



## Legislation Text

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Res. No. 637

Resolution calling on the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the New York State Department of Health to create a special commission to address health emergencies and infectious diseases

By Council Member Eugene

Whereas, Diseases know no borders, and a health crisis in one country could easily spread to several countries in the blink of an eye; and

Whereas, In 2014, an Ebola Virus epidemic in Africa spread across the world over the course of the year, with 10 patients being treated in the United States; and

Whereas, New York State was monitoring the spread of Ebola and had months to make preparations, yet many isolation units were still not prepared when Ebola struck New York; and

Whereas, In recent years, the United States has seen potentially dangerous strains of avian flu and multidrug-resistant strains of tuberculosis take root in other countries; and

Whereas, Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, is a contagious disease first reported in 2012 in Saudi Arabia that has killed many, though little is known about it; and

Whereas, In 2014, the U.S. experienced 23 measles outbreaks, including one large outbreak of 383 cases; and

Whereas, New diseases are constantly emerging and old ones adapt to resist current treatments; and

Whereas, The next outbreak could develop unexpectedly and the United States and New York State need to be prepared to quickly identify, treat and contain infectious diseases and other health emergencies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the United States Department of Health

and Human Services and the New York State Department of Health to create a special commission to address health emergencies and infectious diseases.

CP  
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2/27/18