

STATE OF ILLINOIS
104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

15th Legislative Day

3/5/2025

Speaker Williams, A.: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Representative Grasse. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Grasse: "May we gather with steady hands and clear minds, guided not by echoes of falsehood, but by the weight of truth, tested and sure. May our measures be honest, our numbers sound, and every dollar a promise kept, not a burden passed to those who will follow. Let our work be not for power's sake nor for voices that shout the loudest, but for the people, seen and unseen, their needs, their struggles, their future. May compassion temper calculation, may wisdom shape our course, and may we leave behind not just decisions, but a legacy of justice, care, and lasting common good. Amen."

Speaker Williams, A.: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Jed Davis."

Davis, J. - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Gabel is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side."

Gabel: "Speaker, let the record show that Representatives Ammons and Gordon-Booth are excused today."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Keicher is recognized to report any extended absences on the Republican side of the aisle. I apologize, Representative Windhorst is recognized."

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Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will you please excuse Representative Cabello today?"

Speaker Williams, A.: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 115 Members answering the roll, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Ness, Chairperson from the Committee on Adoption & Child Welfare reports the following committee action taken on March 4, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 1823 and House Bill 1872. Representative Jones, Chairperson from the Committee on Insurance reports the following committee action taken on March 4, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 1782, House Bill 2425; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 1076; recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 1141. Representative Meyers-Martin, Chairperson from the Committee on Consumer Protection reports the following committee action taken on March 4, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 1763. Representative Ammons, Chairperson from the Committee Energy & Environment reports the following committee action taken on March 4, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2366, House Bill 2391; do pass Standard Debate is House Bill 1175. Representative Croke, Chairperson from the Committee on Financial Institutions and Licensing reports the following committee action taken on March 4, 2025: do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 1700. Representative Mussman, Chairperson from the Committee on Education Policy reports the following committee action taken on March 5, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 1787,

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House Bill 1926; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 1358, House Bill 1411. Representative Costa Howard, Chairperson from the Committee on Human Services reports the following committee action taken on March 5, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 1895; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 1081. Representative Gong-Gershowitz, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Civil reports the following committee action taken on March 5, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 1576, House Bill 2437; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 67, House Bill 1083; recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 28. Representative Kifowit, Chairperson from the Committee on Appropriations-Pensions & Personnel reports the following committee action taken on March 5, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2332, House Bill 2378, House Bill 2443. Representative Ann Williams, Chairperson from the Committee on Executive reports the following committee action taken on March 5, 2025: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 1908. Representative Andrade, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation: Vehicles & Safety reports the following committee action taken on March 5, 2025: do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 2335."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Harper, for what reason do you seek recognition? Thank you. Representative Harper."

Harper: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

Harper: "I'd like to read some words about the Trump trade tax that went into effect yesterday. They say, 'We remain deeply concerned with the use of tariffs and their potential to spark

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retaliation on America's farmers. Illinois farmers' products - from grain and feed, corn, soybeans, ethanol, beef, pork, and more - rely on access to foreign markets and will undoubtedly be impacted by these new tariffs either through increased prices or decreased market access. Now, this uncertainty coupled with an already struggling farm economy has farmers worried as we head into planting season.' Now, before you write those off as words of a Democrat from the South Side of Chicago, I will tell you that those are the words of the Illinois Farm Bureau. As the chair of the Agriculture Committee, I know that this is going to affect my community as well as all my farmers across this state. I want my community to have access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food. I want to protect families in my community already struggling with the rising prices from the effects of a new tax on everything we purchase. But what's baffling me is that Republicans who represent the farms that will be the most directly affected are sitting back and watching their communities suffer in the hands of Donald Trump. When you had a chance to stand up and send a message, you all walked off the floor. In case you forgot, you all have a duty to stand up and fight for issues that affect your communities the most. So, do it. Make sure that they have a seat at the table. Because with you all silenced on this issue, their seat is looking pretty empty. But nonetheless, I will continue to stand up for farmers. I will continue to do everything in my power to provide a solid foundation for them, their families, and communities, even in the midst of Trump trying to take us 10 steps back. I'll echo the comments of the Illinois Farm

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Bureau and call on President Trump to abide by the trade deal he negotiated and bragged about. It's time to stand up, not walk away. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Briel, for what reason do you arise? Please state your point."

Briel: "There we go. Thank you. Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Proceed."

