

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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March 1, 2011
Start: 1:00pm
Recess: 1:36pm

HELD AT: Hearing Room - 16th Floor
 250 Broadway

B E F O R E:

MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Inez E. Dickens
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Helen D. Foster
Brad Lander
Jessica S. Lappin
Rosie Mendez
Joel Rivera
Deborah L. Rose
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
James G. Van Bramer
Albert Vann

A P P E A R A N C E S

Sabrina Shulman
Political Director
NARAL Pro-Choice New York

Jordan Goldberg
State Advocacy Counsel
Center for Reproductive Rights

Barbara Meara
Representative
New York State Right to Life Committee

Traci Perry
Vice President of Public Affairs
Planned Parenthood of New York City

Patricia Burkhardt
President
New York State Association of Licensed Midwives

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2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Good afternoon
3 everyone, thank you for joining us. My name is
4 Maria del Carmen Arroyo, I chair the Committee on
5 Health. I'm not very healthy today, so bear with
6 me. I'm a bit nasally and kind of cranky, and a
7 little bit, according to my counsel I can't say
8 under the influence, I'm above the influence of
9 Nyquil. So thank you for joining us today, the
10 Committee is conducting a hearing and we'll be
11 voting on three resolutions, I want to remind my
12 colleagues that we need to establish and maintain
13 quorum, in order for the vote to go through.
14 We're voting on three resolutions focused on
15 abortion and reproductive health care. The first
16 resolution, 666A, calls upon the members of the
17 House of Representatives to vote against HR358,
18 known as the Protect Life Act. This legislation
19 would amend the Federal Health Care Act to
20 prohibit any insurance plan from covering abortion
21 services if the plan includes any person who
22 receives Federal tax credits, essentially barring
23 any insurance coverage of abortion services.
24 Additionally the Protect Life Act would permit
25 hospitals to refuse to perform abortions, even in

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2 emergency situations, where an abortion is
3 necessary to save the life of a woman. The
4 second, resolution 670A, sponsored by my
5 colleague, Council Member Ferreras, calls upon the
6 members of the House of Representatives to vote
7 against another anti-choice bill, HR3, known as
8 the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. This
9 bill would ban tax credits for businesses that
10 provide health plans with abortion coverage, and
11 requires self-employed individuals to pay taxes on
12 insurance plans that cover the service. The
13 legislation would prohibit Federal funds from
14 going to any part of any private insurance plan
15 that offers abortion coverage and would prohibit
16 multi-state plans from offering abortion coverage.
17 The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would
18 also codify the Hyde amendment, prohibiting the
19 use of Federal funds to pay for abortion services.
20 Currently the Hyde Act is attached to the
21 appropriations bill and must be re-authorized
22 annually. Finally, in the third resolution, 672A,
23 sponsored by Council Member Lappin, calls upon
24 members of the House and the Senate to protect
25 Title X funding. Title X funding covers family

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2 planning services for low- and moderate-income
3 individuals, and funds a variety of preventive
4 healthcare services, including breast and cervical
5 cancer screening and HIV prevention education.

6 Currently, Title X funding cannot go directly to
7 abortion services, but entities who receive
8 funding can use private money to fund abortions.

9 HR 217, the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition
10 Act, would prohibit Title X funding from going to

11 any entity that offers abortion services or
12 provides funding to any entity that offers these
13 services. This would jeopardize funding for a

14 variety of healthcare services for millions of
15 women. Additionally, as part of the budget

16 process, the House recently voted to de-fund Title
17 X completely, and voted to block all Federal

18 funding from Planned Parenthood regardless of the
19 source. Should these budget measures be approved

20 the Senate, the effect on healthcare for low- and
21 moderate-income people would be devastating, going

