

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

53rd Legislative Day

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Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Committee Reports. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted, referred to the floor is Floor Amendment(s) 2 to Senate Bill 1748 and Floor Amendment(s) 2 to Senate Bill 2418."

Speaker Hoffman: "The House will be in order. We shall... we shall be led in prayer today with Naisan Lohrasbi. Naisan is the Baha'i Center in Springfield, Illinois. Naisan is the guest of 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. Naisan."

Naisan Lohrasbi: "O thou kind Lord, thou hast created all humanity from the same stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In thy holy presence, they are all thy servants and all mankind are sheltered beneath thy tabernacle. All have gathered together at thy table of bounty. All are illumined through the light of thy providence. O God, thou are kind to all. Thou has provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the ocean of thy mercy. O thou kind Lord, unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony. O God, raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind. O God, establish the most great peace. Cement thou, O God, the hearts together. O thou kind Father, God, gladden our hearts through the fragrance of

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thy love. Brighten our eyes through the light of thy guidance. Delight our ears with the melody of thy word, and shelter us all in the stronghold of thy providence. Thou art the mighty and powerful, thou art forgiving, and thou art the one who will overlooketh the shortcomings of all mankind."

Speaker Hoffman: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Costa Howard."

Costa Howard - 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 Hoffman: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Evans is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle. Leader Evans."

Evans: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record show that Representative Scherer is excused today."

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

Keicher: "Good afternoon, dean. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Rosenthal and Davidsmeyer are excused for today."

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

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative DeLuca, Chairperson from the Committee on Cities & Villages reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025:

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recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2139, the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3725, Floor Amendment(s) 1 to Senate Bill 637, Floor Amendment(s) 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1989. Representative Costa Howard, Chairperson from the Committee on Human Services reports the following committee action on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur in Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1431 and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3718. Representative Yang Rohr, Chairperson from the Committee on Personnel & Pensions reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 1586. Representative Slaughter, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Criminal reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 24, Senate Bill 852; recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2690, the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3281, and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 3572. Representative Ness, Chairperson from the Committee on Adoption & Child Welfare reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 871. Representative Ammons, Chairperson from the Committee on Energy & Environment reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2419. Representative Manley, Chairperson from the

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Committee on Health Care Availability & Accessibility reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3637. Representative Stuart, Chairperson from the Committee on Higher Education reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1859, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3300, and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 3 and 4 to House Bill 3522. Representative Jiménez, Chairperson from the Committee on Housing reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3616. Representative Jones, Chairperson from the Committee on Insurance reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1864, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3248, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3800. Representative Gong-Gershowitz, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Civil reports the following committee action on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2562 and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2994. Representative Meyers-Martin, Chairperson from the Committee on Consumer Protection reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3677.

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Representative Scherer, Chairperson from the Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3500. Representative Croke, Chairperson from the Committee on Financial Institutions and Licensing reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 2319. Representative Didech, Chairperson from the Committee on Gaming reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2947. Representative Evans, Chairperson from the Committee on Labor & Commerce reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 2339; recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1362, the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 2488, and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3200. Representative Stava-Murray, Chairperson from the Committee on Public Health reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2346."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative McLaughlin, for what reason do you rise?"

McLaughlin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A... a point of personal privilege, and I promise to be brief."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

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McLaughlin: "Thank you, sir. Guys, once again, last night, Springfield is treating our taxpayers like fools. SB40, or the energy omnibus bill, I took a little look at. It's only a mere 800 pages. Buried in the bill is yet another billion-dollar giveaway. You heard me right, billion with a B. This time to foreign-tied battery storage companies charging 140% markup. This is to incentivize this company.."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative McLaughlin."

McLaughlin: "Yes, sir."

Speaker Hoffman: "You're not recognized for that purpose. We're doing points of personal privilege. If that bill comes up, you can debate it. Representative Friess."

Friess: "Point of... point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state you point."

Friess: "Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce Caleb Fitch here this afternoon. This... he is a... just graduated seventh grade from Coulterville, and he competed in the junior high track meet and got first place in the shot put. He threw 43 feet, 11 inches, and he crushed the competition. Threw two feet further than anybody else. And he plans on going into the trades when he gets out of high school. He's going to be an auto mechanic. Please give him a round of applause, and welcome to Springfield."

Speaker Hoffman: "Welcome to Springfield. Mr. Clerk, further Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Kelly, Chairperson from the Committee on Police & Fire reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s)

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1 and 2 House Bill 2977. Representative Mussman, Chairperson from the Committee on Education Policy reports the following committee action on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2390 and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 2 and 3 to House Bill 2986. Representative Blair-Sherlock, Chairperson from the Committee on State Government Administration reports the following committee action on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1062, House Resolution 336, and Floor Amendment(s) 2 to Senate Resolution 2493. Representative Ann Williams, Chairperson from the Committee on the Executive reports the following committee action on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 3 to House Bill 1364, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2667, the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 and 2 to House Bill 3050, House Resolution 89, House Resolution 370, Floor Amendment(s) 2 to Senate Bill 26, Floor Amendment(s) 4 to Senate Bill 634, and Floor Amendment(s) 1 to Senate Bill 2111. Representative Harper, Chairperson on the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 783; recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 2196 and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3760. Representative Morgan, Chairperson from the Committee on Health Care Licenses reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill

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711; recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1365, the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1806 and House Resolution 334. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 394, offered by Representative Haas; House Resolution 397, offered by Representative Jiménez; and House Resolution 398, offered by Representative Ford, are referred to the Rules Committee."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Schmidt."