Briel: "I rise today to discuss the impact of the tariffs on the agricultural community. My family's been farming the same land since they came here to Illinois 200 years ago. Passing our farm down from generation to generation is something I'm extremely proud of. But, again, the reality has changed for farm families like mine. We've been slapped in the face again by insulting tariffs from the Trump administration that, in all likelihood, are going to put an end to the ag industry. I'm disappointed in my colleagues who seem to have forgotten history. In the first Trump administration, the tariffs put in place and almost wiped out Illinois' soybean industry. And six years later that industry is still recovering. We still have not regained a 10% market loss. I'd like to remind all of my colleagues, in case you forget, that the soybean industry provides \$10.6 million in revenue for the state and agriculture. Where my farmers at, right? Oh, there you are over there. Hey, guess what? Fifty-one billion dollars comes from agriculture to this state. The Illinois Farm Bureau agrees that these tariffs are going to destroy the backbone of Illinois agriculture. Seventy-five percent of Illinois is farmland, and as our Republican colleagues are fond of

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reminding us, we tend to forget about them. But I'd ask, where are you to stand up for those farmers? All right, all right, I see one. All right, good, we got a farmer on the other side of the aisle. I love it. We've seen this before, and I'm going to tell you guys, while many were complicit in the last time around, this time Illinois' soybean industry will not recover. We will lose billions of dollars through these tariffs. They don't hurt foreign countries. They hurt us. So, let's stop pretending that the president is sticking up for Americans. This is economic sabotage, and it's Illinois farmers and consumers who are going to pay the price. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Stuart, for what reason do you arise?"

Stuart: "Thank you, Speaker. So happy to see you up there today. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Stuart: "Thank you. Members of the House, one of Donald Trump's favorite boasts during his first term was to take credit for the performance of the stock market. And, in fact, that claim became one of the last things that some people clung to, some people in this chamber clung to, to continue to support him. Their logic, sure, he sent a violent mob to storm the Capitol, but at least he was good for the stock market. Of course, now that the market is down 2,000 points since the beginning of the Trump administration, we're hearing now the truth, that markets are complicated things, and they're not tied directly to the policies of the president. But let's be clear: The huge crash we saw yesterday was a direct result... can I have

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the attention of the body, please? The crash we saw yesterday was a direct result, a direct result of the Trump tax, the Trump trade tax, taking effect. Just like the crash before that was the direct result of Trump threatening to implement his tax plan before ultimately backing down. Just like the crash before that was a direct result..."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Members, can we have some order in the chamber? Thank you."

Stuart: "Just like the crash before that, that was a direct result of his reckless Truth Social posts, his poorly planned efforts to slash services on working families and his chaotic leadership. But what's really tragic about this and these crashes is that it's not about the market. It's not about the market, it's about people. It's about the people who trust those markets with their life savings and with their future. People have lost nearly 2% of their savings since Donald Trump began his agenda of chaos. That may not sound like much to you, but I can put that in some real terms. The average family in Monroe County has lost \$700 in retirement savings. The average family in Boone County has lost \$900 in retirement savings. I find it interesting that the people that I'm talking about are represented by the people who are choosing to not pay attention to my comments. The average family in McHenry County has lost \$1230 in retirement savings. The average family in DuPage County has lost \$1500 in retirement savings. The average family in Lake County has lost nearly \$3,000 in retirement savings. I don't think I need to go through all 102 counties. It's pretty clear there's thousands lost in savings in just 60 days. Whatever your ideology or

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beliefs about how government should run, you have to take those numbers into account. The Trump trade tax is making every family's retirement goals less obtainable and putting our retirees in a dangerous place. I am thinking particularly of you... about you who sit across the aisle from me. Some of you work outside of this building. You're financial advisors. You're entrusted with people's hard-earned retirement savings. Some of you work with seniors, and you see every day how challenging life on a fixed income really is. You need to be speaking out because, honestly, I know Donald Trump's not going to listen to Katie Stuart, a math teacher from Edwardsville. But what if some Republicans in the House had the courage to speak out too? What if Darin LaHood, Mike Bost, and Mary Miller saw their statehouse colleagues speaking plainly and finally speaking honestly about how the Trump trade tax is hurting red communities and blue communities alike? If just two of those Republican congresspeople decided to actually do their job, if they decided to make Congress work as a coequal branch of government again, we could actually stop the things that are crashing our markets, we could stop raising prices on families, and we could stop erasing retirement savings before they happen. And the best part is, I'm just asking you to hold Donald Trump to the same standards you've held every other president to. It only requires you to apply the same logic today that you cited during his first term. The words and actions of the president matter. They have real consequences for our families, and we need to speak honestly about what the Trump agenda is actually doing instead of fantasizing about what we wish it were

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accomplishing. We're not... this isn't 12-dimensional chess. This isn't playing hardball with trading partners. This is playing with working people who put their trust in the markets and try to build a safe and secure retirement. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Lisa Hernandez, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hernandez, L.: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "State your point."

Hernandez, L.: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, today, as you may have noticed, hundreds of tradeswomen are in Springfield advocating for Illinois' continued commitment to increasing opportunities for women in the trades. I rise today to not only honor the role of women play in our workforce and the building of our future, but to reaffirm our commitment to continuing to expand employment opportunities for those targeted by recent federal anti-inclusion, anti-equity rhetoric with House Resolution 161. These tradeswomen are here today to push Illinois to reaffirm our efforts, both in supporting tradeswomen, but also fairness in our entire economy, despite the federal rollbacks of long-standing worker protections and equity initiatives. These women work tirelessly building our roads and bridges and maintaining our critical infrastructure, ensuring that we can move throughout the state safely and easily. Like many of the women in this chamber today, they work, take care of their kids, tend to their elderly parents, and do it all with grace. As such, women in the workforce deserve our continued support and consideration when we discuss how to best honor our workers.