22 far beyond simply interfering with the right to

23 have an abortion. Resolution 672A would urge the

24 Senate to reject the House's actions and maintain

25 funding for Planned Parenthood and Title X. I

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2 look forward to the hearing today, to hearing
3 today from reproductive healthcare advocates and
4 others who may have additional information on
5 these pieces of Federal legislation and their
6 potential impact on the lives of New Yorkers. I
7 want to thank my colleagues for joining me in
8 introducing these three pieces of legislation, and
9 at this point I want to recognize the colleagues
10 who are with us here, and as I said earlier, there
11 are several hearings going on simultaneously,
12 others will come in and out. To my extreme left,
13 and there's no pun intended there, is Council
14 Member Julissa Ferreras, Council Member Joel
15 Rivera, behind Julissa, Brad Lander, and to my
16 right, Council Member Al Vann, Council Member
17 Debbie Rose, and Council Member Rosie Mendez. I
18 want to thank the staff of the Committee, Lacey
19 Clarke, who's gotten baptism by fire, becoming the
20 new counsel to the Committee, and Joe Mancino for
21 their hard work in preparing us for this hearing.
22 Before I hear from the sponsors of these
23 resolutions, I just want to remind everyone that
24 if you want to testify, you have to fill out a
25 slip that looks like what Lacey's holding, and you

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2 must give it to the sergeant-at-arms in order for
3 us to know that you're here and you want to say
4 something. We certainly do hear what you have to
5 say, pro or against these pieces of legislation.
6 I will remind my colleagues that we will be voting
7 on these three pieces of legislation, so it is
8 important that you're not ... you're too far from
9 this room, since we will have to hunt you down if
10 you do. Okay, so Council Member Ferreras, if
11 you'd like to say a few words on your legislation?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank
13 you, Chair, I just wanted to say that, you know,
14 it is an honor for me to be able to introduce this
15 resolution. This speaks to the times when there
16 were women, and some of them even in my district,
17 that would opt, because they couldn't have the
18 affordable options through their healthcare for a
19 termination, would opt to throw themselves
20 downstairs, or stab themselves, or punch
21 themselves in the stomach, to induce termination
22 because of the affordability of this, and I think
23 that when we ... this legislation would really
24 adversely affect not only the child's health,
25 which is what oftentimes is talked about, but more

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2 importantly the woman's health. And women have
3 had to make very tough decisions in their lives,
4 and I think this just adds on to the tougher
5 decisions. So I would hope that this does not
6 pass, and that my colleagues vote for this
7 resolution so that we can make sure that our
8 government understands that this is not the right
9 direction in which to go on. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you,
11 Council Member Ferreras. I'd like to call up the
12 first panel, and we will call up panels in
13 alternating order, in favor and against, so that
14 there is a sense of fairness about what we're
15 doing here. So, Sabrina Shulman, NARAL Pro-Choice
16 New York, Jordan Goldberg, Center for Reproductive
17 Rights.

18 MS. SHULMAN: (microphone not
19 turned on) Hi, my name is Sabrina Shulman, the
20 Political Director at NARAL Pro-Choice New York
21 and we work every day to protect (inaudible)
22 abortion and to protect a full range of
23 reproductive rights for women, regardless of age,
24 (inaudible) or race. As an organization devoted
25 to reproductive freedom, (inaudible) testimony in

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support of resolution 666A, 670A and 672A and
(crosstalk).

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Nick, it's not
capturing her testimony on the mic.

MALE VOICE: If you could start
from the beginning.

MS. SHULMAN: (microphone turned
on) From the beginning? Happy to. Hi again.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: It sounded
like it was on to me, I guess my hearing is that
bad.

MS. SHULMAN: Again, my name is
Sabrina Shulman, I'm the Political Director at
NARAL Pro-Choice New York, and every day we work
to protect safe legal abortion and to protect
access to the full range of reproductive rights
for women, regardless of age, race or income. As
an organization devoted to reproductive freedom,
we submit this testimony in support of resolutions
666A, 670A and 672A, and applaud the City
Council's effort to stop the current war on
women's healthcare. The new leadership of the
U.S. House of Representatives has wasted no time
in showcasing their true agenda, attacking women's

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2 access to reproductive healthcare. This is not
3 what members of Congress campaigned on, and not
4 what the American people want. So far this winter
5 we have seen a Congressional hearing on HR3, a
6 bill to use our tax code to make it nearly
7 impossible for women to buy insurance plans that
8 include abortion coverage. Currently 87% of
9 private insurance plans include such coverage.
10 This bill could result in tax increases for
11 millions of individuals in small businesses if
12 they want to keep the health coverage they
13 currently. Using the tax code to attack women's
14 healthcare is an abomination. We know that
15 restricting insurance coverage of abortion does
16 not reduce the need for abortions, it only creates
17 a barrier for women to access the safe medical
18 care they need, and may force some women to resort
19 to drastic measures. HR3 would also make
20 permanent restrictions on abortion coverage for
21 the tens of millions of women who depend on
22 government for their healthcare, even when an
23 abortion is necessary to protect a woman's health.
24 These restrictions particularly burden women
25 facing financial hardship, making it extremely

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2 difficult to have coverage for abortion. HR3 goes
3 beyond the already harmful restrictions of the
4 Hyde Amendment and makes a bad policy worse.

