



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

June 29, 2022

Hon. Mary Bassett, M. D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
N. Y. State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Re: Resolution calling upon the State Health Department to Direct NYPH to Reinstate the Allen Hospital's Psychiatric Unit

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, Community Board 12 Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 not voting calling upon N.Y. State Department of Health to direct NY-Presbyterian Hospital to reinstate the Allen Hospital's psychiatric unit and promptly resume providing this vital service to the community.

WHEREAS: In February 2018, Community Board 12-Manhattan called upon New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH) to rescind its plan to eliminate the 30 psychiatric beds at the Allen Hospital and called upon N.Y. State Department of Health and the Office of Mental Health to reject the Certificate of Need (CON) application submitted by NYPH if the hospital did not withdraw this plan; and

WHEREAS: The CON application was not approved, but NYPH closed this unit on the basis that the Governor's Emergency Executive Order allowed it to adjust its bed usage in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS: It is believed that NYPH used these beds for COVID-19 patients during the peak of the pandemic, but they have remained empty for quite some time; and

WHEREAS: The 30 psychiatric beds have been consistently filled since the hospital opened in 1988 with patients suffering from mood/bipolar disorders, major depression, schizophrenia, or mentally ill / chemical addiction issues. Six hundred patients a year used these beds, almost half of them Washington Heights-Inwood residents; and

WHEREAS: These beds would be eliminated permanently from the NYPH system even though the need for them has not diminished; and

WHEREAS: The hospital has refused to commit to reopening this unit even after the demand created by COVID-19 cases has ended, an apparent violation of its operating certificate; and

Mary Bassett, M. D., M.P.H.

Re: Resolution calling upon the State Health Department to Direct NYPH to Reinstate the Allen Hospital's Psychiatric Unit
Page 2

WHEREAS: Governor Hochul and many others have spoken out in recent months about the dire need for inpatient psychiatric beds in New York's hospitals; and

WHEREAS: Community Board 12 – Manhattan has ranked the expansion of mental health services in our community as our #1 priority in the City's expense budget for the last several years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: Community Board 12-Manhattan now calls upon N.Y. State Department of Health to direct NY-Presbyterian Hospital to reinstate the Allen Hospital's psychiatric unit and promptly resume providing this vital service to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eleazar Bueno', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc:

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Brad Lander, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Cordell Cleare, State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Manny De Los Santos, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, Council Member



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June 29, 2022

Senator Charles Schumer
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017

Senator Kristen Gillibrand
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601
New York, New York 10017

US Representative Adriano Espaillat
720 West 181st Street, Suite 2
New York, NY 10033

Re: Resolution to Preserve the Right to Privacy and To Preserve Women's Power to Choose Their Own Path for Reproductive Healthcare

Dear Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and Congressman Espaillat:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, Community Board 12 Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of 28 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions, and 0 not voting. calling upon Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Congressman Adriano Espaillat to work vigorously for the immediate passage of a law in Congress protecting women's reproductive rights; passage of laws in Congress protecting similarly well-established privacy rights regarding contraception for men and women as well as equal rights for same-sex couples, which have been explicitly threatened by Justice Clarence Thomas' concurring opinion; and to insist that their colleagues in the U.S. Senate carve out the use of the filibuster when it comes to protecting these essential rights for the people of our country.

WHEREAS: The Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ended 50 years of women's rights to safe reproductive healthcare; and

WHEREAS: reproductive healthcare is a private decision between a patient and their doctor; and

WHEREAS: "women" and "girls" here are understood to include biological woman/girls as well as trans-men/boys who still have a uterus and can become pregnant; and

WHEREAS: access to reproductive healthcare in the past five decades saved women's lives throughout the country; and

WHEREAS: as of June 24, 2022, 13 states immediately stripped pregnant persons of the right to decide the course of action they would like to take as it related to their physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS: women in 10 additional states will lose their reproductive healthcare rights in the next 30 days; and

Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and Congressman Espaillat
Re: Resolution to Preserve the Right to Privacy and To Preserve Women's Power to Choose Their Own
Path for Reproductive Healthcare

Page 2

WHEREAS: in three additional States, victims of rape or incest will no longer have the right to decide the course of their own reproductive healthcare; and

WHEREAS: as of June 24, 2022, a woman's life or death is now determined by politicians who opened the door to dangerous backroom abortions; and

WHEREAS: the reversal of Roe v. Wade will disproportionately impact Black women and other women of color, with Black women in the United States nearly four times more likely to have abortions than white women, while Latina women are twice as likely to have abortions, according to 2019 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and with Black women living in states (including Southern states) that already are in the process of banning abortion. Thus, this reversal has significant implications for women in our Community District, where there is a large population of women of color; and

WHEREAS: women and girls will be forced to give birth to babies they never would have chosen to have, with no child support, no psychological support, nor monetary support from the State, forcing them to carry their pregnancy to term; and

WHEREAS: as of June 24, 2022, women's reproductive healthcare information is no longer private when, in some States, physicians and healthcare facilities will become subject to criminal penalties, including jail terms for ending unwanted pregnancies; and

WHEREAS: New York was one of two states to legalize women's reproductive health rights in 1970, three years before Roe v. Wade; and

WHEREAS: New York State should lead the fight to preserve the rights of women to safe reproductive healthcare and lead the fight against the assault on women's health and well-being on the national level; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: Community Board 12, Manhattan calls upon Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Congressman Adriano Espaillat to work vigorously for the immediate passage of a law in Congress protecting women's reproductive rights; and be it further

RESOLVED: Community Board 12, Manhattan also calls upon Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Congressman Adriano Espaillat to work vigorously for the passage of laws in Congress protecting similarly well-established privacy rights regarding contraception for men and women as well as equal rights for same-sex couples, which have been explicitly threatened by Justice Clarence Thomas' concurring opinion; and be it further

Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and Congressman Espaillat

Re: Resolution to Preserve the Right to Privacy and To Preserve Women's Power to Choose Their Own Path
for Reproductive Healthcare

Page 3

RESOLVED: Community Board 12, Manhattan calls upon Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand to insist that their colleagues in the U.S. Senate carve out the use of the filibuster when it comes to protecting these essential rights for the people of our country.

Sincerely,

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Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

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