

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

***VOTE**

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Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Start: 12:21 P.M.

Recess: 12:26 P.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing
Room 3

B E F O R E: Hon. Lynn C. Schulman, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola

Harvey D. Epstein

Simcha Felder

James F. Gennaro

Christopher Marte

Mercedes Narcisse

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Sergeant Paytuvi: This is a microphone check for the Committee on Health, recorded on April 29th, 2026, located in Hearing Room 3, by Nazly Paytuvi.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the Committee on Health. At this time, please silence all electronic devices, and no one may approach the dais.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Good afternoon. I'm Lynn Schulman, Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Health. I want to welcome everyone to today's vote.

Today we'll be voting on five pieces of legislation that would expand access points and enhance public education around critical vaccinations that safeguard the health of New Yorkers.

The first is Proposed Introduction 260-A, by Council Member Krishnan, which will require the New York City Health Department, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to develop and distribute clear, accessible information about the benefits and safety of vaccines. These materials will be distributed by DOE to all public school students

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2 across the city, including those enrolled in early
3 childhood programs such as 3K and pre-K, ensuring
4 that families receive consistent science-based
5 information at the earliest stages of a child's
6 education.

7 The second Proposed Introduction, 693-A,
8 by Council Member Dinowitz, would require the New
9 York City Health Department to develop and implement
10 a plan to educate the public regarding the benefits
11 and importance of childhood and adolescent
12 vaccinations. With this misinformation on the rise,
13 it is crucial we arm parents with accurate and
14 trustworthy information about how to protect the
15 health of their children. Combating misinformation is
16 crucial to defending the health of our city and our
17 children.

18 We will also be voting on three
19 resolutions, all sponsored by me.

20 The first proposed Resolution 273-A would
21 call for state passage of two pieces of legislation
which would authorize dentists to administer
vaccines. Dentists are highly qualified healthcare
professionals and were a vital part of our city and
state's immunization efforts during the pandemic.

Pandemic. It is crucial that we continue to increase the number of vaccination access points so that every New Yorker has access to the healthcare they need when and where they need it.

The second, Resolution 425, calls for state passage of three pieces of legislation requiring that vaccines be regulated and ensured based on the recommendations of reputable, nationally and internationally recognized healthcare organizations, not solely on the CDC's Federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Unfortunately, the CDC's increasingly politicized attacks on scientific guidance have eroded public trust and, more importantly, put lives at risk. To protect our communities, we must listen to credible public health experts to ensure our children are protected against preventable diseases.

Lastly, the Preconsidered Resolution calls for state passage of legislation that would require insurers to reimburse the total direct and indirect practice expenses related to vaccinations. For many pediatric and family medicine practices, the upfront cost of purchasing and storing vaccines can be prohibitively expensive, forcing some to scale

back or stop offering them. Pediatric offices are the backbone of the childhood immunization ecosystem, and we must ensure that they have the financial support necessary to continue providing this vital service to families.

With childhood vaccination rates still below pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels and with childhood vaccination rates for influenza consistently dropping in New York City, we face a clear and urgent public health challenge. It is crucial that parents across our city are equipped with timely, accurate information, and that our public health recommendations are grounded in scientific, evidence-based practices.

I want to thank the sponsors of the legislation, my fellow committee members, and the Health Committee staff who prepared for this vote.

I also want to say we've been joined by Council Members Gennaro, Felder, Epstein, and Marte online.

With that, I pass it to the Clerk to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call

vote: Committee on Health. All items are coupled.

Chair Schulman?

CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Madam Chair, I wish to explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I'll be voting yes on all items to send them to the floor. Some of these measures I do not support, and people will hear more about that on the floor tomorrow. But I think it's, you know, these bills have a lot of sponsors, and they deserve to go to the floor. So, I just want to make sure people understand my vote. The way I wanna characterize my vote is to, you know, give the body a chance to vote on these measures and give me a chance to talk about what I have to say about them tomorrow.

And so, once again, I vote aye, and I'll see you all tomorrow.

CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: Thank you very much.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Marte?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Narcisse? (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council
Member. Epstein?

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 5 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
all items have been approved by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON SCHULMAN: With that, I close
today's hearing. Thank you very much. [GAVEL]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date August 14, 2026