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

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Schmidt: "Yes. Today, I have a special guest here to my right in red. He's an entrepreneur. Today, I have the honor of introducing a remarkable entrepreneur and community leader from the 114th District whose vision and determination have helped transform the digital landscape in Illinois and beyond. Back in 2003, Nathan Stooke saw a neighbor who had access to the internet at their residence but not for their business just... just two miles down the road. Nathan quickly realized how many others without access to this essential service and was determined to find a solution. With nothing more than a 1986 Honda Accord, a fold-up ladder, and several credit cards, he launched what would become Wisper Internet. Wisper Internet now serves over 21,000 subscribers across six states, including more than 7,400 right here in Illinois. Today, Wisper employs over 225 people, including 86 Illinois residents who live, work, and raise families in the very communities they serve. Wisper isn't just about connecting homes to high-speed internet. From delivering meals to

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seniors, supporting local animal shelters, and sponsoring youth programs, Wisper lives its core value: committed to serving one another. Please join me in welcoming a true Illinois innovator, the CEO and founder of Wisper Internet, Mr. Nathan Stooke. Thank you for coming today."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Coffey."

Coffey: "A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hoffman: "State your point."

Coffey: "I'd like to introduce my page for the day. Today, I have Conor McCaffrey here with me. He's born and raised here in Springfield, Illinois. Conor graduated from Lutheran High School right here in the 95th District. He'll be a sophomore at Illinois State University this fall, majoring in political science and plans to go to law school. He enjoys history and has always been a big fan of Abraham Lincoln and his impact on this country. Conor enjoys and participates in many sports. He will continue his love of cross country, track, and playing basketball at ISU's club teams this season. And Conor plans on working for his father, who's a physician right here in the 95th District. So, if we can give him a big round of applause."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Johnson on House Resolution 363. Please proceed."

Johnson: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's OK to not be OK. If you're actively involved in battling a mental health crisis, you will hear this a lot. I remember hearing this a lot a few years ago back in the Quad Cities. I sure remember seeing it on a lot of T-shirts in our area. These shirts are from a local nonprofit, Foster's Voice in East Moline. I knew

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some of their story, but sometimes, when the story is too heartbreaking, some of us will put ourselves a safe distance away. In May of 2021... in May of 2021, after 15 months of remote learning at home with probably the worst teacher you could possibly imagine, me, my daughter had several days of profound sadness. My wife and I didn't know what to do. We would be having a great conversation, then, out of the blue, Gabby would just start tearing up. As all the parents in this room know, when your baby hurts, you hurt, and you'd do anything you can to fix it. We... we found out later that this was common with kids coming out of the pandemic. We got her the support needed. We had insurance, by the way, a very important point to every story told surrounding mental health, and we got to a better place. It was at this time that I reached out to Kevin Atwood and his wife, Jaime, at Foster's Voice and made sure to attend their upcoming event. They were gracious enough to let us arrive an hour early, and we all sat down and talked. We talked about life. We talked about the issues facing our kids in this ever more complicated world... world. I confessed to them that I had purposely avoided learning more about their tragedy because I felt in some weird way that it might become contagious and impact my family. And, yes, we talked about our babies, Gabby and Foster. Foster Atwood was their son, and in July of 2017, he died by suicide. Just nine days later, Kevin and Jaime founded Foster's Voice. Their mission was to end suicide and the stigma around mental illness by improving conversations around mental health and creating awareness, action, and hope. Through Foster's Voice, they have provided mental health and suicide awareness

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curriculum, including education tools and recommended resources, intended to be utilized at our high school mental health clubs and middle schools to promote a safe environment to tackle these challenges. In 2018, the inaugural Foster's Voice Club opened at United Township in East Moline and has taken off like wildfire. It's now spread to every school throughout our district all the way to Galesburg, Illinois, thanks to the great work of James 'Sully' Sullivan. Each month, this wonderful organization touches the lives of hundreds of young people in our communities and, quite honestly, thousands if you count the lives they then impact. Like nearly every community in this country, it seems like we are failing to address these mental health needs. I'm beyond thankful for the work that organizations like Foster's Voice do. Jaime has this quiet strength about her. While we don't talk nearly as much as Kevin and I do, she is our champion. As for Kevin, I will tell you what you see is what... what you get. He will be the first to admit that he is forever broken. How could one not be? They lost their baby boy. He will share his story. Their pain, the pain and the grief, will immediately seem as fresh as it was in 2017. I know a little bit about that. People think that you feel better when telling your stories of trauma and loss. I think Kevin and Jaime would agree. You can't possibly feel better about reliving experiences; you do it just to feel something. It reopens the wound that allows you to feel connected to it, to never lose it, but the pain never leaves. The heart always hurts. But he leaves people feeling better about themselves and better prepared to have these tough conversations. It's their

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mission, their purpose, and they make a difference every day. That first trivia night, the way my Gabby was welcomed made all the difference. It let all of us know that sometimes it's OK not to be OK. If you would please give a warm Springfield welcome to Kevin and Jaime Atwood and James 'Sully' Sullivan from behind the gallery, behind the Speaker's well, I would really appreciate it. Thank you, everyone."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Schweizer, for what reason do you arise?"

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

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Schweizer: "Yes. I just want to wish a happy birthday to my amazing wife. Every day I get to spend with you is a gift. Your love, laughter, and strength, you know, I just cherish all of that. And I can't wait to see you again, and happy birthday, and I love you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Happy birthday. Representative Huynh on House Resolution 357. Please proceed."

Huynh: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present House Resolution 357 to congratulate Alan Mills, a constituent of mine Uptown and the executive director of the Uptown People Law Center, on his retirement. Alan has served the Uptown People Law Center for 45 years, beginning as a volunteer intern when he was a law student at Northwestern University School of Law in 1999. Go Wildcats. After graduating, he served as a volunteer attorney from 1981 to 1990, and then as a full-time staff attorney for two years, before becoming the legal director in 1992, and then being appointed executive director in... in 2014. During his time as executive director, the Uptown People Law

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Center has grown from a staff of four to 20, with a budget of over \$2 million a year. Under his leadership, Uptown People Law Center has become a nationally recognized organization in prisoners' rights, fighting tirelessly to end solitary confinement and protecting civil rights. Uptown People Law Center has also become a leader in tenants' rights, defending individuals and communities and supporting community resistance to gentrification and helping keep neighborhoods like Uptown and the North Side diverse and livable for thousands of people. Alan Mills has also served as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, where he has taught and trained many young, aspiring lawyers, some of whom have served in this chamber. On behalf of the General Assembly, we congratulate Alan Mills on his retirement, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors. And we have other folks, other Representatives here as well who would like to also provide some words as well. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "On the resolution, Leader Buckner."

