



*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF DANIEL DROMM*

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**DROMM ANNOUNCES BILL TO EDUCATE THE
PUBLIC ON MEDICALLY UNNECESSARY
TREATMENTS ON INTERSEX YOUTH**

Jackson Heights, New York — Today the New York City Council passed Int. 1748-A, a bill sponsored by Council Member Daniel Dromm, which would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a public information and outreach campaign regarding medically unnecessary treatments or interventions on individuals born with intersex traits or variations in sex characteristics.

According to the United Nations, up to 1.7 percent of the world population is born with intersex traits. Medical professionals often encourage parents and guardians to agree to procedures to treat intersex traits and variations in sex characteristics, even when such procedures are medically unnecessary. Currently, there is no federal or state law prohibiting such procedures. This bill will help New Yorkers to understand the adverse effects of medically unnecessary intersex treatment, surgery, and/or interventions on youth born with intersex traits and/or characteristics. This legislation not only signifies a major step forward for the principle of informed consent but also aims to reduce the unfortunate stigma that still exists. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will create a new outreach campaign, which will incorporate the input of several organizations and experts.

Council Member Dromm said, “We cannot as a movement, or as a society for that matter, say that we respect the right to bodily integrity and the foundational concept of consent yet ignore the injustices perpetrated by much of the medical establishment against our intersex siblings. Intro. 1748-A does not make any decisions for anyone; it simply aims to share accurate information about intersex traits and variations in sex characteristics. It is significant that this legislation specifically requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to include the input of the intersex community. After the compelling testimony from last October’s hearing, I felt it necessary to include these voices in the bill.”

“This legislation is a no-brainer. It's essential that we raise awareness about the long-term impacts of unnecessary surgeries on babies and young children. I am proud to join Council Member Dromm in advocating for rights and protections for our intersex community,” **said Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Council District 6.**

“This innovative bill clearly demonstrates that intersex people should be celebrated, not subjected to harm in an attempt to be "fixed". interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth joins the chorus congratulating the New York City Council on passing this groundbreaking legislation to protect intersex bodily autonomy,” **said Kimberly Zieselman, Executive Director at interACT.**

“Int. 1748-A is a significant step for New York City toward recognizing that children born with intersex variations are part of the city’s diverse community and that they have the right to be protected from coercive and unnecessary ‘normalizing’ medical interventions. New York’s hospitals should follow the Council’s lead and celebrate intersex lives instead of attempting to change intersex people’s bodies before they can walk or talk, let alone make such a major medical decision for themselves” **said Kyle Knight, Senior Researcher at Human Rights Watch.**

The legislation will now move to the Mayor’s desk for his signature.

New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm represents the 25th Council District, which includes Elmhurst and Jackson Heights. He chairs the Committee on Finance and serves on the following committees: Immigration, Education, Civil Service, and Labor, Civil and Human Rights, and State and Federal Legislation. For more information, visit council.nyc.gov/daniel-dromm.

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