

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, kidney failure is a growing national health concern; the number of patients in the United States diagnosed with loss of kidney function is growing by 5 percent per year; and

WHEREAS, loss of kidney function disproportionately affects low-income families, African Americans, and Latinos; and

WHEREAS, many patients with this condition must undergo dialysis, which is a medical procedure that removes excess waste and water from the blood; dialysis patients often need to visit a clinic three times per week for several hours per visit; and

WHEREAS, recovery from dialysis is slow, and patients are at risk of developing serious medical conditions, including: infections, vitamin imbalances, nausea, bleeding, and heart failure; and

WHEREAS, many health workers report being assigned to as many as twelve dialysis patients at a time despite rules that require technicians to be assigned to no more than four patients at a time; these harmful staffing practices do not allow health workers to devote adequate time to their patients, which increases the possibility that patients will develop life-threatening complications; and

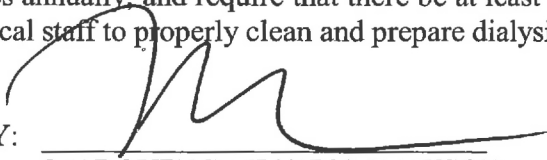
WHEREAS, currently pending in the Legislature is SB 349 (Lara), the Dialysis Patient Safety Act, which would require minimum staffing levels in dialysis clinics for registered nurses, patient care technicians, social workers, and dietitians at all times; and

WHEREAS, SB 349 would also require the California Department of Public Health to inspect clinics annually and to levy civil penalties against clinics for violating the required staffing levels; furthermore, the bill would require health workers to be provided adequate time between patients to clean and prepare dialysis machines; and

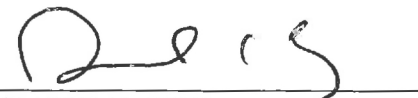
WHEREAS, SB 349 will improve dialysis patient safety and will reduce avoidable medical complications for those who need this life-saving treatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 349 (Lara), which would require chronic dialysis clinics to maintain specified minimum staffing ratios; authorize the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to levy civil penalties for violating these staffing ratios; require CDPH to inspect clinics annually; and require that there be at least 45 minutes of transition time between dialysis patients to enable medical staff to properly clean and prepare dialysis machines.

PRESENTED BY:



MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District



DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



JUN 28 2017


BMR

ORIGINAL