

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

41st Legislative Day

5/8/2025

Speaker Tarver: "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 Pledge of Allegiance."

Grasse: "Let us take communal pause together in a spirit of reverence and reflection. As an ordained Christian minister in the United Church of Christ for over three decades now, I intentionally offer our invocations not to promote one religious path but to honor the many paths we're all on and the freedom to choose among them, the freedom that defines our wonderfully diverse democracy. Across faith traditions and secular traditions alike, we find shared moral wisdom: a call to love our neighbor, to seek justice, to act with kindness and integrity, and to uphold the dignity of every human being. And these are not the teachings of just one religion or creed alone, that's the beauty of it, but the values that echo through many cultures, philosophies, and generations. And it is as a clergy that I am reminded our nation was not founded on any one religion. It was founded on the promise that all people, regardless of belief, can all live free from religious coercion. The separation of church and state is not a rejection of religion. It's a profound protection that I as clergy hold on to and embrace at my core. The separation of church and state ensures that no single faith holds power over another, that belief is never forced, and that the conscious spiritual path of each of us is honored and sacred. This principle is good for all people of all religions and those of no religion because it keeps the state

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from misusing faith and it keeps faith from being diminished by the politics of power. This principle allows churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and humanist community to speak with moral clarity, not political obligation, and it preserves the authenticity of both public service and private devotion. So, as we begin our work for the people of Illinois today, may we be guided not by any one doctrine but by a shared spirit of humility, compassion, kindness, and love for our neighbor. May we listen deeply, speak truthfully, and serve boldly for the good of all the people we represent. And now, in a spirit of true thanksgiving and blessing, I offer this prayer for all of us gathered here. May each heart in this chamber be strengthened for the work ahead. May wisdom take root where there is uncertainty. May patience prevail where there is disagreement. May courage rise where there is fear. And may each person here be granted the grace to see one another not as opponents but as fellow stewards of the public good who live together in this world as one big family in peace. Amen, and let it be so."

Speaker Tarver: "We will be led today in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Hirschauer."

Hirschauer - 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 Tarver: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Morgan is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."

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Morgan: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representative Jones, Scherer, and Welch are excused today. Thank you."

Speaker Tarver: "Leader Keicher is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that all Republicans are here today to conduct the people's business."

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

Clerk Hollman: "Corrected Committee Reports from May 7, 2025. Representative Gong-Gershowitz, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Civil reported the following committee actions on May 7, 2025: do pass Short Debate is... was Senate Bill 1675; do pass as amended Short Debate was Senate Bill 1181, Senate Bill 2487; and recommends be adopted was Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill... correction, Senate Bill 103 and Floor Amendment(s) 1 to Senate Bill 1523. Another corrected Committee Report from May 7, 2025. Representative Mussman, Chairperson from the Committee on Education Policy reported the following committee action on May 7, 2025: do pass Short Debate Senate Bill 191, Senate Bill 1605, Senate Bill 1672; do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 71, Senate Bill 407, Senate Bill 408, Senate Bill 1740, Senate Bill 2057, and Senate Bill 2427. Committee Reports. Representative Scherer, Chairperson from the Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools reports the following committee action on

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May 7, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 405, Senate Bill 1329, Senate Bill 1920; do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 1947; recommends be adopted is House Joint Resolution 12 and Floor Amendment(s) 2 to Senate Bill 1583. Representative Barbara Hernandez, Chairperson from the Committee on Immigration & Human Rights reports the following committee action on May 7, 2025: recommends be adopted is House Resolution 221. Representative Evans, Chairperson from the Committee on Labor & Commerce reports the following committee action on May 7, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1799; and recommends be adopted is House Resolution 170. Representative Blair-Sherlock, Chairperson from the Committee on State Government Administration reports the following committee action on May 7, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1884, Senate Bill 2493; do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 58, Senate Bill 1343; and recommends be adopted is House Joint Resolution 5, House Joint Resolution 23, House Resolution 41, House Resolution 87, House Resolution 176, House Resolution 205; and recommends be adopted as amended is House Resolution 166. Representative Kelly, Chairperson from the Committee on Police & Fire reports the following committee action on May 7, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 100. Representative DeLuca, Chairperson from the Committee on Cities & Villages reports the following committee action on May 7, 2025: do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 634. Representative Stuart, Chairperson from the Committee on Higher Education reports the following committee action on May 7, 2025: do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 2039; recommends be adopted is Floor