Buckner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join Representative Huynh in congratulating Alan Mills on a fantastic career as a true champion for justice in the state of Illinois, as someone who has worked for the least among... among us. I got to know him as a young law student at DePaul University, where he was one of my professors, and his passion and commitment to the people of Illinois and being a fighter for human rights is something that will precede him and that will be a part of his legacy forever. So, Professor Mills, thank you for all you've done, and good luck on the road ahead."

Speaker Hoffman: "On the resolution, Representative Olickal."

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Olickal: "I also wanted to echo the sentiments shared about Alan Mills, and I want to thank you for your years of service. And it's truly inspiring, as someone who's also trying to get their own legal career started, to see all the incredible work that you've been able to do, especially in... early in my career working in the prison reform space, the solitary confinement... trying to regulate the use of solitary confinement. Really grateful for your expertise in that subject matter and your advocacy, and look forward to continuing to lean on you for your advice and support on that front. So, thank you again, and congratulations."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Jiménez."

Jiménez: "Hi. Thank you for bringing this, and I want to also congratulate Alan Mills. I was lucky enough to be on a panel when I was in law school. And I was so excited to be on a panel with you, Alan, and... and look up to... have looked up to you ever since. So, thank you so much for your work. Very proud to... to have learned from you and to continue on your footsteps. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Cassidy."

Cassidy: "Thank you. I want to join with my colleagues in recognizing Alan Mills and the importance of the work he does and the people who have no voice that he has been the voice for for so long. When I was chair of Public Safety Approps, I feel like we basically lived together for a better part of the year, and I've always just been so in awe of your dedication to your mission. And I'm so proud to have been able to be a partner with you and to continue to be a partner with the Uptown People's Law Center. And I'm glad to know

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that you're just stepping back and not stepping out 'cause I don't think we're done yet. So, thank you for all you have done."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe."

LaPointe: "I also want to echo the accolades of several of my colleagues that we have just heard from. And, in particular, just want to connect the dots to the work that we do here in the General Assembly and the policy that we do make or the policy that we debate and we try to make. The work that you have done, Alan Mills, over so many years has been on behalf of people that are bearing the brunt of our policy decisions, many of which have been poor policy decisions. And so much of your work has been connected to consent decrees that we are enduring at the Illinois Department of Corrections. So, I just want to highlight how your work is so connected to what humans endure in Illinois, what people who are incarcerated in DOC have endured, and that includes people that work at DOC and making for more humane conditions for our DOC professionals and correctional officers. You have been a guiding light for the decisions that we make here, even though we don't always follow your guiding light collectively. So, thank you for all the incredible work you have done over the years. And I know you will continue to do some work, but also, hopefully, some relaxing. Thank you so much, Alan Mills."

Speaker Hoffman: "House Resolution 357 had already been adopted. Moving on, Representative Hauter, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hauter: "A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

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Hauter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my district office in Morton, Morton, which is the pumpkin capital of the world, you might know, is my staff, my team. If they could stand. My chief of staff, Anne Dawdy, and my legislative aide, Alia Grimm and Ivy Stuber. I... they came down to help me with the budget, so if I could have that so I could go through that, I'd appreciate it if you could advance that to me. I am proud to have them and proud to have them down. If you could welcome them to Springfield. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Lilly on House Resolution 378. Please proceed."

Lilly: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen. I rise to present House Resolution 378. It is in... it is in recognition of the accomplishments of Mr. Bill Riley, and I shall read it.

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives wish to congratulate Bill Riley on his induction into the Illinois Basketball College Association Hall of Fame;

WHEREAS, Coach Riley was born on February 7, 1962 and raised in Westchester, Illinois; he was graduate of Proviso West High School in 1980 and earned a degree from Northern Illinois here in the state of Illinois;

WHEREAS, Coach Riley began his lifelong dedication to mentoring young people through his work as a coach and as a teacher; over the course of his career, he has... he has known and has been known as... for the good work that he's been done... he's been doing on behalf of education and on behalf of athletics, on and off the court;

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WHEREAS, Coach Riley is known for his skills, character, and dedication to a player and to his players;

WHEREAS, Coach Riley has served his school and his community in a variety of roles and has been especially admired for his ability to connect with students and inspire excellence both athletically and academically; Coach Riley was a part of the 26 regional championship, nine sectional championship, five state finals, and two state championships, one in 1999 and one in 2015; Coach Riley has received many honors during his lifetime, including coach of the year; Coach Riley is beloved by many and known for his humility, sense of humor, and faith; he has positively impacted generations of young people and has touched many lives through his dedication, again, to teaching, coaching, and public service; Coach Riley is the son of the late Patricia and Edmund Riley, the brother of Jerry and the late Michael, and a cherished friend, mentor, coach, and community leaders to countless others; this resolution...

WHEREAS, RESOLVED, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HUNDRED AND FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, is to congratulate Coach Bill Riley on being inducted into the Illinois Basketball College Association Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Riley as a token of our respect and esteem. Mr. Coach Riley was with us on yesterday in the chambers celebrating the work that we do. He had the opportunity to take pictures here on the floor, but he wanted to say thank you to each and every one of us for acknowledging his accomplishment and he wanted to thank all of the families and all the youth that

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he's able to touch and be a part of their lives. Thank you for this time, and let's give Coach Riley a round of applause."

Speaker Hoffman: "Moving to supplemental one of the.. of the calendar appears House Bill 111 on the Order of Second Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 111, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. This bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 111, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Buckner on House Bill 111."