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In the face of federal attacks, we must work harder than ever and reaffirm our commitment to a fair economy that works for everyone, not just the billionaires like Elon Musk. I am proud to stand with the hundreds of tradeswomen here today to do just that. Please join me in thanking these tradeswomen for their steadfast commitment to our state. Let's ensure that Illinois reaffirms our commitment to them too. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Morgan, for what reason do you arise?"

Morgan: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "State your point."

Morgan: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, we are honored to be joined by special guests in the gallery. If everyone can give us a little attention, we have some very special guests in the gallery. For all the nurses in the gallery, if you could please rise because today we have those representing Illinois' 53 magnet hospitals throughout the... through the American Nurses Credentials... Credentialing Center, ANCC, Magnet Hospital Recognition Program for excellence in nursing services. With this distinction, Illinois stands as a leading state for the number of magnet hospitals in the entire country. For those of you not familiar, a magnet hospital is a medical facility recognized by the ANCC for demonstrating exceptional nursing practice, signifying a high standard of nursing care, a positive work environment for nurses, and a commitment to innovation in the nursing practices. It is considered the gold standard in nursing excellent. Achieving magnet status involves meeting rigorous criteria related to

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leadership, professional development, and perhaps most importantly, patient outcomes. This recognition is a mark of excellence in nursing practice and patient care. Hospitals with this distinction have met the ANCC's high standards for quality care and have adopted... adopted innovative professional nursing practices. Nurses play an essential role in patient well-being, the patient experience, and achieving optimal patient outcomes. The fact that Illinois has so many magnet hospitals, again, more than anyone... any other state in the country, is a testament to our state's continuing dedication to fostering a strong nursing workforce and cultivating an environment that promotes excellence within our health care systems. Please, please join me in welcoming and celebrating our talented nurses to Illinois and Springfield. Thank you, everybody, for being here."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Hammond, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hammond: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. And, actually, if I may, a couple of quick points of person privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

Hammond: "The first would be to welcome the folks from the Knox County Farm Bureau who are here with us today in the gallery. Thank you so much for taking the time to come to Springfield and see your state in action. These folks are actually farmers. They are actively involved in the farming industry. And I am so glad to hear so many of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle speak to the importance of the farmers and our agriculture economy, not only in Illinois, but across the entire United States. And in that light, I look forward

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to you calling the estate tax to committee and to the House floor and getting it passed finally in the State of Illinois. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Chung, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Chung: "Thank you, Madam Chair. It's good to see you up there. Anyway, point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

Chung: "Great. Thank you so much. I just wanted to draw the body's attention to the gallery. We have a group here of students from Illinois State University. They're with the... it's called SLAC, which is the Student Legislative Action Coalition, and they're here today. They're fighting for mental health access in universities. They're also here to talk about paid student teaching and to be able to vote on election day, to make that a holiday for... for colleges and universities here in our state. So, I just wanted to recognize them, if they wanted to stand up. There they are, so let's give them all a round of applause, and welcome to Springfield. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative McLaughlin, for what reason do you rise?"

McLaughlin: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

McLaughlin: "Thank you. After watching the majority party in Maine, last week, censure a Representative for the audacity of sending out emails to constituents commenting on an event where a biological male was awarded a championship after competing against female athletes, I can't help but wonder

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when this political move will make its way here to Illinois. Just two weeks ago, several members of this House stood up in support of the new administration policy initiatives. This, in turn, led the majority in this body, our friends, to force votes on nonbinding, ceremonial resolutions across a myriad of progressive issues out of step with most Illinoisans. How about we try for less drama and more results for once here? Please, no censures here in Illinois. At these times of political divide, let's make sure we have more speech and exchange of ideas. We understand that many in this body simply won't agree with our ideas of smaller government, less regulation, lower taxes, and improved school proficiencies, and that's just the way it is. We understand that many on the left side don't want to hear from us regarding the changes at the federal levels and the risk that these will have on the financial impact if the federal government restricts dollars coming to our states based upon ultra-progressive agendas, of which need to be changed. I mean, did anybody see the faces at the State of the Union Address last night? I thought I was watching a lemming tasting... lemon tasting contest. As a father of five daughters and this being Women History Month, I've coached girl sports for over 21 years, and I firmly believe that biological males should not compete against biological females. My friends on the other side often talk, and I'm going to use your words, fairness, equity, but they fail to see the inequity this creates for girls and women. This stance, now, not only threatens those girls and women on the fields, but threatens our taxpayers if and when federal funds will be removed. So, we can't afford to make up that