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Amendment(s) 2 to Senate Joint Resolution 13. Representative Ann Williams, Chairperson from the Committee on the Executive reports the following committee action on May 7, 2025: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 4 to House Bill 2987. Representative Cassidy, Chairperson from the Committee on Restorative Justice & Public Safety reports the following committee action on May 8, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 248, Senate Bill 1524; do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 1548. Representative Tarver, Chairperson from the Committee on Revenue & Finance reports the following committee action on May 8, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1614, Senate Bill 2102, and Senate Bill 2306. Representative Stava-Murray, Chairperson from the Committee on Public Health reports the following committee action on May 8, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 189; recommends be adopted is House Resolution 81 and House Resolution 214. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 316, offered by Representative Faver Dias, is referred to the Rules Committee."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Faver Dias, for what... what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Faver Dias: "This week is Nurses Appreciation Week, celebrated in honor of the birthday of Florence Nightingale. Today, I want to take a moment to speak about House Resolution 277, which honors an extraordinary group of heroes, neonatal intensive care unit nurses. As I've shared before, I gave birth to twin boys at just 27 weeks. They were three months early. They

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were what is called micro preemie by doctors. They were the smallest and most fragile of premature babies. We spent a grueling and emotional 90 days in the NICU. What I didn't expect through that experience was the... to meet the incredible community of nurses I would come to know and to rely on over those three months. NICU nurses are the compassionate hearts and steady hands caring for the tiniest, most fragile lives. But they are so much more than medical professionals. They are hope givers, hand holders, and tireless advocates for our tiniest babies. They support families during some of the darkest, most uncertain moments of their lives. They offer not only expert care, but comfort, courage, and love. I always say that NICU nurses saved my babies' lives. But in reality, as a heartbroken mother who gave birth at six months, I can honestly say they saved my life too. These nurses work long hours under immense pressure, often without recognition, but their impact is lasting. Every life they touch is a testament to their dedication and their humanity. As I close, I want to offer my deepest gratitude to a few of the nurses who played a vital role in my boys' care: Jody Schaefer, Christina Vasquez, and my dear, dear friend, Amy Lichterman. Every year, on May 3, my sons' birthday, I lift up a prayer of profound gratitude for each of you. And House Resolution 277 will honor the work of the neonatal intensive care unit nurses. Thank you so much."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative McLaughlin, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

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McLaughlin: "Thank you. I rise to recognize my good friend and public servant, Mayor Kevin Richardson of Lake Barrington, who, on Tuesday night, retired after 20 years of service as mayor for Lake Barrington. Kevin did a phenomenal job. Kevin kept his residents happy and apprised of goings-on in his community. He grew the private sector and businesses in Lake Barrington while at the same time honoring his residents' needs. Kevin also, during his 20 years, preserved open spaces in a way that should be exemplified by every community. Kevin and his wife, Lynne, were a force in our community. Lynne passed away recently, and Kevin will be moving to the Carolinas with his two daughters and grandchildren. I want Kevin to know he will be greatly missed in our area. I had the privilege to serve with Kevin on the Barrington Area Council of Governments. And Kevin, in his private capacity, serves as a lobbyist in D.C. I want Kevin to know personally that his confidence and guidance was instrumental in getting a business guy off the sidelines years ago to get involved in local politics. So, Kevin, I want to thank you for that. And I also want to complement Kevin by saying that when Kevin was in Washington, D.C., the IQ went up substantially in the Capitol Building while it declined substantially on the Council of Governments. So, Kevin's not only a smart man, he had grace under pressure and did a phenomenal job for our region. His leadership will be sorely missed, but Kevin surrounded himself with great people. A true leader always finds people better than he is. And, Kevin, your trustees are absolutely phenomenal, and one of them has now become the new mayor of Lake Barrington. So, Kevin, well done. You will be