Buckner: "Thank you... thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 111 is an appropriations bill that is intended to be a shell and a part of the FY26 budget package. I urge a 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst"

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "He indicates he'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Leader, just so everyone on our side is paying attention, this is a shell bill that, if passed, will go to the Senate, and you expect the FY2026 budget to be amended onto this bill and come back to us sometime before Sunday."

Buckner: "This... leader, this is a shell bill that, if passed, will go to the Senate as a part of the.. the budget package. Could be the BIMP, could be revenue, but it will be a part of the package, yes."

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Windhorst: "This... we anticipate it being part of the budget package."

Buckner: "Yes, sir."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking further recognition, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 111 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's 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 76 voting 'yes,' 38 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 2 on the calendar, on the Order of House Bills-Third Reading appears House Bill 1582, Representative Croke. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 1582, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Crook."

Croke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1582 is an initiative of the Attorney General's Office. The bill seeks to make some technical changes to the 1998 tobacco manufacturers' Master Settlement Agreement. So, recently, the courts have been finding states out of compliance with the settlement's strict and diligent enforcement requirements. This actually resulted in Washington state losing nearly half of its allocation. These changes are necessary so that Illinois does not lose its 215 to 300 million dollars that it receives annually from the settlement. Specifically, the bill authorizes the AG's Office to instruct IDOR to revoke licenses of distributors that fail to comply with the AG's Office request for quarterly

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sales reports. It also allows tobacco manufacturers to voluntarily transfer escrow accounts... escrow account funds to the state and enable the AG to assume control of escrow accounts belonging to defunct tobacco companies. I know of no opposition to the bill. The Illinois Retail Merchants Association is neutral, and I'm happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Ugaste."

Ugaste: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Ugaste: "Good afternoon, Representative. The... the bill provides for the attorney general to notify the Department of Revenue to remove someone's license if they're not in compliance. Is that correct?"

Croke: "Yes."

Ugaste: "So, as we've discussed in committee, this is sort of a zero-to-60 approach in a very short period of time, is that right, with only one notice having to be given?"

Croke: "If you don't mind, leader, I'm just going to read kind of the... the process for it because I... I know that that's the feeling. But the bill would give uncompliant distributors multiple notices through the tobacco enforcement office's monthly and quarterly communications, first off. So, it then gives them 10 days to cure once the warning letters of license removal are sent and 20 days to appeal the license removal. So, yes, they would receive that letter. They have 10 days to cure it. They have 20 days to appeal after that. And the reason being, and we talked about this in committee, is that office within the AG's Office is very small. They have a total

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of three attorneys, four paralegals, and one administrative staff, and there are 543 tobacco product distributors. So, they just do not have the capacity to do multiple letters, multiple warnings. And... and we're talking about a small office that is responsible for collecting, you know, 215 to 300 million dollars per year. So, it is a matter of, like, what is... is state government able to do in this case."

Ugaste: "OK. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Ugaste: "I understand the concept. I want these tobacco companies to pay per their agreement and fund the escrow they've agreed to. But, again, we're taking the zero-to-60 approach. We could impose a penalty or a fine if they don't pay timely first. We could do something that doesn't make us appear, once again, to not want business in the state of Illinois and say that if you don't follow our rules, not only are we going to penalize you for it, we're going to shut you down. You can't even do business here. And you have the right to appeal, but that's going to take some time. I don't think this is the right way to go about this. I think we need to do a slower approach to make sure we enforce that they're paying something. We could connect... collect a... a significant fee or a fine on top of this if they aren't meeting their obligations. So, I would urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Croke to close."

Croke: "Thank you. I... I would push back and say that if this were to be too onerous on the distributors that IRMA would have made that concern known to me, as being someone who obviously cares about their concerns. And we are talking about a large

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sum of money that has already been stripped from other states. This is not something we're talking about in the hypothetical. States have lost more than half of their allocation because they were not following the MSA strictly and diligently. So, we must enforce this strictly and diligently. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1582 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay.' 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's 78 voting 'yes,' 36 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Mah, for what reason do you arise?"

Mah: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rising on... for the purposes of announcement. The Democrats would request a caucus meeting starting in 10 minutes in Room 114."

Speaker Hoffman: "The Democrats will caucus in Room 114 at 1 o'clock sharp, 114 at 1 o'clock sharp. Leader Keicher."

Keicher: "Thank you, Speaker. The Republicans would also request a caucus in Room 118 at one minute after 1 p.m."

Speaker Hoffman: "The Republicans will caucus in Room 118 one minute after we recess. The House will stand at recess... call of the Chair."

Speaker Hoffman: "Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Report. Representative Slaughter, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary... Judiciary - Criminal reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to Senate Bill 1773."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Keicher."

Keicher: "Thank you, Speaker. The Republicans would request that you excuse Representatives Sheehan and McLaughlin for the reminder of the day."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Morgan."

Morgan: "Thank you, Speaker. Please excuse Marcus Evans for the rest of the day, please."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Chung, for what reason you arise?"

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

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Chung: "I just wanted to introduce the body to a friend and constituent who's up in the... in the gallery. It's my friend Sarah Breeden, who's here with Compassion & Choices. And they've been lobbying really hard for medical aid in dying, and I just wanted to introduce her and everybody to the chamber. So, thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Moving to page 23 of the calendar, under the Order of Resolutions appears House Resolution 391, Representative Grasse."