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difference right now. As the governor's admitting, we're way behind on revenue. There's a reason we have weight classes in wrestling, boxing. Hey, guys, strength, size, and speed actually matters. Ignoring biological differences is both inconsistent and unfair. I will not, and I ask my friends on the other side to not support any measure that mandates this unfairness at any Illinois school, for girls, women, and to protect our taxpayers. Every American should have the ability to speak truth to power, and I appreciate that, Madam Speaker, in this chamber. It's an unalienable right, including legislators. So, enough of the games, resolutions, and hopefully not censures that go forward for those that dare to have different opinions. Let's get back to respectful public discourse on the issues facing every district in this state. And during Women's History Month, let's remember the famous Cyndi Lauper song 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun.' Let's let them do that in Illinois. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Cassidy, for what reason do you arise?"

Cassidy: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Cassidy: "Representative, next time say it to my face. These are our children we're talking about. You are making targets out of kids. You are driving children to suicide by focusing on a boogeyman that does not exist. There has never been any indication of danger to children who compete together. There has never been any of the... the mysterious bathroom attacks you talk about. I also find it fascinating that you focus on trans girls and women without contemplating that you are, by

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doing so, sending people that look like adult males, because they are, into the women's room. The hypocrisy is stunning. Quit picking on kids and pick on your own size. I, once again, volunteer as tribute. Leave the kids alone."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Avelar, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Avelar: "Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Avelar: "First of all, I want to say, it's so good to see you there. And second of all, I wanted to give a very special Springfield welcome to dozens of young leaders who are here with SkillsUSA. I actually have some young leaders that actually were able to visit the floor earlier today from Lockport, Bolingbrook, and Joliet. And I just wanted to give them, first of all, a warm Springfield welcome, if you could just get up a little bit. Thank you so much for coming. Thank you so much for what you're doing in the community. And welcome to your House."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Guzzardi, for what purpose do you seek recognition?"

Guzzardi: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Guzzardi: "I just want to wish a happy birthday to my legislative coordinator, Jack Thorndyke, who may be listening over in the Stratton Building today. He's been a wonderful friend and... and helper throughout this challenging process. He's the LC for five Members, so he's got his hands full with all of us, but he's doing a fantastic job. Today is his birthday, and I

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just wanted to ask the body to join me in wishing a happy birthday to Jack."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Weaver, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Weaver: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Weaver: "I have the distinct honor of welcoming the 1A softball state champion team AlWood here today. Ladies, the day after the State of the Union Address is really a special day to come to the chamber. The... the kids play very nicely in the sandbox on a day like this. But to your success. So, last season they started their season with a 20-game win streak, which ended up culminating with a huge win against Illini Bluffs. Illini Bluffs is a bigger school. They've been in the state championship five years in a row, but AlWood came in hot. They were up 2-1, a rainy day, they go into the sixth inning, bring in a pinch hitter, Brynlee Wirt hits the RBI, in a way that nobody will ever forget, to give them the 3-1 lead. These young ladies have so much confidence. I'm so incredibly proud of them. One thing their coach mentioned is that every single day our goal is to go 1 and 0. I think that's some advice that all of us could take. Every day, all we can do is go 1 and 0. We don't have to worry about yesterday. We just have to be better today. And because of that, these young ladies are really set up for the future, especially a young lady like Makenna Walker, who walked into my office, sat right in my chair like she owned the place. I think we're going to be calling her madam president one day. I'm so proud of you young ladies. Our future's bright. Bring

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your sunglasses because it's going to be a bright time. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Scherer, for what reason do you arise?"

Scherer: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

Scherer: "Today, for the Members, we have a special guest. Miss Illinois is here. She is from Decatur, and she was here last year as Miss Land of Lincoln, which is Central Illinois. And shortly after she was here, she walked in the challenge for Miss Illinois, and she has been crowned as the 2024 Miss Illinois. Her term ends in June, and she has lived in Decatur and Mt. Zion. She is a practicing attorney right now. And I would also welcome Representative Regan Deering, if she wants to say a few words since she also lived in Mt. Zion. So, I'd like to present Miss Illinois to our caucus, Breana Bagley."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Deering."

Deering: "Thank you. I appreciate Representative Scherer bringing Breana into the chamber today. Miss Illinois is a constituent of mine, so learning that it's not her first trip to the Capitol, but her second. So, I continue to wish her well in the next few months of her term. I have a daughter that also participated in pageantry, as we discussed. So, it's a wonderful opportunity for young women to continue to grow in their confidence, earn scholarship dollars, which I know you have applied to your law degree. And so, I compliment you on all your success, and thank you for joining us here today."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Welcome to Springfield. Representative Wilhour, for what reason do you arise?"