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missed by all those that appreciate excellent public service from a person who listens to everyone and does the job in an incredible fashion. Kevin, personally I'll be looking forward to visit you in Carolina with my daughter. And, again, job well done, sir, and I commend you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Halbrook, for what seek do you... for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Halbrook: "Point of personal privilege, please, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Last year, I stood here after being invited to EV Day at the Governor's Mansion. The grounds were filled with shiny electrical vehicles from Ford, GM, Rivian, and Lion's Electric. All on full display, as to prove Illinois was leading the green revolution. And this year's EV Day? No invite, no press, and no parade of the latest and greatest of the new electrical vehicles. As I reflect on the events of that day and of the past year, along with Governor Pritzker's push to greenwash Illinois, I ask, where is your EV Day now? I'm reminded of a passage in 1 Kings 18, where the prophet Elijah was dealing with the prophets of Baal. "'Shout louder," He says. "Surely he is god! Maybe he is asleep, or in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he needs to be awakened.'" So, I ask again, where is your EV Day now? Where is your green god now? Is your green god asleep? Maybe he's in deep thought. Maybe he is traveling. Maybe he's stranded alongside the road with a dead battery. Let's look at what happened since last year's EV Day. Rivian, the crown jewel of the Illinois EV push, lost over \$5 billion, and every vehicle they produce loses over 38,000. Last year, Governor Pritzker gave them

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over \$800 million in new cash and tax incentives. Then there's Lion's Electric, another company that the governor featured as part of the Illinois' green future. They are now auctioning off their Illinois plant due to the lack of financing. And let's not forget Gotion, which received \$125 million in taxpayer funds last year despite ties to foreign adversaries. And what of Illinois' receipt in return? Absolutely nothing. Meanwhile, our state faces nearly a \$1 billion budget hole, and the only solutions on the table are new taxes and revenue enhancements that will make life more expensive for the people we serve. This is all happening while our state spends over a billion dollars a year on illegal aliens. Let me ask you this question: How many taxpayers' subsidies were used to make this iPhone at the top of the market, to make it a success? Absolutely zero. The market decides winners, not politicians playing venture capitalist with your tax dollars. Ladies and gentlemen, this isn't economic development. It's delusion, it's debt, and it's deception. It's time to stop worshipping at the altar of the free... failed green god and return fiscal sanity and accountability to the people of Illinois. In closing, to quote Kermit the Frog, and as our great governor has yet to learn, 'It's not easy being green.'

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Schweizer, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Schweizer: "Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Schweizer: "Yes, I just want to say happy anniversary to my wife. It's been 15 years since we said our vows, and she has stuck with me through multiple military deployments, giving birth

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to my first child while I was deployed in Afghanistan. So, over this job and military deployments, I've missed probably half of our anniversaries. So, I just want to say happy 15th anniversary. Thank you for standing strong with me. You've been my rock and my joy, and I love you. Thanks."

Speaker Tarver: "Happy anniversary. Representative Grasse, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Grasse: "Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Grasse: "Thank you. Our Speaker often tells us to know the 'why' of why we do things. And I have a few whys, and one of my whys is my family. And I'm so grateful to introduce, here with me, my mother, Jackie See, from Middleton, Wisconsin and my daughter, Clair, who just graduated, not graduated, just finished her junior year at Michigan State studying elementary education. And I'm so grateful to have them here and to show you just one of my whys. Thank you."