Grasse: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 391 to strongly condemn the actions coming out of Trump's Washington, where they are celebrating a plan to gut \$1 trillion for Medicaid and other critical lifesaving services that children, working families, seniors, and people with disabilities in Illinois rely upon. As a hospice chaplain for over 30 years in Illinois, I've dedicated my life to supporting our most vulnerable people, sitting at their bedsides, supporting them through deep moments of fear and

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hardship and difficult illness. I know what it means when health care is available to our people, and I know what it means when it's taken away. And I am heartbroken and, frankly, sickened at the thought of abandoning millions of our newborns, our children, our working parents living paycheck to paycheck, and our seniors who just want to live out the lives they've built with dignity. The safety nets to protect our neighbors that generations before us fought to put into place are being dismantled before our very eyes. And so, today, I call on the United States Senate to denounce the Trump health care cuts bill. Many will remember Trump promised the American people that Medicaid would not be touched, but here we are, watching \$880 billion in slashes to Medicaid to make room for \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks for the wealthiest few, what amounts to a Trump family and friends fund. And this isn't just a talking point. These are real numbers with real consequences that affect real human beings in Illinois. Under this plan, a family of four earning \$32,000 a year would struggle to afford even the most basic health care. Congress itself admits this will result in 8.6 million people losing health care coverage. Again, 8.6 million people losing health care coverage. Three major credit agencies have already downgraded our economy. Rural hospitals will close. Again, rural hospitals will close. Seniors will lose access to care, and premiums for everyone else who are still insured will skyrocket. And this isn't abstract to me. I've seen firsthand what happens when health care is there, and I've seen the unnecessary death and devastation to families when it's not there. This matters deeply to me, and it should matter to all

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of us as Members here. If we can't talk about what this means for the real people in Illinois, we are not doing our jobs. I strongly oppose the U.S. House's compliance with this attack on our low-income families, our seniors, and our people with disabilities, and I urge the U.S. Senate to vehemently reject this bill. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this resolution, Leader Wilhour."

Wilhour: "Oh, thank you. First of all, I want to move to Extended Debate, please, and thank you for the promotion."

Speaker Hoffman: "It is extended."

Wilhour: "OK. I'll just... I'm going to go to the bill since we don't have time to actually ask questions. I was going to ask if the sponsor was aware that Joe Biden, or whoever was running his autopen, massively expanded Medicaid under his... under his... under the guise of COVID. I was going to ask shouldn't you at least have to be able to work to get Medicaid. And I was going to ask if people in this country illegally should get Medicaid. But really what I want to do is get a few things straight. Medicaid is for the vulnerable. It's not for freeloaders. It's not for lawbreakers. If you're able-bodied, with no kids, and you want taxpayer help, here's a little bit of advice. Get a job, get out of mommy's basement, all right? Volunteer, train, do something. Work requirements aren't punishment. It's called being an adult, being a productive member of society. Work requirements don't hurt the sick and elderly, they just stop people from gaming the system that's been done too long. That's not cruel. It's common sense. We can't make America great again when we have able-bodied Americans that are completely out of the works..."

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workforce and on the government dole. Now, perhaps, if these folks were compelled to work, these corporations wouldn't be hiring illegal aliens, who are driving down wages and eliminating the opportunity for American citizens, Illinois citizens, the people that we're supposed to be looking at... out after. And now, while we're cleaning up Medicaid, let's be crystal clear about this too: Illegal immigrants shouldn't be getting free health care, not while American veterans are sleeping under the bridge and on the street. Every dollar that we hand out to someone who broke our laws is a dollar that we steal from our own citizens. Now, Democrats want to turn Medicaid into this global free-for-all. We're here, Republicans, President Trump and the Republicans, we're here to protect it. We're here to protect it for Americans who actually earned it, who need it, and who follow the rules and are here legally. That's not extreme. It's called putting America first. That's what President Trump's trying to do. That's what he was elected to do. So, you know, we can make the emotional arguments, but at the end of the day, spare me the tears. The days of putting American citizens last are over."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hauter."

Hauter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I first ask for a recorded vote on this?"

Speaker Hoffman: "We shall have a recorded vote."

Hauter: "Thank you. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Hauter: "Representative, I don't want to see vulnerable population lose their Medicaid. And I... I know how important this is to

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providers, to nursing homes, to many poor people in this state. I just believe we have to be really wise about this, and there are policies that Illinois has that we can... we can affect. We can't do a lot with what's happening in the federal government, but... but let's be wise together on this. My first question is, you know how many states that don't have a work requirement for Medicaid?"

Grasse: "Are... are you asking me? That's not relevant to this resolution."

Hauter: "Yeah, I'm asking you. Do..."

Grasse: "I'm sure you can find the answer elsewhere."

Hauter: "Yeah. I... there's two states, Illinois and Maine, that have no work requirement. I think, you know, when we're looking at Medicaid, it's a partnership. And we have a partnership with the federal government. And they provide the bulk of the funds, and... and Illinois contributes a lot too. But... but when we... when we are in a partnership with the federal government, we have to play by their rules, and they have... they set the standards. And one of the standards that they're... they're asking us to set is a work requirement, and it's not... it's not an extreme or radical idea. We're one of only two states that doesn't have a work requirement. So, I think that we should consider that. The other thing that we should consider is the... the penalty that we will have if we continue to provide funding for undocumented immigrants. So, Illinois is one of only a few states that were... provides coverage to undocumented immigrants. And do you know the amount of money that we could lose if we continue to provide that program?"

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Grasse: "I've... I've heard the numbers. I also care for people without a pay source. And I also know that our hospitals, there was a 15% reduction in debt with the health care service we had. But I just want to speak to your comment before. The resolution is speaking to the federal response to Medicaid and how it affects this."

Hauter: "Can I... can I go to the bill?"

Grasse: "Please."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the resolution."

Hauter: "Illinois has to be smart about this. We can... we have our own policies that we can reform. We can stop paying for undocumented immigrants. We can reform our trigger law, which will stop the expansion program, and we can also set a work requirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this resolution, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "To the resolution."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the resolution."

