



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 823-A

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to adopt S. 2644 and A. 5178, legislation which would make certain persons who are eligible for or receiving social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits eligible for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program.

By Council Members Koppell, Addabbo Jr., Brewer, Comrie, Dickens, Felder, Fidler, Foster, Gentile, Gonzalez, James, Liu, Nelson, Recchia Jr., Sanders Jr., Seabrook, Weprin, White Jr., Gerson, Jackson, Gennaro, Avella, Monserrate, Sears and The Public Advocate (Ms. Gotbaum)

Whereas, The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program, which offers prescription drug assistance to seniors, has proven helpful to many senior citizens who face high costs for pharmaceuticals, but who do not qualify for Medicaid; and

Whereas, In recent years, many programs originally designed to benefit senior citizens, including Social Security and real property tax reductions, have been extended to cover persons with disabilities; and

Whereas, S. 2644 and A. 5178 have been introduced in the New York State Legislature to allow certain individuals with disabilities who are eligible for or who receive social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits to be eligible for the EPIC program; and

Whereas, This legislation recognizes that through no fault of their own, persons with disabilities may experience limitations on their ability to independently earn a living, similar to restrictions experienced by elderly citizens; and

Whereas, Faced with severe income limitations, declining availability of employer-paid health insurance and caps on prescription coverage which are increasingly being implemented by health insurers, many individuals with disabilities are finding themselves unable to afford pharmaceuticals which may be essential to their health; and

Whereas, In addition to helping individuals with disabilities maintain their health, advances in pharmaceuticals have also enhanced their quality of life by helping them remain active in their community; and Whereas By extending the EPIC program to include low-income individuals with disabilities, S. 2644 and A. 5178 would follow precedents set by other programs which began by serving the needs of the elderly, but were later expanded or used as models to provide similar services to individuals with disabilities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to adopt S. 2644 and A. 5178, legislation which would make certain persons who are eligible for or receiving social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits eligible for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program.

SO/MB
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