Speaker Tarver: "Welcome to Springfield. Representative Ryan, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ryan: "Mr. Speaker, point of personal privilege."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Ryan: "I'd like to welcome in the Capitol today Anahi Diaz. She's a graduate of Richards High School in Oak Lawn. She graduated Richards High School in three years. She was served scholarships for the Young Hispanic Leaders from USHLI and the Rumba Meats Scholarship. Currently, she is a first-year student at DePaul University, my alma mater, and she's starting public policy. She is here with DePaul School of Public Service to shadow for a day and learn about state

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government and policymaking. I'd ask that we all give a shoutout and round of applause to DePaul Policy Institute here. Thank you."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Sosnowski, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Sosnowski: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to call attention to the fact that May is..."

Speaker Tarver: "Point of personal privilege?"

Sosnowski: "Oh, I'm sorry. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Sosnowski: "Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the fact that May is ALS Awareness Month. ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive disease in which a person's brain loses connection to their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and ultimately to breathe. Thousands of new ALS cases are reported every year, and estimates show that every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS. On average, patients diagnosed only survive two to five years. The ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally and has committed more than \$154 million dollars to research and 50... 550 projects across the United States. The work they do is truly invaluable. A member of my district staff recently lost her mother to ALS, and I know this disease has touched the families and loved ones of others here in this chamber. ALS Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the challenges that people are impacted by through this disease. I would like to thank the body for joining me in recognizing ALS Awareness Month in honor of

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those currently battling the disease and in the loving memory of those who have been lost to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative du Buclet, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

du Buclet: "Point of personal preference... privilege. "

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

du Buclet: "Greetings, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. Today is a special day, as we are joined by our distinguished guests from the Magnificent Mile Association, an organization that represents one of the most iconic and economically vital corridors in our state. The Magnificent Mile isn't just a shopping destination, it's a cultural landmark, a tourism engine, and a symbol of Chicago's vibrancy and resilience. The association has long played a critical role in advancing economic development, supporting small businesses, enhancing public safety, and preserving the beauty and accessibility of this world-renowned district. Please join me in welcoming the leadership and members of the Magnificent Mile Association to the Illinois House of Representatives. We thank them for their continued investment in the strength and spirit of Downtown Chicago and for being here with us today. If they can please stand so we can acknowledge them, if they're here."

Speaker Tarver: "Leader Hammond, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hammond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Hammond: "Ladies and Gentlemen, it is very exciting news, not just to those of us that are Catholic but I think to people of all faiths, to announce that we now not only have a new

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pope here across the world, but we have a pope from Chicago, Illinois. Formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost, now Pope Louis (sic-Leo) the XIV, served much of his life in Peru, holds citizenship in both the United States and Peru, and we are so excited and pray... praying for Pope Louis the XIV... Leo the XIV that he is able to guide the entire world in a peaceful manner."

Speaker Tarver: "Leader Mah, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Mah: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Mah: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce a couple of Chicago City Council members who are here with us today. Up in the gallery, if you would stand, we have 22nd Ward Alderman Mike Rodriguez and 40th Ward Alderman Andre Vasquez. Give them a warm Springfield welcome."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Huynh, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Huynh: "A point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Huynh: "We have a special guest today on the House floor. He is a great person, great leader, great community leader, has been a great mentor to me. He is my predecessor, former House Majority Leader Greg Harris. Please also give him a warm Springfield welcome as well. Welcome back, Leader Harris."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Hernandez, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hernandez, B.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege, please."

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Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Hernandez, B.: "Please help me welcome... we have Olivia from also DePaul University. She is studying public policy, so she's been shadowing me for today. But, also, I also want to welcome my... my constituent community outreach director, Sabrina Aguirre, who's here also with us today. So, thank you."

Speaker Tarver: "Leader Hoffman on House Resolution 285."

