

RESOLUTION

Authorizing Council's Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings on reopening Philadelphia's adult daycare centers, which remain closed in contradiction of state guidelines.

WHEREAS, Adult daycare facilities offer specialized care and services for seniors during the day, including planned activities, physical therapy, speech therapy, and other medical services; and

WHEREAS, The centers provide seniors with the mental stimulation, socialization, and healthcare they need while also providing the individual's primary caretaker time off from round-the-clock demands and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Many of these centers serve low-income seniors and those most in need, who are evaluated to meet the requirements for the care and services provided by the facilities and receive government subsidies to enroll in the programs; and

WHEREAS, Adult daycare centers were closed for months as the coronavirus pandemic unfolded across the nation and many have permanently closed; and

WHEREAS, Seniors have been severely impacted by the pandemic— not only by the increased risk for infection and tragic rate of death in nursing homes – but also by the increased social isolation and inability to access services and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Isolation can wreak havoc on an individual's mental health and wellbeing. Older populations are at an increased risk of loneliness and isolation, with the CDC reporting a quarter of all individuals aged 65 and up in the United States face problems of social isolation due to the loss of a partner, hearing loss, or other chronic health condition; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, isolation significantly increases a person's risk of premature death that may rival that of smoking or obesity. Social isolation and loneliness also puts seniors at a 50 percent increased risk of dementia and 32 percent increase of stroke; and

WHEREAS, Despite State guidelines that allow for adult daycare centers to reopen – in accordance with the many precautions and safeguards such as masking and distancing – Philadelphia has maintained stricter local restrictions on the centers, leaving many senior residents to travel to neighboring counties for services; and

WHEREAS, Adult daycare centers are a valuable resource for seniors to access the care they need and to combat the detrimental effects of physical and social isolation. The City must weigh these factors when promulgating operational restrictions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, that is hereby authorizes Council’s Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings on reopening Philadelphia’s adult daycare centers, which remain closed in contradiction of state guidelines.

April 22, 2021

DAVD OH

Councilmember At-Large

CINDY BASS

Councilmember, 8th District