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Wilhour: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Wilhour: "Thank you. It seems like the irony never ends around here with the things that... that we listen to. We've had to sit here and listen to some of the most far left radicals in the... the world that have destroyed the economic system of our state, have destroyed public education in our state, have destroyed everything that's important in our state. We got to listen to them lecture us about financing now. And furthermore, we've got to... we got to listen to, you know, leftists from the City of Chicago and places that are far away from agriculture lecture us on what's good for family farms. As a third-generation proud family farmer, I can tell you that I am not concerned, my constituents aren't concerned, and the other farmers on our side of the aisle, I think we have the only farmers in here on our side of the aisle, we're not concerned about President Trump one bit. In fact, we're... we're proud of President Trump, and we're glad that he got elected to save this... save this state and this country from the radical left path that it was on that was destroying our country. We're proud of President Trump because we've lived through it. We've lived through it before the China virus when President Trump brought out record employment in this country; rising wages for everybody, and especially for those in the minority communities; lower taxes for everybody; energy dominance, energy dominance around the world; lower utility bills; no endless, stupid wars that... that defy American interest. That's a record of success. That's a record

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that we're proud of and we'll stand by every day. And... and for you over there on the left, if you're concerned about tariffs, if you want to end tariffs, how about we start building things in Illinois? How about we start building things in America, all right? That's what that's all about. But we can't build anything in Illinois. We can't build anything in Illinois because you guys have destroyed, you've destroyed, our economy with your massive regulations, with your massive taxes on everybody, on businesses, on families, and everything else. We should be building things here. We have every advantage that we need, but we can't take advantage of it because you care more about your special interests than you do the interests of the working families in this state, and that's got to change. So, I don't want to hear anything coming out of your mouths over there about tariffs or regulations or anything until you clean your own house up, all right? And if you want to talk about what's bad for working families, you push some of the most regressive taxes that we've ever seen. You've doubled the gas tax. That is the most regressive tax that you can have. You know, you've doubled our energy bills with your fantasy green new scam that, thank God, President Trump is defunding and... and ending on our behalf. And you know what the biggest tax on working families is? It's inflation. And inflation is not caused by tariffs. Inflation is caused by out-of-control government spending by a government that's completely out of control, all right? That's where that comes from. That's the biggest tax on working families. You want to talk about, you know, costing more at the store? You... everything that we need in

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our lives costs more because of the stuff that you're doing. So, until you get your act together, I don't want to hear anything from you guys. And by the way, you want to talk about what's good for family farms? I... I haven't seen hardly any of you get... get behind repealing the death tax, which is literally stealing... stealing the land that we've... we've spent generations building up. So, come on. You want to... you want to have a fight about this? You're on the wrong side of every issue."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Members, we have a lot of people seeking recognition, so we are going to ask you to limit your points to two minutes each, and keep decorum in mind. Representative Faver Dias, for what reason do you arise?"

Faver Dias: "Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "State your point."

Faver Dias: "I just wanted to point out, I'm a former history teacher. I taught history for a decade. We know there are seven steps to genocide, and stage one is our language. How we speak in this chamber matters, the example that we are setting for our state and for this country. And when we use harmful language that demonizes and vilifies people and harms them, it takes us down a road that we do not want to go. So, I echo your words, Madam Chamber, what we say matters. Also, I'd like to point out, as I told my... often told my students, yelling your point doesn't make it more effective. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Didech, for what reason do you arise?"

Didech: "A point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

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Didech: "Thank you. I... I would like the body to know I have some very special guests in the gallery today. I would like to ask my friends from the Lake County Indians Association and the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh group to stand up and be recognized. These are a phenomenal group of organizations that do invaluable work in our district. I am so pleased that they invite me to participate in so many of their events back home. And now, today, we get to turn the tables. They get to work with us here in Springfield as we present a bill in committee this afternoon to recognize Diwali Day in Illinois. So, thank you for being here. Please give them a very warm welcome to Springfield."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Welcome to Springfield. We're glad you're here. Representative Bunting, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Bunting: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Bunting: "Thank you. Man, I am truly, truly, truly feeling the agriculture love on the floor today. I truly, truly appreciate it. I'm new to this. I haven't spoke a whole lot, but I wasn't going to let the previous comments go unspoken. I am a sixth generational farmer here in the State of Illinois, hoping to be raising that seventh. In fact, folks, that seventh-generation, while I am down here today fighting for the folks of the 106th District, that seventh generation woke up this morning to tend to our livestock, to check the farm, go back into the house, get dressed up for school, while their father is down here fighting for rural Illinois. My friends on the

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other side of the aisle, talk is cheap, actions speak. In the 103rd General Assembly, we had House Bill 4600, the Family Farm Preservation Act. We were close. We were really, really close. We didn't quite get there. It didn't make it into the budget. It was a decimal point move on \$53.1 billion. If you care so much about family farms, if you care so much..."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative, please bring your remarks to a close."