5 We've also seen a House committee pass HR358, a
6 bill that would endanger women's lives by
7 permitting healthcare providers to deny lifesaving
8 care in emergency situations. It would also make
9 it virtually impossible for private insurance
10 companies to participate in the new health system
11 to offer abortion coverage to women. The
12 government should not be in the business of taking
13 away insurance coverage that women already have.

14 Additionally, the House of Representatives
15 recently voted to eliminate Title X funding, the
16 longstanding Federal program that has helped
17 millions of women access vital preventive
18 reproductive health services, not just family
19 planning, but services like breast and pelvic
20 exams, STD and HIV screenings and other preventive
21 services. Even more outrageous, the House also
22 voted to specifically bar Planned Parenthood
23 health centers from any and all Federal funding
24 for birth control, cancer screenings, HIV testing
25 and more. These attacks are extreme and defy

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2 common sense, both economically and morally.
3 Through Title X family planning funding, millions
4 of low-income women and men across the country are
5 able to access the services they need to stay
6 healthy and to prevent unintended pregnancies.
7 Where will thousands of women and men in New York
8 go if Congress succeeds in slashing Title X
9 funding, in closing Planned Parenthood health
10 centers? How does this help our economy or create
11 new jobs? When viewed together, these bills must
12 be seen as nothing less than an all-out war on
13 women. The resolutions being considered by the
14 New York City Council recognize this war on women
15 and, if passed, will help send a strong message to
16 Washington: New York City won't stand for these
17 attacks on women's healthcare. Thank you very
18 much.

19 MS. GOLDBERG: Thanks, I don't want
20 to go through the same space again. Hi, okay.
21 It's working? Great. Thank you to the Committee
22 for the opportunity to testify today. How about
23 that? Better? Okay. Okay. My name is Jordan
24 Goldberg and I'm the State Advocacy Counsel for
25 the Center for Reproductive Rights, the U.S. legal

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2 program at the Center. I'm here on behalf of the
3 Center to testify in support of these resolutions,
4 666, 670 and 672, and we strongly applaud the City
5 Council decision to introduce these resolutions,
6 and we think this is a great message to send. The
7 Center is a global human rights organization that
8 promotes women's equality worldwide by securing
9 reproductive rights as constitutional and
10 international human rights that all governments
11 around the world are obligated to respect, protect
12 and fulfill. We work in the U.S. and in countries
13 all over the world on a wide range of reproductive
14 health issues, including access to contraception,
15 pregnancy care, abortion services and medically
16 accurate and unbiased reproductive health
17 information. As these resolutions recognize,
18 since the new Congress took control in January,
19 the attack on women's health and rights in
20 Washington has been unrelentless (sic). The
21 Protect Life Act, the No Taxpayer Funding for
22 Abortion Act, and the Title X Abortion Provider
23 Prohibition Act are all sweeping measures that
24 would threaten women's lives, impose draconian tax
25 penalties on American families and businesses, and

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2 decimate family planning services for low-income
3 women and men. Abortion is an essential part of
4 comprehensive reproductive healthcare for women
5 and one of the most common surgical procedures in
6 this country. In fact, one in three women will
7 have an abortion in their lifetime. Today the
8 majority of private insurers offer abortion
9 coverage. HR3 and 358 promise to take that away
10 from millions of women in this country. HR358,
11 the so-called Protect Life Act, is part of a
12 larger effort to overturn healthcare reform and
13 take essential coverage away from millions of
14 American families. It creates a fiction about
15 Federal funding in order to bar coverage of
16 abortion services in the private insurance market.
17 The bill would bar insurance plans in the new
18 state-based exchanges from providing coverage if
19 even a single person receiving premium assistance
20 credits enrolls. Because the great majority of
21 the individuals on the exchange will be
22 subsidized, HR 358 would therefore essentially ban
23 abortion coverage in the exchanges. In addition,
24 the bill incorporates a broad carve-out provision,
25 protecting any state refusal law, which could

