



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

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*Acting Health Commissioner*

**Testimony**

of

**New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

before the

**New York City Council  
Committee on Children and Youth**

on

**Introduction 652 of 2024**

December 12, 2024  
New York, NY

Thank you, Chair Stevens and members of the Committee on Children and Youth, for the opportunity to testify today on Introduction 652 of 2024. This proposed legislation refers to a pilot program providing mental health services to children reunified with their families following removal by the Administration for Children's Services (ACS).

This legislation is redundant of existing services provided and facilitated by ACS. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene defers to ACS on the specifics of such services. Additionally, all children this bill refers to would be eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage. The Health Department defers to ACS on all aspects of New York City's foster care system. We are happy to work with our colleagues at ACS where appropriate to support their critical work connecting youth to much needed mental health care after leaving the foster care system.

We thank the Council for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Introduction 652 of 2024.