

R E S O L U T I O N [Refer to Health & Human Relations]

WHEREAS, insulin is an essential medication for the thousands of Chicagoans living with diabetes, yet the cost of insulin has risen dramatically over the past two decades, placing a significant burden on individuals, families, and the healthcare system as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the City has a longstanding commitment to promoting equitable access to essential medicines and improving health outcomes for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is charged with advancing the health and well-being of City residents, and has previously collaborated with public health partners across jurisdictions to expand access to care and address health inequities; and

WHEREAS, recently, California implemented a groundbreaking model through its CalRx initiative, in which the state leverages its purchasing power to manufacture and distribute low-cost insulin directly to residents, setting an example for how public entities can take action to ensure access to affordable lifesaving medication; and

WHEREAS, the City, working in coordination with Cook County and the State of Illinois, should explore similar approaches and strategies to lower the cost of this vital medicine for our residents, including, but not limited to: (i) pooling our respective purchasing power or forming a procurement consortium; (ii) exploring partnerships with the State of California to purchase insulin from CalRx, both to ensure low-cost medicine for Chicagoans as well as to support and expand inter-state collaboration to address this nationwide crisis; or (iii) seeking State approval for the City or a quasi-governmental entity to operate as a public cooperative or non-profit wholesaler or pharmacy benefit manager, utilizing ; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative, intergovernmental approach could allow the City, County, and State to act jointly to maximize our respective purchasing power and take advantage of existing distribution systems like the pharmacies within the Cook County Health system, thereby increasing negotiating leverage and reducing costs for residents and local health systems; and

WHEREAS, these approaches and strategies can help the City realize its goal of reducing health disparities, supporting public health innovation, and improving affordability for residents who are uninsured or underinsured; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call on the Chicago Department of Public Health to explore and evaluate innovative approaches and strategies to expand access to affordable insulin and other essential medications, including, but not limited to, those approaches and strategies described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, within 120 days of the passage of this resolution, the Chicago Department of Public Health submit a report detailing its findings to the Committee on Health and Human Relations, and thereafter offer testimony at a public hearing before the Committee on the approaches and strategies contained in such report.



GILBERT VILLEGAS
Alderman, 36th Ward