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2 allow insurers to refuse to offer important
3 services that are part of the minimum standards
4 for healthcare coverage set by the Affordable Care
5 Act. These standards include services and
6 supplies relating to contraception and fertility,
7 and SDI treatment. The bill would also
8 dramatically expand the ability of individuals and
9 entities to refuse to provide treatment, even in
10 emergency situations, under the guise of an
11 expanded conscience protection. However, the bill
12 now includes no such protection for providers of
13 healthcare who choose to provide abortion
14 services, even though those providers are
15 routinely harassed and intimidated and
16 discriminated against. The second bill, the so-
17 called No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act,
18 similarly seeks to manipulate the private
19 insurance market. HR3 is essentially an abortion
20 tax, and by raising taxes on health insurance
21 plans so that it would no longer be feasible for
22 employers or individuals to obtain comprehensive
23 reproductive healthcare coverage in one plan, the
24 bill would strip away coverage for millions of
25 women that currently have it. HR3 would also

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2 further entrench harmful and discriminatory bans
3 on abortion coverage for women on Medicaid,
4 Federal employees, women in the military, Peace
5 Corps volunteers, and many others. Finally, HR217
6 would prevent access to contraception and other
7 critical preventative care for low-income women
8 and men in New York and around the country. The
9 Title X family planning program funds low-cost
10 confidential family planning services and has for
11 many years, that would otherwise be out of reach
12 for many women. HR217 would prevent healthcare
13 providers who provide abortion services from
14 receiving Title X funds, even though under
15 existing law Title X cannot be used for abortion
16 services. The Center for Reproductive Rights is
17 strongly opposed to these Federal bills, and we
18 support the resolutions that the Council is
19 considering. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you.

21 Thank you for your testimony, we've been joined by
22 Council Member Van Bramer, who's sitting in the
23 gallery, and Council Member Foster. Welcome.
24 Okay, the next panel, Barbara Meara, I understand
25 near and dear to someone very near and dear to us.

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2 Welcome, Ms. Meara. I said welcome. This should
3 be an interesting conversation around the dinner
4 table. You may begin when you're ready.

5 MS. MEARA: Good afternoon, is that
6 better?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes.

8 MS. MEARA: Thank you very much for
9 the opportunity to testify today. On July 1st,
10 1970, I began to realize the intent of some of
11 those who supported legal abortion. My name is
12 Barbara Meara, I represent the New York State
13 Right to Life Committee. On July 1st, 1970, I
14 began to realize the intent of some of those who
15 supported legal abortion. Friends of mine had
16 been lobbying and demonstrating for improved
17 maternity care and emergency services in a South
18 Bronx hospital, and were repeatedly told there was
19 no money for those services. But on July 1st,
20 1970, the day the New York State abortion law went
21 into effect, a half million dollars of abortion
22 equipment was moved into the hospital. No money
23 for lifesaving maternity and emergency services,
24 but plenty for abortion, for the death of unborn
25 children in the South Bronx. And in fact, one

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2 legislator actually said to me, "What would we do
3 with the overcrowded schools and housing in the
4 South Bronx?" My answer was then, as it is now,
5 we don't kill to solve our problems. Fast forward
6 to 2011, and we see an outcry against cutting the
7 use of taxpayer funds for abortion, and for
8 organizations like Planned Parenthood that provide
9 abortion. In spite of the incredible statistics
10 from the New York State Department of Health, that
11 show that New York City aborts 41% of the children
12 conceived, and while the rate for the country as a
13 whole is only 19%, the City Council is opposed to
14 restriction of taxpayer funding for abortion.

