



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 71

Resolution calling on the State University of New York (“SUNY”) and the New York State Department of Health (“DOH”) to work with stakeholders to keep SUNY Downstate Medical Center open as a leading public medical institution and to preserve the essential health care services the hospital provides.

By Council Member Williams

Whereas, All of the facilities under the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center ("SUNY Downstate") are a critical part of the Brooklyn healthcare system; and

Whereas, SUNY Downstate has been one of the nation’s leading urban medical teaching facilities since approximately 1860; and

Whereas, As the only academic medical center in Brooklyn and the fourth largest employer in Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate employs about 8,000 faculty and staff members, educates over 1,700 students and serves a population of more than 2 million New Yorkers; and

Whereas, SUNY Downstate provides over 1,000 medical residents to 23 affiliated hospitals; and

Whereas, SUNY Downstate educates more New York City and minority physicians than any hospital in the region and must stay open in order to address the City’s growing shortage of primary care physicians; and

Whereas, The quality of SUNY Downstate’s program was recognized with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize in Medicine to Dr. Robert F. Furchgott in 1998; and

Whereas, More recently, on November 28, 2012, the State University of New York Board of Trustees appointed two Downstate faculty members to distinguished ranks, the highest system-wide honor conferred upon SUNY professors; and

Whereas, In addition, on that same day, six additional Downstate faculty and staff members were

honored with Chancellor's Awards for Excellence; and

Whereas, According to SUNY Downstate, for every dollar invested in the institution, \$12 are returned to the local economy; and

Whereas, According to a January 2013 New York State Comptroller Audit, "absent other actions or plans to increase revenue or limit expenses, the Hospital will not have sufficient cash to meet its liabilities, possibly as early as May 2013"; and

Whereas, As of February 2014, SUNY Downstate had laid off 500 employees at University Hospital of Brooklyn and is losing \$15 million per month at Long Island College Hospital, whose fate has been in limbo since spring 2013; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the State University of New York ("SUNY") and the New York State Department of Health ("DOH") to work with stakeholders to keep SUNY Downstate Medical Center open as a leading public medical institution and to preserve the essential health care services the hospital provides.

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