Bunting: "If we care so much, House Bill 2677, my friend Representative Chung is running it one more time in the 104th. Show your support. Show your support of someone on your side of the aisle trying to do the right things for family farms instead of standing up and grandstanding for the world to hear. I would like for my colleagues... sorry, Laura, if I'm raising my voice. I would like for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come over here to the seven farmers in this Republican Caucus and let's have a conversation. At least come over here and thank us for feeding, fueling, and clothing you, your families, and your constituents. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Benton, for what reason do you arise?"

Benton: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Benton: "So, I want to welcome to Springfield my fellow ironworker brothers and sisters. We have Paul Goodrich from 63 there... right there in the gallery. We have Paul Goodrich that's down from Local 63. We have Local 46, Springfield. You're going to see some women in trades here that have probably worked on our very Capitol improvement. And then we also have Local

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one. We also have another ironworker in the chamber that not everybody knows, and he's out of local 392, which is East St. Louis, and that's Leader J.C. Hoffman. So, we want to give them a round of applause. But we... we also need to recognize a great woman... and quiet in the chamber, please. Quiet in the chamber. Vicki O'Leary, that happens to be up there. I brought her on the floor last year to recognize her. She is an amazing person. She is the chair of NABTU's Tradeswomen's Committee, and she puts together Tradeswomen Build Nations, and they're going to be in Chicago September 19 through the 21. Last year, she got 5200 women in trades together. She is fighting for everyone. She's fighting for working families. And she is not only thoughtful about collective bargaining agreements and making sure that people are getting their fair share, people are being fought for, for workplace safety, but there's something real important about her that many in this chamber can appreciate. She was the first in the building trades to introduce paid..."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative, can you wrap up your remarks, please?"

Benton: "Yep. Paid maternity leave in 2017. Six months prior to birth, six to eight weeks afterwards, up to 66% of pay with an \$800 cap a week. She is an innovator, she's a leader, and I would just want to welcome the ironworkers to Springfield. Thanks for coming down."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Welcome to Springfield. Representative Grant, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Grant: "Thank you, Madame Speaker. Personal point of privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "State your point."

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Grant: "Today, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise to honor a true icon, a trailblazer, and a proud Illinois native. You're never going to guess, Betty White. Born in Oak Park in 1922, Betty White was more than just a beloved actress and comedian. She was a pioneer in television, breaking barriers at a time when a woman... when women were often relegated to the sidelines. She became the first woman to produce a sitcom, paving the way for generations of women in entertainment. Her quick wit, charm, and undeniable talent made her a household name, earning her a career that spanned over eight decades. But beyond the spotlight, Betty White championed animal welfare, inspired countless individuals with her humor and grace. She... she reminded us that laughter, yes, laughter, is a powerful, powerful emotion. Aging is a privilege that makes a difference, whether big or small matters. Thank you, Betty White, for showing us the strength that comes with a smile and with laughter, that a life well lived is one filled with person... purpose, passion, and, again, laughter."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Evans, for what reason do you arise?"

Evans: "Point of personal privilege, if it's safe. It's kind of dangerous in here today."

Speaker Williams, A.: "State your point."

Evans: "Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to ask you to welcome all of the ATU, Amalgamated Transit members, the individuals who work at CTA. People got different views of Chicago, but I see a lot of y'all in Chicago having a great time. And when you're moving around Chicago, whether it's rain, sleet, or snow, the workers of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241,

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Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308, they're working. They're putting their lives on the line. We don't have a dedicated transit police department to keep them safe, so they take their prayers with them to work, but they're still serving in us. And we don't have a world-class transit system yet in Chicago, I'm still praying for that, but let's give these folks love when you see them in the hallway. These are my friends. These are my community members. So, please welcome to the Capitol Amalgamated Transit Union workers. Talk to them and hear what they have to say. Hear their requests and demands for a world-class transit system in the City of Chicago so when all of my friends on both sides of the aisle visit Chicago, that beautiful city, that they can move around safely and efficiently. Let's give them the increased jobs and safety on public transit they deserve. Let's finish that rail line extension. Let's continue to upgrade our stations. We deserve a great, great, world-class transit system. And let's push all together, on both sides of the aisle, let's push to our transit systems the funding they need from the state. Other states are doing it, Massachusetts, New York City, London. Look across the world, they're supporting that mass transit. So, let's support it and make sure we can safely move around our city and keep our transit union workers safe. So, thank you so much."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Welcome to your Capitol. Representative Hauter, for what reason do you arise?"