15 Please reconsider your support for taxpayer-funded
16 abortions. The Guttmacher Institute estimates
17 that abortions decrease by 25% when not funded by
18 taxpayer dollars, and many of you I notice are
19 from the Bronx, and while I said here in my report
20 that 41% of the children conceived in the city are
21 aborted, it's closer to 50% in the Bronx, which is
22 really a tragic situation. In spite of the
23 revelations of abuses in Planned Parenthood
24 clinics around the nation, including one in the
25 South Bronx which showed that a young couple

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2 posing as sex traffickers of girls as young as
3 thirteen and fourteen, had no trouble in getting
4 information on how to arrange for services for
5 their employees. Please oppose Federal funding
6 for Planned Parenthood. Isn't it time to value
7 all lives and take action to protect them and to
8 stop supporting efforts to use tax dollars to pay
9 for the killing of our next generation? Most
10 Americans and most New Yorkers, even those who
11 call themselves pro-choice, are against the use of
12 taxpayer dollars for abortion. Isn't it time to
13 stop harassing pregnancy care centers that offer
14 pregnant women ... offer help to pregnant women.
15 Bills like Intro 371 require pregnancy care
16 centers to put up signs saying they don't provide
17 abortions, but why don't we ask the abortion
18 clinics to tell the truth to the young women who
19 come to them? For instance, they should tell them
20 that the baby who will be killed by abortion is
21 not just a clump of cells or a glob of protoplasm,
22 but has a beating heart at 18 to 21 days,
23 recordable brain waves at six weeks, and by eight
24 weeks has all her organs and fingerprints that are
25 the same as they will be at eight months, eight

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2 years or 18 years or 80 years. And at a time when
3 we are all conscious of Federal, state and city
4 debt, and I'm sure some of you are thinking, well,
5 if we cut down on abortions, we'll have more
6 expenses for the babies, the fact is that we have
7 tremendous expenses from the aftermath of
8 abortion: the premature births and subsequent
9 pregnancies, the alcohol and drug problems, and
10 the increase in breast cancers. The New York
11 State Right to Life Committee implores the City
12 Council to reject resolution 666, 670 and 672.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you for
15 your testimony. Any questions? Okay, thank you.

16 MS. MEARA: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: We've been
18 joined by Committee members Inez Dickens and Peter
19 Vallone, and Jessica Lappin, who is the fine
20 sponsor of one of the resolutions we're hearing
21 today. The next panel, and for the last members
22 that walked in, a reminder that we're voting these
23 resolutions today, so please don't go anywhere.
24 Traci Perry, Planned Parenthood New York City.
25 Okay. Patricia Burkhardt ... did you find your ID?

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2 Okay. If we can allow Council Member Lappin to
3 make a few remarks now. Okay, great. Thank you.
4 You may begin when you're ready.

5 MS. PERRY: Hello? Good afternoon,
6 I'm Traci Perry, Vice President of Public Affairs
7 at Planned Parenthood of New York City. I'm
8 pleased to be here to provide testimony and
9 support of resolutions 670A, 666, 672, which
10 condemn three dangerous bills in Congress. I want
11 to take the opportunity to thank Chair Arroyo for
12 all your support of Planned Parenthood and the
13 members who will be supporting these resolutions.
14 For more than 90 years Planned Parenthood has been
15 the most trusted name in reproductive health. In
16 2010 we provided high-quality personalized care to
17 more than 50,000 women, men and adolescents at our
18 three healthcare centers in the Bronx, Brooklyn
19 and Manhattan. No one is turned away from PPNYC
20 if he or she cannot pay, we help clients to obtain
21 public insurance, or meet their needs with a
22 sliding-scale fee. The majority of Planned
23 Parenthood clients are at or below the poverty
24 level, more than 1/3 use public insurance to pay
25 for their care, and over 2/3 of our clients are

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2 women of color. Our clients are from all five
3 boroughs. Two weeks ago the United States House
4 of Representatives voted for HR217, which bars
5 Planned Parenthood from receiving Federal funds
6 for any purpose, including providing basic primary
7 and life-saving preventative care to women and
8 families. This proposal was attached to the
9 fiscal year continuing resolution, which
10 completely eliminates the National Family Planning
11 program, Title X. The elimination of Title X
12 funding would directly impact the ability of our
13 healthcare centers and the city's other family
14 planning providers to provide life-saving cancer
15 screenings, gynecological care, contraception,
16 pregnancy testing, testing and treatment for
17 sexually-transmitted infections, and HIV testing
18 and counseling. It would dramatically impede our
19 capacity to help the more than 50,000 New Yorkers
20 we see annually, not to mention the tens of
21 thousands we reach through our street ... through
22 our outreach and sex education programs. Last
23 year we provided 21,000 HIV tests, 12,000 cancer
24 screenings, and 56,000 family planning visits.
25 Two thirds of the patients we see rely on Medicaid