Windhorst: "The records show that of the cuts that are being discussed, 4.8 million involve able-bodied adults on Medicaid and will be required to prove they're looking for work, working, or volunteering in order to keep receiving Medicaid. If not, they will lose Medicaid. One point six million are being cut off, quote, 'because they were duplicatively enrolled in Medicaid in two different states.' One point two million are being, quote, 'cut off because they didn't qualify for Medicaid in the first place.' One point four million are being, quote-unquote, 'cut off because they're in the country illegally.' Those are the records. I would also like to point out some language in the resolution which I find quite

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entertaining coming from the majority party. The majority party is complaining that 'Congressional Republicans slammed a bill through the House of Representatives in the middle of the night.' Are you serious right now? We passed our budget last year, I think we all remember, at 4:30 in the morning. That's line one. Let's go line two. 'President Donald Trump brazenly lied to the American people, stating he would not cut Medicaid while actually lobbying behind closed doors to pass the bill.' Behind closed doors? Where's this budget being negotiated right now? Behind closed doors. President Trump brazenly lied? Where was the governor at when it comes to legislative maps and his promise? Did maybe he not tell the truth? Listen, let's get serious about the business of state of Illinois and not be passing these partisan, crazy resolutions that demonstrate, unfortunately, the hypocrisy of the majority party. I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this resolution, Representative LaPointe."

LaPointe: "I am so glad this is a recorded vote. Make it a recorded vote. As many of us know, Medicaid is the biggest funder of behavioral health care in the state of Illinois. That is mental health, addiction, and recovery. Medicaid is the biggest funder of long-term care in the state of Illinois. Medicaid is the biggest funder of AIDS care in the state of Illinois. And I'm so glad to talk about work requirements. But let's talk about it with real data and with people who have spent time on the ground with people struggling with mental health and addiction that, until we expanded Medicaid to cover them, did not have access to any type of health care. Fifty-eight percent of people who are of working age who are

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on Medicaid are actually working already. But let's talk about the folks who aren't who now have access to Medicaid, who did not before we expanded it. These are the folks that I walked alongside when I worked in homeless outreach and as a social worker on the Far Northwest Side of Chicago. These are folks who, previous to expanding Medicaid, their only pathway to health care was the very long and arduous pathway of Social Security Disability. And it takes two to three years to even get that. You need to get a lawyer. Do people living on the street under a bridge, struggling with addiction, can they just get a lawyer? It's not easy. Those are the folks that, if we hadn't expanded Medicaid, that some of you in this room are demanding need work requirements. And I'm not saying that those folks can never work. They can. But you've got to be stabilized and have an access to health care and treatment, and it's really hard to get treatment if you have no payer source, if you don't have Medicaid. So, there's a reason why work requirements are very, very troubling for people that have some of the most severe health and behavioral health care issues. So, let it be a recorded vote. Let it be a recorded vote that the majority of people in this room right now who have the ability to vote can't wait to vote 'yes' for this resolution. And we are dismayed about the big beautiful bill that came through last week, but I do want to remind everyone and everyone in this country that that bill passed by one vote. So, for the people in Illinois that feel..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative. Representative, please..."

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LaPointe: "...like they're not cared about, it was just one vote. It was one vote. So, raising our voices and paying attention to what happens in Washington does matter. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you. Members, we are on Extended Debate. We're adhering to a strict three-minute time limit. I appreciate everyone's indulgence. Representative Blair-Sherlock."

Blair-Sherlock: "Thank you. Discrimination in employment is an epidemic with respect to people with disabilities. When I was raising my children, I was encouraged to apply for Social Security Disability and get them on various programs. And I said, why would I do that? My children are intelligent. My children can work. My daughter graduated summa cum laude from NIU as a teacher and could not get a job in the area that we live in. God bless Dixon, Illinois for hiring my daughter. But despite her graduating summa cum laude, she was not getting job offers. She's an amazing teacher. Now, my son, who graduated cum laude from UIC and is in grad school, cannot get full-time employment. So, he cannot, now at the age 27, get health insurance. And he doesn't make enough money to pay for health insurance on the open market. But these are the people that you are going to cut off. They want to work. But when you cut off that expansion, this is who you're cutting off. People with disabilities who don't want to be on the welfare rolls, they want to work, but they don't have the opportunity to get full-time employment 'cause we all know employers will hire you part time so they don't have to provide you with benefits. So, shame on you. We need to support people and lift them up and encourage them to succeed

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in life and not push them onto full-welfare rolls or discriminate against them in employment or deny them benefits by forcing them to work part time, as we also see with adjunct professors. So, this is not people who don't want to. This is people who society is not allowing to. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this resolution, Leader Avelar."

Avelar: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, let's be clear: The work requirements for Medicaid are not about promoting jobs. They are about cutting people off from health care. This policy is enrooted... in fact, the majority of Medicaid recipients, as we heard before, can... that can work already do. Those who don't are often caregivers, and we need to make sure that we are uplifting that. Most of those who cannot work are caregivers, people with disabilities, or those facing real barriers to employment. Instead of offering support, work requirements throw bureaucratic red tape in their path, creating a maze of paperwork that leads not to opportunity but to denial of care. And who pays the price? Who pays the price? Low-income families, older adults, and our rural and working-class neighbors. People lose coverage because... not because they are unwilling to work but because they missed a deadline, because they couldn't navigate a glitchy system, or simply they could not meet arbitrary rules. So, let's call it what it is, a political maneuver to shrink Medicaid rolls by punishing the poor. It undermines the core value that health care is a human right not a reward for those who can't jump through the hoops. We cannot allow this kind of cruelty to masquerade as reform, and not on our watch. So,

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thank you so much, Representative Grasse, for bringing this resolution."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Grasse to close. Representative Grasse."

Grasse: "Thank you. I bring to this place the many faces and names and stories of the people I have journeyed with who were able to die with dignity because of Medicaid, who were able to receive the care they needed because of Medicaid. But I also remember the days of the people who died when it was not available, and they died needlessly. So, I thank you for all those who have spoken in support, and I believe that we must, in our decision making, always remember and hold on to those people with the least and not leave them behind. And I ask for your 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Grasse moves to... the adoption of House Resolution 391. All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'no.' The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this resolution, there are 76 voting 'yes,' 33 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And the resolution is adopted. Leader Morgan, for what reason do you arise?"

Morgan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can we please excuse Representative Ammons for the rest of the day?"