Hoffman: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a former Member death resolution. Members. Thank you. So, it was an honor and a privilege for me to serve with Chuck Hartke, who recently passed. Chuck served here in the General Assembly and later became the head of the department and director of the Department of Agriculture, where he served admirably. Chuck was preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn. He has had two children, Christopher and Kimberly, and six grandchildren who survive him. Chuck was a great man. He came from the Effingham farm fields around Effingham and came here and served for several terms. He served in the Vietnam War. He served as a county board member. He worked tirelessly in a bipartisan fashion to create jobs and economic development in Central Illinois. Chuck Hartke, I consider him one of my dear friends who I was lucky enough to serve with. I miss Chuck Hartke. He later in life enjoyed gardening, he wrote his own book about his life experiences, and as he... after he lost his first wife, he found a second soulmate in Brenda Holmes. I would ask that we have a moment of silence. The Hartke family joins us in the Speaker's Gallery. We give our heartfelt condolences. He was a great man. He was a great leader. He was a great public servant. He was a pretty damn good farmer

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and a great department of... director of agriculture. I'd ask for a moment of silence."

Speaker Tarver: "Leader Hammond, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hammond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, had the privilege of serving for a while with Chuck Hartke and certainly under his leadership at the Department of Agriculture. And just kind of a funny story before we take a moment to remember him in silence. He did have a love of gardening. And in more recent years, he would grow from seedlings different flowers. And one of the things that he grew was white hollyhocks. And I said to him one day, 'Oh, my God,' I said, 'Those are some of my favorite.' And next thing you know, I have a tray of white hollyhocks. My husband is the gardener in the family. He plants the white hollyhocks. Fast forward to the next spring, when I'm out weeding. We now have about two of those white hollyhocks left, but I think of Chuck every time I see them. And to his family, thank you for sharing him with us."

Speaker Tarver: "The body shall observe a moment of silence. Representative Hoffman moves for the adoption of House Resolution 285. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And adopt... and the resolution is adopted. Leader Hernandez, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hernandez, L.: "Thank you, Speaker. Point of personal privilege. On..."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Hernandez, L.: "Yes. Point of personal privilege is on House Resolution #323, honoring the legacy of former Cynthia..."

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Representative Cynthia Soto. As many of you know, Representative Cynthia Soto passed a few weeks back, and we are privileged to have her family, her husband, David; her mother; her daughter, Jennifer; her sister, Alice, with us today in honoring Cynthia's legacy. I don't know if... and many may know, Cynthia was a sister to me. When I first came into office, she took... took me on as, like, she's always had these mother instincts. It was Cynthia Soto and Karen Yarbrough who were... who were my roommates for approximately six years. This is very special to me because this is the woman who really helped me sort of set my... my way here, and I think many of you may understand that when you first come into office, you need that one person to just give you that guidance, that direction, that just holding hand to get you through those times. That was Cynthia to me. So, I... I do want to offer some remarks here that says all about Cynthia. Her story. Her story is one of resilience and unwavering dedication. Growing up in a working-class family, she... she learned early the value of hard work and the importance of fighting for justice, principles that would shape her career as a public servant. These foundational lessons propelled her to the Illinois State Capitol, where she became a trailblazing Latina leader. Representing the 4th District, Cynthia became a powerful voice for the underserved. She championed equitable policies, particularly focusing on improving immigrant rights, health care, education, and driving economic growth within her district. Her legislative efforts reflected a deep commitment to her constituents, fueled by a genuine love for her community and a belief in the transformative power of

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collective action. Her journey to becoming State Representative was a testament to her grassroots organizing skills and the unwavering support of countless volunteers who became lifelong friends. She not only secured her position but also paved the way for future Latino elected officials, actively mentoring the next generation of policymakers. Her legacy as a dedicated public servant and a champion for her community will continue to inspire for years to come. Farewell, as we all know her as amiga. Rest in peace, amiga, my friend. I ask all of you to join me in a moment of silence."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Ortíz, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ortíz: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Ortíz: "I would like to share some words my cousin wrote about Representative Cindy Soto, who was married to my cousin, David Soto. On a season... an unseasonably snowy night in Chicago, my Aunt Cindy took her last breath. She was a fighter, a true testament to resilience. Not only did she face the challenges of dementia and cancer in her final years, but she also lived a life full of love, purpose, and connection through her work as the former Illinois State Representative for the 4th District. We are forever grateful to God for blessing her with a fulfilling life surrounded by her mom, four siblings, three daughters, five grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and, most importantly, her high school sweetheart. Though she is no longer with us, her legacy of strength and love will live on in all who were fortunate enough to know her. Cindy and her family have a special place in my heart. They were