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2 or receive our services through reduced fee or for
3 free. Additionally, Planned Parenthood of New
4 York City recently received Federal grants to
5 teach evidence-based sex education programs in
6 targeted at-risk neighborhoods throughout
7 Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. All this
8 funding would be at risk if the leaders of the
9 House of Representatives have their way, and it
10 would equal about 2/3 of our entire funding. The
11 policy of attempting to undermine Planned
12 Parenthood, which does more than any other
13 organization in the United States to encourage the
14 use of contraception for those wanting to avoid
15 pregnancy, certainly guarantees an increase in the
16 number of unintended pregnancies. It is difficult
17 to understand why people who say they are opposed
18 to abortion would do so much to undermine the
19 family planning and contraception that prevent the
20 need for it. Also introduced in the House of
21 Representatives, the misleadingly No Taxpayer
22 Funding for Abortion, is an aggressive attempt to
23 take away comprehensive private health insurance
24 coverage for abortions that millions of women have
25 today. Also, the majority of health insurance

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2 plans in the United States include coverage for
3 abortions. HR358 revives the rejected Stupak
4 abortion coverage in the healthcare exchanges, and
5 establishes new restrictions on Americans' ability
6 to get information about abortion coverage options
7 from private health insurance plans. These are
8 extreme bills that will result in millions of
9 women losing private health insurance benefits
10 that they currently have today. It would force
11 health plans to drop comprehensive coverage in the
12 health insurance exchanges, cutting millions of
13 women off from the benefits that they have.

14 Furthermore, this legislation allows healthcare
15 entities to participate ... excuse me, to refuse to
16 participate in abortions. This could mean that a
17 hospital employee could refuse to process bills,
18 handle medical records, or set up exam rooms.

19 Planned Parenthood of New York City strongly
20 supports the passage of resolutions 666A, 670A,
21 and 672A. we are fortunate to have leaders who
22 stand up for women's health and send a message to
23 Washington that the New York City Council will not
24 support extreme, out-of-touch measures that make
25 it difficult for New Yorkers to access essential

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reproductive healthcare and educational services.
Thank you.

MS. BURKHARDT: Good afternoon. I thank you for your efforts to assure that at the national level women are provided their full range of reproductive rights. What is mandated in Washington clearly impacts the women of New York City. Thank you also for inviting me to lend the support of midwives of New York State. I speak as President of the New York State Association of Licensed Midwives, and on behalf of the more than 1,400 licensed midwives of the state. These bills are a fusillade against a woman's right to choose to have a wanted pregnancy, rather than one foisted on her by luck or nature. They constitute an attack on not only low-

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: (Interposing)
I'm sorry.

MS. BURKHARDT: I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Nick is yelling at me that you didn't state your name for the record.

MS. BURKHARDT: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm Patricia Burkhardt. I wrote it in, but I didn't

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2 say it, I'm sorry. I'm the president, Patricia
3 Burkhardt, yes. These bills are a fusillade
4 against a woman's right to choose to have a wanted
5 pregnancy, rather than one foisted on her by
6 nature or luck. They constitute an attack not
7 only on low-income women who have long been a
8 target of the rightwing anti-abortionists, but
9 also now include women able to afford private
10 healthcare. When women cannot have access to safe
11 abortion care, nor appropriate and adequate family
12 planning services, they are left with the
13 abstinence-only construct. How destructive of
14 relationships and degrading to women and their
15 partners. The major element in all of these bills
16 is the use of taxpayer money, my tax dollars and
17 yours, to fund abortion services, HR3, No Taxpayer
18 Funding for Abortion Act, addresses this directly
19 and elaborates on every possible program of
20 women's healthcare services that receives Federal
21 funding that would be prohibited from providing
22 abortion care. I think of this as the rifle
23 approach, a clean, straight shot. One new
24 additional element in HR358 is mandating that
25 private health insurer premiums and costs related

