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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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August 9, 2021
Start: 11:22 A.M.
Recess: 11:28 A.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers- City Hall

B E F O R E: Mark Levine
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Inez D. Barron
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Darma V. Diaz
Mathieu Eugene
Oswald Feliz
Robert F. Holden
Keith Powers

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2 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: [GAVEL] Good morning, and
3 welcome to this hearing of the City Council's Health
4 Committee. I am pleased that we are joined by our
5 colleagues on the Health Committee; Council Member
6 Powers, Council Member Diaz, Council Member Powers,
7 Council Member Ampry-Samuel, and Council Member
8 Holden. I'm Mark Levine Chair of the committee. Oh,
9 do you want to be acknowledged as well Council
10 Member Yaeger? Alright, thank you. We're thrilled
11 to have you here too.

12 We are going to be voting today on a piece of
13 legislation Intro 1668 which will be an important
14 advancement in our effort to get every person in
15 this city access to primary medical care. This is an
16 imperative coming out of this pandemic and quickly
17 I'll explain that this bill would ensure that every
18 community of this city has a site where people who
19 are uninsured can access the NYC Care Program.

20 This is a program designed for people who are
21 uninsured, primarily it's people who are
22 undocumented, but there are others as well and it
23 provides them a primary care home, a clinic with a
24 primary care doctor, a place to get their annual
25 physical, a place to get check-ups, preventative

1 screenings, vaccinations, referrals to specialists.
2 Uh, it's a program that has uh, uh, a helpline
3 people can call, uh, access to pharmacy assistance.
4 Uh, it is available on a sliding scale regardless of
5 ability to pay. It is available regardless of
6 immigration status, but until now, it has not been
7 available in every neighborhood because the program
8 is only uh, offered out of health and hospital
9 facilities and we love the H&H system, but there are
10 many, many neighborhoods throughout this city that
11 do not have an H&H facility and we need to offer
12 people in those communities an opportunity to get
13 health care, primary care in their neighborhood by
14 activating the amazing network of community health
15 centers known as FQHC's.

17 Just in this committee I was chatting before uh,
18 in Brownsville Council Member Ampry-Samuel has a
19 community with no H&H facility but a great FQHC. Her
20 constituent's there should be able to access NYC
21 Care from there.

22 Council Member Powers has faraquaways again,
23 another community where there are a significant
24 number of uninsured people and uh, no, no H&H
25 facility, but again a great FQHC there that could

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2 serve as the home for this program. Uh, and we can
3 go on and on siting neighborhoods throughout the
4 city and this bill will solve that problem by
5 requiring the city to bring in those community
6 health centers into the NYC Care Program.

7 So, with that introduction, I think I'm going to
8 pass it off to our Committee Clerk to call the roll
9 for the vote. Mr. Martin please.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Sure. William Martin Committee
11 Clerk roll call vote Committee on Health proposed
12 Introduction 1668-A. Chair Levine?

13 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Uhm, I'm going to be voting
14 aye and just, just very briefly uh, I will be
15 offering uh, extremely effusive praise of the people
16 who made this happen in uh, the stated meeting, but
17 uh, I don't know if he's in the room now, but I have
18 to shout out Lewis Cholden-Brown who uh, worked over
19 seven years to bring this bill across the finish
20 line. Uh, it's just extraordinary what he's done. We
21 certainly wouldn't be here today without his
22 efforts, so uh, wherever you are Lewis thank you and
23 I will be voting Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you so much
3 Chair for all of your hard work on this bill and as
4 you said in your openings remarks, I am very excited
5 to actually see this happen because I know that the
6 people in the 41st Council District will really be
7 able to benefit in addition to BMS, which is our
8 FQHC, so thank you so much and with that I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye. Congratulations to
13 the Chair, Chair Levine for the passing of this
14 important bill.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I vote aye and I (INAUDIBLE
17 5:32-5:38) having uh, thank you. I also vote aye,
18 but I also thank the Committee for working on this
19 as a New York City individual who did not have
20 health care for several years and reached out to the
21 city for medical coverage. I'm glad to be part of
22 this process in moving this bill forward. Thank you
23 all. My vote is aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brooks-Powers?
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I also vote aye and
3 commend the Chair as well as the Committee Staff who
4 are working on this important bill. Uhm, health care
5 and access to quality health care is something that
6 uhm, I have advocated for many years especially in
7 my community where we uhm, unfortunately do not have
8 enough access to quality health care coverage and I
9 think what this bill sets out to do uhm, to be able
10 to provide greater access is critical. And I look
11 forward to working with you Chair uhm, in your role
12 now as well as in your future roll to be able to
13 advocate for more services in my district which
14 include Rockaways, but also uhm, Rosedale,
15 Laurelton, and Springfield Garden. So, thank you so
16 much. I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of six in the
18 affirmative, zero in the negative and no
19 abstentions, this item has been adopted by the
20 Committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Alright, this is going to
22 conclude our Committee meeting. Thank you so much
23 everybody. [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: September 13, 2021