Speaker Hoffman: "On page 11 of the calendar, under the Order of Resolutions, appears House Joint Resolution 40, Representative Chung. Representative Chung."

Chung: "Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present House Joint Resolution 40, which is a measure to find new

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legislative approaches to make life more affordable for Illinoisans by cutting the cost of everyday essentials and vital services. House Joint Resolution 40 will accomplish this by establishing the Saving Working Families and Easing the Cost of Living Task Force. Growing costs of essential expenses, such as prescription drugs, housing, utilities, and groceries, which are likely to be brought on by President Trump's escalating trade war, will make life much more challenging for millions of people in our state. Numerous major retailers, including Target, Walmart, McDonald's, and Amazon, have already warned that the outcome of the chaotic tariff policies will lead to frequent closures, limited hiring, empty shelves, and price hikes nationwide. As lawmakers, we have a responsibility to take a comprehensive look at a range of potential solutions from both sides of the aisle. So, this resolution includes a number of possible approaches, many of which have support from Democrats and Republicans. These include Leader McCombie's back-to-school shopping cost relief. And Illinoisans elected us to address the serious problems our committee... our communities are likely to face, and this task force will lay the foundation for Illinois' response to the upcoming rise in costs. Neglecting to look at next steps will leave people vulnerable to difficult times, and I hope no one here is willing to do that. I'm confident that the combined efforts of lawmakers from both the majority and minority parties in both chambers of this Legislature will bring forward fiscally responsible and compassionate solutions that the people of Illinois need to ease this burden as they navigate new difficulties in

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coming months and years. I ask for your 'aye' vote today.
Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this resolution, Representative Deering."

Deering: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request an Extended Debate."

Speaker Hoffman: "We... we are going with five... Extended Debate
will be granted. Five speakers on each side of the aisle and
three minutes apiece. Proceed."

Deering: "Thank you. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Deering: "Representative Chung, I see this legislation states
that the task force shall, quote, 'be charged with assessing
the feasibility of implementing policies focused on reducing
the cost of living and enhancing the economic well-being of
middle-class and modest-income families' and lists various
policies. The first policy listed is elimination of state
taxes on tipped wages. So, do you believe that no tax on tips
is going to help middle class families keep more of their
hard-earned money?"

Chung: "Although President Trump included no tax on tips in his
budget bill, it will not benefit, actually, waiters, servers,
or bartenders, only those who itemize their taxes. No tax on
tips is a good idea, but it's not being executed very well in
Washington. And the task force intends to take good ideas and
turn them into practical policies that will help working
families across the state."

Deering: "So, you're going to take that federal idea and implement
it here in Illinois?"

Chung: "I mean, it's a possibility. I mean, again, it's a task
force where we're going to be able to look at it..."

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Deering: "OK. The next policy..."

Chung: "OK."

Deering: "...listed is an elimination of state taxes on tipped... excuse me. The next policy is no taxes on overtime pay. Do you believe that will help middle-class families?"

Chung: "I will give the same answer that I just said. Again, it's... we believe that maybe it's a good... it's a good policy."

Deering: "It's a great policy."

Chung: "It's probably not being executed well in Washington."

Deering: "OK. I'll... I'll reclaim my time here."

Chung: "So, then, again, this is something that we can look at as a task force."

Deering: "As is common knowledge here in Illinois, we have pending increases of up to 20% on our consumer utility bills this summer. Do you think controlling consumer utility prices will enhance the economic well-being of modest-income families?"

Chung: "Can you repeat that question again? I'm sorry."

Deering: "Do you think controlling consumer utility prices will enhance the economic well-being of modest-income families?"

Chung: "I think what's really clear is that, you know, the... there's been lots of news out there saying that the... the prices were... are going to spike this summer. Again, these are things we're just looking at. All the possibilities are on the table of what we can do to reduce costs for families."

Deering: "OK. U.S. prescription costs are on average three times higher than prices paid by other countries around the world. Earlier this month, the Trump administration issued an EO to encourage drug manufacturers to offer, quote, 'most-favored-nation pricing.' Would you agree that this order will help

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make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible to Illinoisans?"

Chung: "Been... President Biden before actually did have a cap set and things like that on prescription drugs. So, again, those are great ideas that have been, you know, who knows what's going to be happening with Washington as we've seen that some of the... the follow-through or the execution might have left... much left to be desired."

Deering: "Thank you for supporting the administration's policies. To the bill. While I'm not in support of spending precious time and resources on a task force, I'd suggest that any Member who does vote in 'favor' of this resolution ought not to vote for any budget that includes a tax increase. Bad Illinois policy has been costing families more for decades. To blame this on the Trump administration is disingenuous. I'd be glad to see the state of Illinois implement policies suggested by President Trump, many of which led to his landslide victory by the American people desperate for common sense. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this resolution, Representative Moore."

Moore: "To the resolution. Ladies and gentlemen, I respectfully rise in opposition to House Joint Resolution 40 that establishes a task force to assess the feasibility of reducing the cost of living for middle-class and moderate-income families. My opposition to this is simple. We shouldn't need a 10-person task force to tell us that reducing the cost of living is a good thing for working families. Furthermore, this resolution states that the work of this task force doesn't end with action but with a report, a report that will

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not be due on our desk until December of 2026. Working families cannot wait until December of 2026 for economic relief. But the good news, this resolution highlights policies that can put more money into working families' pocket... pockets if we simply just act. Take, for example, policy number one, the elimination of state taxes on tipped wages. Representative Sanalitra offered HB1898. Do you know what committee that sits in? Rules. The second suggestion, to eliminate state taxes on overtime pay. Representative Davidsmeyer introduced HB2734 that does just that. Do you know what committee it sits in? Rules. Suggestion number five, to expand career and technical education to prepare young people for high-wage jobs. Representative Schmidt offered HB3807, the ITRADE Grant Program, to help students gain a degree or certification in the fields related to trade. That bill currently sits in Rules. Suggestion number seven, to expand tax credits that benefit middle and modest-income families. Representative Spain has offered HB3821 to double the income tax credit for education expenses. Do you know what committee that bill currently sits in? Rules. Suggestion number nine, implementing policies and investments that will increase the supply of housing and reduce the cost to build new. Representative Elik introduced HB3412, the Preserving Neighborhoods Act, which also sits, not surprisingly, in Rules. Finally, recommendation number 12, to support community-based small businesses. Earlier this year, I introduced HB1351, the Reducing Barriers to Start Act. Do you know what committee that currently sits in? Rules. Yesterday has shown me that when this body deems something a priority,