Hauter: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A personal point of privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

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Hauter: "Today, I rise to speak on a topic I wasn't expecting to speak on, and that's the transgender issue. I'd like to, if I may, inject some medical knowledge and evidence into this debate. Recently, the Journal of Sexual Medicine released groundbreaking, and a massive study, on gender-affirming care. I will read from it. Gender-affirming surgery, this is their findings. There was over 100,000 patients in this study. 'Gender-affirming surgery is associated with an increased risk of mental health issues, underscoring the need for ongoing research.' Their findings showed, their analysis revealed, a significant, significant elevated risk of mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation and substance use post-surgery among individuals with prior diagnosis of gender dysphoria. In light of these findings, I call on Illinois medicine to cease gender-affirming surgeries as experimental. And the momentum of the evidence is clear: These surgeries increase the risk of mental health disorders in our children. These are facts and evidence, not canards and not feelings. Please stop these harmful surgeries in Illinois and medicine."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Johnson, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Johnson: "Hello? Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Johnson: "Anyone who knows me knows when you tell me not to speak, that's when you're going to hear from me. So, I hope after I speak, there won't... I won't see 40 people heading for exits like I saw a couple weeks ago when I spoke. A previous speaker on the other side had talked about our side being dramatic

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and talked about the resolutions. So, I want to talk about what I see as being dramatic. Dramatic would be swearing in at another location, rather than swearing in with the other hundred-plus Members of this assembly. Dramatic would be..."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Members, order in the chamber, please."

Johnson: "Excuse me?"

Speaker Williams, A.: "Just some order in the chamber. Thank you. Please proceed."

Johnson: "Dramatic would be, the night before the swearing in, watching your own Member who's leaving the caucus depart, give him flowers, then follow him out while all the other Members were in here paying homage to everyone else that was leaving here. Kind of like parents who leave a play after their kid's done performing and rudely walk past everybody else. Dramatic would be, at the actual ceremony in front of everybody's families and friends, allowing one of your speakers to talk about Members on the other side of the aisle as being feebleminded. That was a fun thing to talk to my daughter about. I'm sure a lot of us had a lot of great conversations. Dramatic would be walking out of this chamber during resolutions a few weeks ago then coming here a few weeks later and talking about how great President Trump is. Last night, I watched this guy talk about a death penalty for those that kill police officers. I still have not had one Member from your side of the aisle, yet, condemn the pardons that he did for what happened on January 6. So, as I've said then, I'll say now, you don't get the high road there. Sorry, guys, gals. Finally, dramatic is..."

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Speaker Williams, A.: "Can you please bring your remarks to a close? Thank you, Rep."

Johnson: "Finally... I'm about to wrap up. Finally, dramatic would be, and is, during the governor's address to this legislature, putting on... violating decorum and putting on those silly red hats and livestreaming the event. That's dramatic. Look, I want to work with everyone in this chamber, but for two years I've listened to dramatics. Don't tell me what I can say and when. Let's all get some work done. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Lisa Hernandez, for what reason do you arise?"

Hernandez, L.: "A point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

Hernandez, L.: "I just want to give a shoutout to some Cicero parents that made their way out here to Springfield, advocating for the parent mentoring program led by Elida Ortiz. Let's give them a warm welcome."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Cassidy, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Cassidy: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Cassidy: "If we're going to talk science, let's talk science from respected leaders in the medical community. Transgender individuals are nearly four times as likely as cisgender individuals, people whose gender identity aligns with their sex assigned at birth, to experience a mental health condition. Transgender and nonbinary youth are twice as likely to attempt suicide compared to their cisgender peers. They're also more likely to seriously consider... seriously

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consider suicide and experience depressive symptoms. Studies have shown that access to gender-affirming care can improve mental health outcomes, including when initiated in adolescence. Similarly, denying gender-affirming care can worsen mental health symptoms and increase suicide risk. All major medical associations, including the AMA, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychiatric Association support gender-affirming care. Science matters. Verified science matters. Trust your sources, look for the facts, and stop picking on the kids for God's sake."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Kifowit, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Kifowit: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, it was mentioned that we had Tradeswomen Build Nation... we have a lot of tradeswomen here from across Illinois talking to all of us about the needs of women in the trades. They are here today. Great to see you. I'm honored, and as was probably mentioned earlier, that the Tradeswomen Build Nations conference is coming to Chicago later this year, and we are so happy to host all these amazing individuals. And including to that, I want to give a shoutout to specific leadership that I know is also in the galleries because supporting the tradeswomen is the leadership of the unions that were had. We had comments from, of course, leader Tim Drea of the AFL-CIO and all the leaders of the unions. And particularly, behind me, is the leadership of Painters District Council 14. We have the business manager/ secretary-treasurer, Joe Rinehart; the service director, Mike Cook; and the political director, Hugo Manzo, in the... in the gallery

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behind me. And... and I just want to give out a shoutout of thanks to all the leadership of all the unions that are supporting all the great women in the trades. So, thank you, ladies, for being here, and thank you to the leadership for being here as well."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Thank you and welcome. Representative Chung, for what reason do you arise?"