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the first ones to open their home to my dad and his siblings when they arrived in Chicago as young adults who immigrated from Durango, Mexico. Thank you for opening your home and your hearts to my family. Cynthia, today's 15-year celebration of our Illinois Legislative Caucus Foundation is in your honor. [Speaks in Spanish]. Thank you for your service. I also ask for a moment of silence, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Ammons, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Ammons: "I, too, want to thank the family of Cynthia for giving us Cynthia. When I came here in 2015, my office was right next to hers. And I was stuck, like a lot of new legislators are when we first come here, 'cause we have no idea, really, what's happening. And I went to Cynthia, and I said, 'Hey, I have this issue that is very specific to my community. I don't know what to do.' And she said, 'Well, let me show you what to do.' So, she connected me to another former Representative that was here in the original Black Caucus, because there was no Latino Caucus, and she facilitated me meeting with him so that I could successfully pass the bill, of which we did. Cynthia was always willing to help another Member, regardless to where they come from or what their issue may be. She was always willing to do that. She was a professional, but her heart was extraordinarily large, for well beyond the 4th District. So much so that she came to Champaign-Urbana for me. She came downstate and helped me with an issue at... at the University of Illinois dealing with our Latino students. I do

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hope that her memory certainly will live forever for all of us who got an opportunity to serve with her, but the lesson that she taught some of us, to make sure that we are willing and able to help our colleagues when our colleagues need help. Even in the face of opposition, of lobbyists, and companies, and corps, she cares so much for the people. She'd never let that stop her from helping her colleagues. So, we want to join, and I ask Leader Hernandez if you would allow us all to join your resolution for her family. Her legacy certainly should live on, and we won't forget Cynthia. I was so devastated. I hurt my leg right before I learned of her passing. And I... it took a lot for me not to drive to Chicago. My husband couldn't transport me. I couldn't walk at all. And I told my staff to make sure they send condolences to the family of Cynthia 'cause I was so shocked by her passing. So, we loved her, we loved her downstate, and we will always remember Cynthia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Tarver: "Leader Lilly, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Lilly: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Lilly: "Thank you. I, too, want to say thank you to the family, Soto family. Cynthia always wanted all of us to be family because she understood the importance of how life in a community, in a world of love brings the best out in all. And every time she spoke on the mic, presenting her bill or recognizing what we need to do in Illinois, she showed love and compassion for all. And as mentioned, she was one of the first Members of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus. And

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every time she came to speak with me, she said, 'Well, since I'm not in the caucus anymore 'cause we have our own, you are going to come and be my,' no, no, yeah, she did say amiga, 'my amiga roommate.' And so, she would invite me over every time and say, 'You're my roommate.' I'm like, Cynthia, you are my roommate, and I was like, okay, well, when you do the release again, come back and I'm going to be your roommate. But what was so wonderful about that is she felt that I was worthy of living with her during our time making sure that Illinoisans have what they need. I truly thought that meant we were going to work all night long 'cause she was a worker bee. We were not going to get any sleep because she had ideal after ideal to make Illinois the best it can be in love. Thank you for sharing us with her. Thank you for being there for her during her difficult times. And I know, I know, she will love you and loved you through the entire journey. God bless you all, and we'll see her on the other side. Thank you."

