6 on students' health and students' health services the
7 total number of students reported to the Office of
8 School Health as having a diagnosis of sickle cell
9 disease or sickle cell trait. Amending the student
10 health report to include information on the number of
11 students with sickle cell disease or trait would be
12 particularly significant for New York City Public
13 Schools as nearly 65 percent of New York City Public
14 Schools students are Black or Latino, and sickle cell
15 disease and trait is prevalent in these populations.

16 I encourage all of my Colleagues to vote
17 yes on this important bill that would provide helpful
18 information on a serious health condition affecting
19 many New York City students.

20 Council Member Narcisse, would you like
21 to put a statement on the record?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISS: Thank you, Chair
23 Joseph, and first and foremost, I have to express my
24 gratitude to you because you took it on and you were
25 able to help us to come to this beautiful, I would

2 say, the bill that we need, and I would like to
3 express my gratitude for the Speaker as well, Speaker
4 Adrienne Adams, and all my Colleagues as we move
5 toward to passing the Intro. 341.

6 As a former triage nurse, I know that
7 effective treatment begins with accurate diagnosis.
8 This legislation is our way of diagnosing the gaps in
9 our healthcare system, particularly in how we address
10 conditions like sickle cell disease and many other
11 diseases, which disproportionately affects African
12 American communities and other minorities. We aim to
13 shed light on these disparities, bringing them to the
14 forefront of our health policy discussions. By
15 mandating comprehensive health reporting, this bill
16 allows us to pinpoint where the needs are the
17 greatest and to have strategies on how to meet them.
18 We are setting the stage for a more equitable
19 distribution of health resources, ensuring that every
20 student, regardless of their background, has access
21 to the care they need and they deserve.

22 Today, as we advocate for this bill, I
23 would like to say thank you in advance to all my
24 Colleagues that will support this bill because it is
25 about time for us to address the inequities in

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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2 healthcare. So, thank you, Chair. Thank you for your
3 time and your team as well, and, of course, I'd love
4 for all of you to support. Thanks.

5 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: I would like to thank
6 my Staff and Committee Staff, and I will now turn to
7 the Clerk to call the roll.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
9 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
10 vote, Committee on Education. Proposed Introduction
11 341-A. Chair Joseph.

12 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: I vote aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.
14 Gennaro.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you, Council
17 Member. Dinowitz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.
19 Congratulations.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
21 Gutiérrez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I vote aye.
23 Congrats.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION 6

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

5 Lee.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sanchez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

13 Congratulations, Council Member.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote

16 of 10 in the affirmative, zero of the negative, and

17 no abstentions, item has been adopted by the

18 Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Can I leave it open

20 for a few minutes, please? Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

22 Continuation roll call, Committee on Education.

23 Proposed Introduction 341-A. Council Member Krishnan.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

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1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
3 you.

4 Vote is now currently 11 in the
5 affirmative.

6 Continuation roll call, Committee on
7 Education. Proposed Introduction 341-A. Council
8 Member Stevens.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is
11 now currently at 12 in the affirmative.

12 Continuation roll call, Committee on
13 Education. Council Member Louis.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
16 vote is now 13 in the affirmative, zero in the
17 negative, and no abstentions. Madam Chair, that is a
18 full Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: All right. [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 May 31, 2024