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2 to abortion care are not tax deductible by the
3 woman, nor when she does her taxes as well as all
4 other healthcare that she can deduct. This is the
5 shotgun approach, spreading the shot wider to do
6 greater damage. The final new element in HR217,
7 and the most grotesque, is denying Title X family
8 planning grants to any entity that performs
9 abortions. This is the automatic weapon approach,
10 spraying widely and indiscriminately. With this
11 bill, women's healthcare services are held
12 hostage, while agencies are forced to decide to
13 suspend one essential service, abortions, in order
14 to not lose their ability to provide other
15 essential services, services that help protect
16 women from cancer, from sexually-transmitted
17 infections, including HIV and hepatitis B, and
18 from unintended pregnancy. This diabolical
19 approach to women's healthcare must be stopped.
20 On the premise of halting abortions, they will
21 also stop essential preventive healthcare
22 services, including contraception services, which
23 of course will result in more unwanted
24 pregnancies. What a twisted and illogical
25 approach to control women's lives and choices.

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2 Title X's funding goal is to develop healthy
3 families, providing resources to women for
4 decision-making about whether and when to have
5 children, and to prevent unintended pregnancies.
6 This encroachment into preventive care and
7 services beyond abortion, and into dollars beyond
8 tax moneys, demonstrates the insidiousness and the
9 malevolence of the intent of these laws and these
10 lawmakers. Women's right to choose continues to
11 shrink when the anti-abortionists cast their net
12 broadly to gain their ultimate goal of outlawing
13 the care needed by women with unintended and
14 unwanted pregnancies. Women are being forced back
15 to the time before contraception became available,
16 to a time when clothes hangers in inept hands were
17 the only recourse when there were no choices. We
18 cannot go back there, we cannot allow others to
19 take us back there. Women's reproductive rights
20 matter, their lives matter. We stand strongly in
21 support of these three City Council resolutions
22 opposing HR358, HR3 and HR 217. Thank you for
23 doing this on behalf of the women of New York
24 City.

25 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you for

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2 your testimony. I'd like to give Council Member
3 Lappin an opportunity to speak on her resolution.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you
5 very much. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and
6 thank you for being such a leader on these issues,
7 and for bringing these resolutions for a vote
8 today. I just wanted to say that I'm sort of in
9 shock by the level of attack that women are
10 feeling from Washington, from state capitols and
11 from cities across the country. And 97% of what
12 Planned Parenthood does is essential basic
13 healthcare for women. Only 3% of what they do is
14 related to their abortion services. So the idea
15 that we would tell 50,000 women in New York City
16 alone that they are not going to have access to
17 basic healthcare is just mind-boggling to me. You
18 know, I thought we were trying to move in the
19 other direction in this country. So I am very
20 grateful that we are standing up in New York and
21 saying that this is not acceptable, and that we
22 cannot turn our backs on women who do not have the
23 means or do not have the ability to go somewhere
24 else.

25 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you,

1
2 Council Member Lappin. Any other colleagues'
3 comments? With that I will ask the clerk to call
4 the roll, and I urge my colleagues to vote aye on
5 all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Finn,
7 Committee clerk, roll call on the Committee on
8 Health. Council Member Arroyo.

9 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Foster.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE, JR.:

16 Abstain.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all,
3 and I wish to be included on Reso 672.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of nine
7 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and one
8 abstention, all items have been adopted, and
9 members, please sign the Committee reports.

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: At this point,
11 we're going to leave the vote open for Council
12 Member Eugene, who's next door chairing a hearing,
13 and here he comes. Okay. Can you get Council
14 Member Eugene? (crosstalk)

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene. Eugene.
16 Eugene.

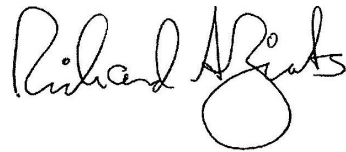
17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the
19 Committee on Health, ten in the affirmative, zero
20 in the negative, and no abstentions ... and one
21 abstention, I'm sorry.

22 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, with
23 that this hearing is concluded.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Richard A. Ziats, 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 _____

Date March 3, 2011