



## Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Res 0048-2006, **Version:** \*

---

### Res. No. 48

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to adopt legislation authorizing counties and cities to collect unused prescriptions from nursing homes, wholesalers and manufacturers, and redistribute them to the low-income uninsured in order to reduce waste while helping the poor obtain low-cost medicines.

By Council Members Brewer, Dickens, James, Mark-Viverito, Mendez, Nelson, Sanders Jr. and Weprin

Whereas, According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), almost 25 percent of Americans under age 65 have no prescription drug coverage; and

Whereas, Rising prescription drug costs increasingly put necessary pharmaceutical therapies beyond the reach of many New York's residents; and

Whereas, A May 18, 2005 *New York Times* article indicated that a study published in the *Journal of Family Medicine* in 2001 estimated that \$1 billion a year in drugs prescribed to the elderly are thrown away; and

Whereas, According to the *New York Times* article, although the Food and Drug Administration generally forbids the redistribution of prescription drugs once they are dispensed to consumers, states are allowed to establish their own policies for drugs controlled by long-term facilities, nursing homes, and other pharmacies; and

Whereas, Several states, including California, have passed legislation which allows counties, through local ordinances, to establish a repository and distribution program for the purpose of distributing surplus unused medications, donated by specific entities, to persons in need of assistance; and

Whereas, According to advocates of this legislation, including a team of medical students from Stanford University, such legislation could reduce waste as well as assist low-income patients receive much needed medications; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to adopt legislation authorizing counties and cities to collect unused prescriptions from nursing homes, wholesalers and manufacturers, and redistribute them to the low-income uninsured in order to reduce waste while helping the poor obtain low-cost medicines.

LS # 45  
JP 2/7/06