

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JULIA MEJIA, GABRIELA COLETTA,
RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BOK, BREADON, WORRELL, ARROYO AND
FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council has an obligation to ensure that all Bostonians have equal access to quality and affordable healthcare services; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Racial and ethnic disparities in health care are widespread and pervasive resulting in significantly higher rates of heart failure, stroke hospitalization, and diabetes-related death in communities of color than their white counterparts; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is celebrated for its high-quality health care system, but the City is not immune to persistent racial and ethnic inequalities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The East Boston Neighborhood Health Clinic (EBNHC) is the largest community health center in Massachusetts and one of the largest in the nation. EBNHC provides healthcare services to many families and children in Boston's immigrant communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In March of 2022, Centro Presente raised concerns surrounding EBNHC's quality of care for immigrants, particularly Spanish-speaking low-income immigrant women on MassHealth insurance; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The treatment of Centro Presente's members is just one example of a much larger trend of health inequity. High quality health care should be provided equally to all residents regardless of race, national origin, socioeconomic status, immigration status, age, gender, or sexual orientation; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council urges all community health centers to commit to thoroughly examining and reforming treatment policies to guard against misdiagnosis and substandard care and to improve translation/interpretation services to ensure language is not a barrier to quality healthcare and ensure all healthcare and administrative staff receive cultural-competency and trauma-informed care training to better serve Boston's diverse communities.

Filed on: April 26, 2023