

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER
EQUITY

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Thursday, July 14, 2022
Start: 11:17 A. M.
Recess: 11:23 A. M.

HELD AT: HYBRID HEARING - Council Chambers
- City Hall

B E F O R E: Tiffany Cabán, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Kevin C Riley
Althea V Stevens

Other Council Members Attending: Hanif and Brooks-
Powers

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY
A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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2 SERGEANT LEONARDO: Check, check, this is a
3 prerecorded sound test for The Committee on Women and
4 Gender Equity. Today's date is July 14th; it's being
5 recorded by Mike Leonardo in the Council Chambers.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to the
7 Hybrid Hearing on Women and Gender Equity. Will
8 council members and staff please place all electronic
9 devices to vibrate or silent mode? Testimony can be
10 submitted to testimony@council.nyc.gov , once again
11 that is testimony@council.nyc.gov .

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Thank you.

14 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

15 Good morning, and thank you for joining us. I am
16 Council Member Tiffany Cabán; my pronouns are
17 she/her, and I am Chair of The Committee on Women and
18 Gender Equity. We are voting on nine items today --
19 part of the New York City Abortion Rights Act.

20 First, this includes four bills:

21 Intro 475-A, sponsored by myself, a local law to
22 amend the administrative code of the City of New York
23 in relation to a report on the provision of medical
24 services related to reproductive health care.

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2 Intro 466-A, sponsored by myself, Public Advocate
3 Jumaane Williams, and Council Member Hanif, a local
4 law to amend the administrative code of The City of
5 New York, in relation to prohibiting the use of City
6 resources to enforce abortion restrictions.

7 Intro 475-A, sponsored by Council Members Hanif,
8 myself, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and Council
9 Members Lewis, Rivera, Hudson, and Farías, a local
10 law to amend the administrative code of The City of
11 New York, in relation to a cause of action related to
12 interference with reproductive or endocrine medical
13 care.

14 Intro 507-A, sponsored by Council Members River,
15 Gutiérrez, and Joseph, a local law to amend the
16 administrative code of The City of New York in
17 relation to requiring the Department of Health and
18 Mental Hygiene to make medication abortion available
19 at no cost to a patient at its health clinics.

20 As well as five resolutions:

21 Resolution 195, sponsored by Council Members
22 Brewer and Menin, a resolution calling upon The New
23 York State Legislator to pass and The Governor to
24 sign, The Reproductive Freedom and Equity Program,
25 which would establish a grant program to provide

1 funding to New York abortion providers and nonprofit
2 organizations to increase access to abortion care.

3 Resolution 196-A, sponsored by, Majority Whip,
4 Brooks-Powers, a resolution calling upon The New York
5 State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,
6 S.9137/A.10356, which would allow out-of-state
7 physicians to provide reproductive health services in
8 this state while awaiting full licensure.

9 Resolution 197, sponsored by myself, Council
10 Member Velázquez, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams,
11 and Council Member Crystal Hudson, a resolution
12 declaring New York City a safe city for all those in
13 need of abortion-related care.

14 Resolution 200, sponsored by Council Member Menin,
15 a Resolution declaring January 22, 2023 as Roe v.
16 Wade Day in the City of New York to commemorate the
17 50th anniversary of the landmark United States
18 Supreme Court decision.

19 Resolution number 245, sponsored by Public
20 Advocate Jumaane Williams, a Resolution calling on
21 the United States Senate to pass, and the President
22 to sign, the Women's Health Protection Act.

23 I'd like to recognize all present council members
24 for the record, uh, committee members, Council Member
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2 Gutierrez, Council Member Gennaro, Council Member
3 Stevens, and Council Member Riley as well as, uh, we
4 have Council Member Hanif in attendance.

5 And with that, I am going to pass it to
6 sponsoring council members who would like to provide
7 remarks, and we will start with Council Member Hanif.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you so much, I am
9 Council Member Shahana Hanif, I represent the 39th
10 district in Brooklyn. Thank you to The Committee on
11 Women and Gender Equity, and to Chair Tiffany Cabán
12 for holding this hearing and for bringing my bill,
13 Intro 475-A up for a vote this morning.

14 I want to express gratitude to the co-prime
15 sponsors who introduced this bill alongside me,
16 Chairperson Cabán, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams,
17 Council Members Lewis, Rivera, Hudson, and Council
18 Member Fariás. I also want to thank a majority of
19 council members, including Speaker Adams, for signing
20 on as sponsors.

21 As we know, the Dobbs decision will result in
22 severe restrictions or outright bans on abortion in
23 states governed by far right extremists. This means
24 that many people seeking abortions will be traveling
25 to New York City given our strong protections around

1 reproductive rights. However, despite support from
2 the City, these folks are vulnerable to being subject
3 to civil suits for accessing care that is legal in
4 New York City, but illegal in their home state or
5 municipality. For example, an abusive partner or
6 the Executive Director of a quote, unquote "Pro-Life"
7 group, could sue someone from say, Missouri, who
8 comes to this city to receive an abortion.
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10 Intro 475-A addresses this issue by first,
11 establishing these suits as interference with medical
12 care, an appropriate designation given that these
13 suits intimidate and dissuade people from obtaining
14 care that is legal in our City. Notably, this would
15 also apply to Trans affirming endocrine care, in
16 addition to reproductive care.

17 Second, it establishes a right to private action
18 around interferences with medical care allowing
19 people to counter sue under New York City law. If the
20 counter suit prevails, the plaintiff shall be awarded
21 \$10,000 in damages, and may also be awarded costs of
22 litigation.

23 If passed, this bill would cement New York City as
24 a sanctuary for abortion rights. It would be a
25 statement to people saying our doors are open; we

2 will provide you with the care you choose, and we
3 will do everything we can to protect you from those
4 who would try to get in your way.

5 I urge my colleagues to vote to yes on Intro 475-
6 A. I also support all of the other legislation on
7 today's agenda. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Thank you. And, now, I am
9 going to pass it over to Council Member Brooks -
10 Powers.

11 MINORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Good morning,
12 everyone, and thank you. Thank you, Chair Cabán, for
13 allowing me to speak briefly on my bill being heard
14 today, Resolution 196-A calling on to pass
15 legislation that will allow out-of-state physicians
16 to provide reproductive health services in New York
17 while they await full licensure.

18 By officially moving to take the right to a safe
19 abortion away from millions, The Supreme Court has
20 callously criminalized health care for millions of
21 women and torn at the fabric of our democracy. Dobbs
22 will endanger the lives and health of countless
23 people. New York has long been a sanctuary for women
24 seeking abortions and other reproductive care
25 services, even before Roe was the law of the land,

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2 and we will continue to be. That is why we must
3 fight to protect abortion access for people across
4 this country. As demand for reproductive health care
5 services is poised to shift significantly, we will
6 need to act quickly and enable as many medical
7 providers as possible to begin serving people seeking
8 abortion in New York State, and we cannot delay. I
9 am honored to join my colleagues on the suite of
10 bills being voted out today, and I look forward to
11 discussing this further. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Thank you.

13 Finally, I would like to thank my staff including
14 Stephanie Silkowski, my Chief of Staff, and Madhuri
15 Shukla my Legislative Director. Additionally, thank
16 you to committee staff for their work in preparing
17 this legislation and hearing including Brenda
18 McKinney, Committee Counsel; Anastassia Zimina,
19 Legislative Policy Analyst, uh, and Miss Eisha Wright,
20 Finance Unit Head.

21 I think we are ready now to... Oh, and thank you,
22 Sara Liss. Uhm, [INAUDIBLE 00:08:39] I think we are
23 now ready for the clerk to call the vote.
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning; William Martin,
3 Committee Clerk, roll call vote for The Committee on
4 Women and Gender Equity. All items are coupled.

5 Chair Cabán?

6 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

8 CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gutiérrez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all, and congrats
13 to our Chair.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Stevens?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

16 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Let's just hold it open a
17 second to give, uh, Council Member Richardson Jordan
18 a moment to get settled.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Yeah.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richardson Jordan?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the
23 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
24 all items have been adopted by the committee. Madam
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2 Chair, that is a full committee; you can close at
3 your convenience.

4 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Thank you, uh, this committee
5 hearing is now adjourned.

6 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

7 [APPLAUSE]

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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 August 24, 2022