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Council Member Gale Brewer Introduces Legislation to Expand Awareness of Pediatric Emergency Rooms

The bill would enable parents to more quickly find an emergency room that is suited to their pediatric needs

Manhattan, NY- In partnership with Council Member Justin L. Brannan (D-43), Council Member Gale A. Brewer has introduced legislation that would require the Department of Health and Mental Health (DOHMH) to compile a publicly available list of pediatric emergency rooms, their locations, and available medical services—and advertise that information among parents, caregivers, and to 311 callers, since not every ER is a pediatric-capable one.

DOHMH would be required to coordinate with hospitals to provide the list to parents of infants born in the city and to provide the list to pediatricians for distribution to parents. Additionally, DOHMH would be required to provide the list to the Department of Education and childcare programs to be distributed to parents and guardians of children enrolled in child care programs and grade 3-K through grade 8, at least once a year.

As the healthcare system recovers from an unprecedented and sustained strain on the workforce and resources, it is necessary that all New Yorkers be empowered to navigate a still-burdened emergency services system.

In many communities across New York City, children are disproportionately impacted by ailments such as asthma. This legislation would inform parents of local healthcare establishments that can quickly and most effectively respond to pediatric emergency needs.

“For those of us who have had or do have small children, we know that in a moment of

crisis we want to be able to respond to that emergency as quickly as possible. Not all parents are aware that not all emergency rooms are equipped to respond to pediatric needs. That is why I am introducing legislation that would require easy-to-access resources and community engagement to empower parents across the city to quickly identify places of care for their children,” said **Council Member Gale A. Brewer** (D-06).

More information can be found on the bill here: <https://on.nyc.gov/3smYe01>

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