Chung: "Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Chung: "Great. Sorry to be talking again, but I have some more friends and constituents who are here in the chamber, up in the gallery today. We have some folks from the Illinois Stewardship Alliance who are here fighting for Soil Health Advocacy Day, and I don't know if they're here. Are they here? Want to stand up? Anyway, so I just want to recognize my friends from the Illinois Stewardship Alliance. Also, we have some folks from the... we've talked about the tradeswomen who are taking over the Capitol. I have two apprentices from our local IBEW 197 who are here. We have Stevie Anthony and Lexi Schmidgall, and I would like to recognize them as well. So, thank you for being here. Welcome to Springfield. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Hirschauer, for what reason do you arise?"

Hirschauer: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

Hirschauer: "Thank you. I rise today to give today's women's month history spotlight, and it is my honor to talk to you today about a woman who is a friend to many of us in this room, a

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trailblazer and a fierce advocate for working people. Congresswoman Delia Catalina Ramirez's story began decades ago next to the rushing waters of the Rio Grande where her mother, secretly pregnant with Delia, bravely crossed that river in search of a better life for her unborn daughter. Delia is the proud daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, and she carries that fighting spirit of her family and families just like hers with her in her daily work. She embodies the potential of the immigrant experience and is a beacon of possibility for newcomers across the country. Delia Ramirez was born in the Belmont Cragin community in Chicago. Her family moved to Humboldt Park at the age of 1, where her parents found a subsidized apartment above a church that they could finally afford. Delia's commitment to community and working families is shaped by her lived experiences. She grew up watching her parents work multiple jobs, and she witnessed firsthand how important social services were as she watched neighbors come to her church for housing assistance, food, and services for the undocumented. She saw the heartbreaking financial crises that her parents and many others in her community shouldered, hoping to provide a better life for their children. These experiences ignited a fire that propelled her to fight for the rights of all working families struggling to survive. She spent 18 years as a nonprofit leader and fighting for affordable housing, quality education, and campaign finance reform. As we all know here, from 2018 to 2022, Delia served as the State Representative of the Illinois' 4th House District. And here in this room, we know that Delia was our colleague, she was a leader, she

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was a fighter for housing justice and a coalition builder. Her legacy in Springfield lives on in the Progressive Caucus, which she helped to build, and the Housing Committee, which she championed, and her other legislative successes. In 2022, Delia took her fighting spirit to Washington, D.C. when she was elected as the first Latina congresswoman in Illinois and the entire Midwest. She currently serves on the Committee for Veterans' Affairs, and is the vice-ranking member of the Committee of Homeland Security. In Congress, Representative Ramirez is building on the bold and people-centered agenda she championed during her time in the Illinois General Assembly. As the only Member of Congress in a mixed-status family, she is leading the fight for comprehensive immigration reform, and she is working on making pathways to citizenships for 'Dreamers' like her husband, Boris. We all know that representation matters, and having decision makers in D.C. with the lived experience of our immigrant community is incredibly important and powerful. In times like these, we need fighters in Washington like Congresswoman Ramirez. Her voice on issues around immigration reform, protecting the rights of 'Dreamers,' housing equity, and protecting Medicaid is strong and so very needed. She's a fierce protector of our rights and a role model for us all."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Swanson, for what reason do you arise?"

Swanson: "Madam Chair, point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please state your point."

Swanson: "Thank you. Quick announcement: Tomorrow morning we are... we have moved Bible study from Wednesday mornings to Thursday

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mornings. It is Thursday mornings at 0730 hours, and it is in Room 200-4N. We've got plenty of spaces to put faces, so please consider coming to Bible study. We are done by 7:55 in the morning to allow time for committee hearings. So.. and usually we have some Panera Bread, some snacks and coffee, so we'll hopefully see many of you tomorrow morning at 0730 hours. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Mr. Clerk, committee announcements."

Clerk Hollman: "The following committees will be meeting this afternoon: Meeting at 2 p.m. is Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing, & Charter Schools in C-1; Gun Violence Prevention in Room 118; Immigration & Human Rights in Room 122B; State Government Administration in Room 115. Meeting at 4 p.m. is Appropriations-General Services in D-1, Appropriations-Public Safety & Infrastructure in C-1, Higher Education in Room 122B, and a joint committee between the Personnel & Pensions Committee and the Appropriations-Pensions & Personnel Committee meeting in Room 114."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 167, offered by Representative Lilly. And House Resolution 168, offered by Representative Spain."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Clerk, please read the Adjournment Resolution."

Clerk Hollman: "House Joint Resolution #22, offered by Representative Gabel."

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, March 06, 2025, the House of Representatives stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 11, 2025, and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 12, 2025, and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Thursday, March 13, 2025, and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 18, 2025, or to the call of the Speaker; and the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 18, 2025, or to the call of the President."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of the Adjournment Resolution. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Adjournment Resolution is adopted. And now, allowing perfunctory time for the clerk, Leader Gabel moves that the House stand adjourned until Thursday, March 6, at the hour of noon. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 4012, offered by Representative Cabello, a Bill for an Act concerning gaming. House Bill 4013, offered by Representative Reick, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. House Bill 4014, offered by Representative Lilly, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."