Speaker Tarver: "The body shall observe a moment of silence. Thank you. Leader Ann Williams, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Williams, A.: "A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Williams, A.: "I really did not want to speak on this topic today because I like to stay positive even during difficult, ugly times, but I didn't feel like this should go unaddressed. So, I'd ask the body to please pay attention to my thoughts here. I didn't know Emma Shafer well, but we interacted here in the Capitol from time to time. She was truly a beautiful young woman who exuded a sweet and soft energy. I can still picture

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her open and warm smile. Not even an iota of cynicism. As her mother said in a statement she issued today, 'She radiated love and light everywhere she went.' She really did. I knew some of those in her friend group. I saw their grief and devastation in the wake of her brutal death. She was a treasure to her friends, her family, and the larger community of Springfield, where she put her energy and time into making the world a better place. She really believed in that. She loved everybody. She was kind to anybody. After she was killed, we did do a resolution to honor her. But her family specifically asked we not speak about it publicly, so, of course, we agreed to. Their pain was immeasurable, obviously, and it still is. Yet here we are, two years later, with the grief still raw, the pain still very real. And yesterday, Secretary Noem doubled down to exploit her memory to score cheap political points, and some of you joined her. If you haven't already read Emma's mother's statement, I'm asking you to please do so. It's extremely difficult to read. It's painful, but it's powerful. Can you imagine losing a child, a family member, a colleague in the way that Emma's family and friends did and then having the wound torn open in the way that it happened yesterday? Especially when you knew it went against everything this young woman stood for and how she lived her far too short life. It's hard to imagine. It's cruel. So, why were you there? Where's the empathy? Where's the understanding? Did anyone hesitate yesterday? Was there even a moment where someone thought this might hurt people who've been through such an unthinkable experience of losing a child in such a hurtful and brutal way? I'm not going to

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ask for an apology. The family already did that. They did that through their pain and through their grief on a day that must have been filled with anguish. Instead, I'm going to implore you to take a few minutes to look inward. Ask yourself, was it worth it? And is it worth it to cast aside your humanity, your empathy to score political points? To treat human beings as political fodder? To ignore pain and anguish and gloat about political wins? That can't feel good. I don't know how that can feel good or right. When we lose our ability to feel empathy, we are in a dangerous and scary place, a place none of us should want to be in there. There's some quote about that. I couldn't find it this morning. I'm not a religious person, but I grew up with a strong sense of right and wrong, and what happened yesterday was so very wrong. Emma's mother closed her statement asking us to live as Emma did, with courageous empathy and love for all. The best way to honor her memory is to do just that. Thank you for your attention."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Ammons, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ammons: "Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker. Thank you."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Ammons: "I want to first of all thank Representative Ann Williams for making the statement she just made on behalf of the family. I had the privilege of having Ann in my... I mean, Emma in my office. She served as one of my interns in district, and she helped all of the other interns. She was committed and passionate. I was so hurt when she, unfortunately, was killed. The point that Ann has made is extraordinarily

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important for us all to pay attention to. We should be very careful at this time for the desensitizing, the desensitizing political moment that we are in, watching the shackling of people similar to that unfortunate period of time in the trafficking of African people to the Americas. To shackle people and send them to a country they have never been in and to think that that's normal conduct. To take the death of this young woman and exploit it is not normal conduct. We must, must not be desensitized to what is happening in our communities, and we do have to speak out. I want to thank you, Representative Williams, on behalf of the family, on behalf of my interns in district and all of the students who are hurt by the passing of Emma. We will miss her, and we send our condolences to the family. And thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Representative Williams."

Speaker Tarver: "The body will observe a moment of silence. Thank you. Under the Order of Resolutions, we have House Resolution 221, offered by Representative Cassidy."

Cassidy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. Transgender Day of Visibility is held annually on March 31. I know it's May. While we did not get to hear this prior to the actual date, we want to make clear that Illinois will fight to protect and uplift our transgender siblings, friends, and neighbors in the face of unrelenting cruelty from our federal government. Let's be clear: Trans people have always been here, and Illinois is a better place for the contributions of the trans community. From Albert Cashier, who fought in Illinois' 95th Regiment in the Civil War battles of Atlanta, Vicksburg, and Natchez, to the many amazing public

