



Testimony
of
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
before the
New York City Council Committee on Women and Gender Equity
on
Int.295-2026

September 30, 2026
City Hall
New York City

Chair Farias, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Introduction 295-2026, which establishes a screening program for endometriosis and polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome.

The Health Department supports efforts to improve awareness of, and access to, care for [endometriosis and polycystic ovarian syndrome \(PCOS\)](#), particularly for New Yorkers who face barriers to timely diagnosis and treatment. We recognize the significant impact these conditions can have on someone's reproductive health and overall well-being.

However, the Department has operational and clinical concerns with Introduction 295-2026. The bill would establish a screening program for endometriosis and PCOS, but these conditions require clinical diagnostic evaluation when symptoms are present. Diagnoses may involve multiple clinical visits, laboratory testing, imaging, and, in the case of endometriosis, potential surgical evaluation. These services require a clinical care infrastructure and multidisciplinary providers.

The Health Department's role is centered on population health, prevention, health education, outreach, and connecting New Yorkers to appropriate care. The Department does not have the clinical care infrastructure, multidisciplinary providers or provide the clinical diagnostic services contemplated by this legislation and therefore is not the appropriate entity to operate the proposed diagnostic program. We believe these services would be more appropriately provided through health care facilities and clinical providers equipped to conduct comprehensive diagnostic evaluations. If New Yorkers need access to [health insurance](#), they can call 347-665-0214, submit a [Health Insurance Inquiry Form](#) on our website or [find a counselor](#) for free assistance by texting "CoveredNYC" to 55676. Furthermore, if New Yorkers need access to health care, NYC Health + Hospitals provides care to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, insurance status or ability to pay.

The Department remains committed to supporting health literacy, prevention, and referrals to accessible and affordable reproductive health services for New Yorkers experiencing symptoms of endometriosis and PCOS. We welcome discussions after the hearing and appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony. Thank you.