

Health in All Policies Testimony, May 12, 2016  
Wesley Epplin, Director of Health Equity  
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

Good morning, Chairman Cardenas and members of the City Council. My name is Wesley Epplin, and I am the Director of Health Equity at Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. I'm providing this testimony on behalf of Margie Schaps, Executive Director of Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. I am pleased to support Mayor Emanuel's resolution to create a Health in all Policies initiative and create a task force to identify and pursue opportunities to improve the health of Chicago residents.

As an independent health policy, research and advocacy center created in 1981 by health justice leader Dr. Quentin Young, Health & Medicine Policy Research Group has long recognized the need to work across sectors and departments if we want to make real progress on improving the health of the residents of the City. Health is inextricably linked to housing, environment, transportation, education, and more. If we continue to work in siloes not recognizing how efficiencies and real improvement in individual and community health can be created only by working together, we will waste precious human and financial capital.

The creation of the Healthy Chicago 2.0 plan is a creative, ambitious and well-crafted document that lays out a path toward creating a healthier city. Hundreds of people committed precious time to the development of this document as a model that should be replicated across the country.

I firmly believe that essential to the fulfillment of the promise of Healthy Chicago 2.0 is the creation of the Health in all Policies Initiative and the task force that will identify further opportunities to make the hopes of an equitable, healthy city, a reality.