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servants in offices in the Cook County Circuit Court, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the Carbondale City Council, McHenry Township, Avon Township, the Decatur School Board, the Crete Public Library Board, and even the Minneapolis City Council, where former Chicagoan Andrea Jenkins became the first Black trans woman elected to office in the U.S. Trans people also enrich the fabric of our community. With leaders in the arts, like filmmaker Lilly Wachowski; military and business leader Jennifer Pritzker; hall-of-fame triathlete, six-time member of Team USA, and 14th District constituent Chris Mosier; and my friend and constant inspiration, the late community organizer Elise Malary. At the same time, anti-trans elected officials and their followers are attempting to erase trans people entirely with a constant barrage of legislative and media attacks on access to health care, inclusion in our armed forces, and, frankly, basic human dignity, which is fueling an epidemic of violence that particularly impacts Black and Brown trans women. Most recently, the federal Department of Health and Human Services issued so-called guidance on medical treatment for trans people, stemming from the president's executive order, that dictates that a form of so-called conversion therapy be the standard of care for trans people, contrary to every major legitimate scientific organization and medical organization. Our state banned the abusive practice that has been condemned by every major legitimate medical profession 10 years ago. And I want to be really clear to anybody listening: It remains illegal under Illinois law. Illinois has always been a welcoming and inclusive state for our trans

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neighbors, and no amount of bluster and bullying is going to convince us to throw our trans community under this president's bus. While he and his ilk stoke hatred to score political points, we embrace and uplift the trans community and their many contributions to our state. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Tarver: "Leader Windhorst for further discussion."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We request a record vote on the resolution."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Cassidy moves for the adoption of House Resolution 221. All in... all in favor, excuse me, vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 71 'ayes,' 37 'nays,' 0 voting 'present.' And this resolution, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby adopted. Representative Hernandez, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Hernandez, N.: "Today, as we finish celebrating Latino Unity Day, a remarkable milestone of 15 years, originally founded in 2010 with only 60 active participants attending the conference. Today, we held our first big group of 700-plus Latino advocates, joining us to celebrate our quinceañera in the state as Latino Unity Day. We want to invite all of you to join us in celebrating an event that will be held at the Inn at 835 Boutique at 6 p.m. We would love to have all of

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you there and join us in the festivities as we celebrate a monumental milestone. So, thank you."

Speaker Tarver: "Representative Jiménez, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Jiménez: "Hello. Thank you, Speaker. I just wanted to introduce my page for the day.."

Speaker Tarver: "Point of personal privilege?"

Jiménez: "Oh, thank you. Point of personal privilege. I'd just like to introduce my page for the day, Victoria Gomez-Meza. She is also a... yes, clap. Okay. She is a student at DePaul studying political science, and she's also the recipient of the Truman Scholarship. Only one student per state is chosen every year, and so she will be going on to graduate school on a scholarship because of her... her Truman Scholarship. So, please join me in welcoming her."

Speaker Tarver: "Congratulations. Welcome to Springfield. Representative Huynh, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Huynh: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Tarver: "Please proceed."

Huynh: "I have students from my district, the North Side lakefront of the great City of Chicago from DePaul University School of Public Service. We have Aisha here, Hernandez; Moriah Meeks; Colin Williamson; Jada Marshall; and Eloise Lyons. If you could please stand up, up there, and if we could all give them a warm Springfield welcome as well. Thank you so much."

Speaker Tarver: "Welcome to Springfield. Chair recognizes Leader Keicher for the purpose of an announcement."

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Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Republicans would request a caucus at 1 o'clock in Room 118, please."

Speaker Tarver: "The Republicans will caucus at 1 o'clock in Room 118. Mr. Clerk, committee announcements. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 317, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin. House Resolution 318, offered by Representative Hoffman. House Resolution 319, offered by Representative Didech. House Resolution 320, offered by Representative Johnson. House Resolution 321, offered by Representative Hoffman."

Speaker Tarver: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All of those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. And now, allowing perfunctory time... and now, allowing perfunctory time for the clerk, Leader Gabel moves that the House stand adjourned until Friday, April... excuse me, Friday, May 9, at the hour of 9 a.m. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned."