



Legislation Details (With Text)

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**Title:** Resolution calling upon the appropriate committee of the Council of the City of New York to conduct an oversight hearing in relation to social service contracts being awarded to religious organizations

**Sponsors:** Kathryn E. Freed, Guillermo Linares, Wendell Foster, Annette M. Robinson

**Indexes:**

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Res. No. 1695

Resolution calling upon the appropriate committee of the Council of the City of New York to conduct an oversight hearing in relation to social service contracts being awarded to religious organizations

By Council Members Freed and Linares; also Council Members Foster and Robinson

Whereas, According to recent reports, the City is working in collaboration with various religious organizations in a new pilot program to provide welfare services; and

Whereas, Pursuant to the \$1.9 million pilot program, welfare recipients are receiving social services and programs from religious organizations in order to find employment; and

Whereas, While much needed social services have long been delivered by religious organizations in partnership with the City to communities, this new pilot program has raised concerns about the integrity of the procurement process; and

Whereas, According to reports, religious organizations are being required to sign social service contracts that contain boilerplate "gag rule" provisions prohibiting providers from speaking out about their welfare-to-work programs; and

Whereas, The contracts have raised several concerns as a result of the lack of public review and participation in relation to the pilot program; and

Whereas, The contracts are being issued by the State University of New York, which, acting as a conduit, is paying for the services using federal money distributed by the State Department Labor; and

Whereas, This method of payment has bypassed the entire City's contracting and procurement process; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the appropriate committee of the Council of the City of New York conduct an oversight hearing in relation to social service contracts being awarded to religious organizations.

LS # 3784  
Afn