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it can introduce legislation, give it one hour for consideration, give us six minutes to debate, and then vote on that legislation. Ladies and gentlemen, I can think of no higher priority than providing economic relief for the working families of Illinois. I urge my colleagues to say no to another task force and to demand that each piece of legislation that I mentioned before gets an up-and-down vote on the floor because our families in... in Illinois work too hard to wait until December of 2026 for economic relief. We must act now. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Halbbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I wish to request a recorded roll call vote, please."

Speaker Hoffman: "Your request will be granted."

Halbrook: "Thank you. To the resolution."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the resolution."

Halbrook: "Here we go again, yet another task force that just makes the sponsor and the cosponsors all feel better, like they're really getting something done. The irony is thick. This task force is supposedly about supporting working families and studying economic growth, but the very ideas it wants to explore are being pushed by Donald Trump right this very moment, not the Democrats behind this resolution. Let's take a moment and look at the facts. Trump is calling to eliminate taxes on tips, a real, direct benefit to the waiters, bartenders, and service workers. He's pushing to expand and make permanent the middle-class tax cuts from his first term. He supports incentivizing overtime and blue-collar work through tax relief, rewarding hard work instead

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of punishing it. So, we're creating a task force to promote ideas that President Trump is already advancing while in the same breath trying to discredit his leadership. If Democrats were serious about working families, they'd support these policies outright, not bury them in political posturing and partisan resolutions. The truth is Trump's economic message is resonating because it's rooted in reality. It's about putting paychecks over programs, opportunity over handouts, and America first, and Illinois could benefit if we would get out of our own way. The Democrats have destroyed the working class and middle class in Illinois. Their policies have driven out jobs, businesses, and opportunities and replaced them with government dependency and higher taxes. Every part of the economy they touch, from energy to agriculture to small business, gets worse, not better. The state used to be a powerhouse. Now, it's a cautionary tale of... it's a cautionary tale of what happens when you put ideology above common sense. We're overtaxed, overregulated, and underrepresented by leaders who refuse to admit that their model is broken. Instead of making Illinois competitive, they chase out employers, and then they ask the rest of us to pay the bill. While Democrats here in Springfield double down on failure, Donald Trump is fighting to rebuild the American economy. He's focused on reindustrializing America, bringing good-paying manufacturing jobs back home and restoring economic strength. Meanwhile, this resolution proves that Democrats are still bitter about Kamala Harris and the liberal agenda getting rejected at the ballot box. Voters sent a message in November: The era of failed progressive economics is over. We

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could be benefiting from a national momentum, but, instead, Democrats here in Illinois block it at every turn because they'd rather score political points than help real people. We need to stop wasting time on resolutions like this and start working on actual reforms that help the people of this great state. The choice is simple: more decline under progressive leadership or revival under conservative pro-America policies. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I urge a strong 'no' vote on this resolution. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ugaste."

Ugaste: "Thank you. To the resolution. I see we're about to start with another task force. My first year, put together a task force. I think there were a hundred of us or so on it, maybe a few more. The Senate had... had a piece of it, Property Tax Relief Task Force. Seven years later, we still don't have property tax relief. Why are we wasting our time? Why are we just trying to fool the voters of Illinois? If we want to cut taxes, we know how to. You don't want to use our bills? You want to file your own bills? Happy to do it. Let's have a real discussion instead of sitting here going back and forth. Honestly, this is how we're going to go back and tell the people of the state of Illinois we came here to advance your best interests? This is a disservice to our constituents. All of you know what we need. We know what we need. We may not agree exactly on how to get there, but let's sit down and talk about real bills with real substance that are going to help all the people of Illinois. We have entire swaths of Illinois that have opportunity deserts. That's grocery deserts, pharmacy deserts, lack of proper education, and

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everything else. But instead, we're going to create a task force because we don't like the current president of the United States. Don't we have something better to do with our time? Another... another provision looking at how we can subsidize another grocery store in Illinois? This is Illinois. We shouldn't have to subsidize grocery stores. They should be knocking at our doors figuring out how to try and get in and be in every neighborhood because there are good-paying jobs with opportunity that have health care benefits provided to their workers so we don't also have to argue about Medicaid. Can we please stop wasting our time and discuss actual, helpful bills and resolutions to problems? Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Chung to close."

Chung: "I think it's very clear that we here, on this side of the aisle, we are committed to coming together, bringing people's ideas together to figure out what we can do to best serve the people in our state. I have Representative Morris, who is my seatmate. She represents parts of Chicago. I represent parts of Central Illinois, and yet we both sit here every day and talk about how we feel a lot of the same pressures and rising costs and things like this. And that... it's what makes us relatable to our constituencies, and... and that's what we're going to... that's why we're here, and we're here to fight for that. So, I ask for your 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Chung moves for the adoption of House... House Joint Resolution 40. All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who

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wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this resolution, there are 75 voting 'yes,' 33 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And the resolution is adopted. Mr. Clerk, Rules Report."

Clerk Hollman: "Rules Report. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on May 29, 2025: recommends be adopted, referred to the floor is Floor Amendment(s) 2 to Senate Bill 2339."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ness, for what reason do you arise?"

Ness: "Point of personal privilege, Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Ness: "I rise today to bring attention to the chamber... to the Members of this chamber a serious and growing crisis that threatens the foundation of our child welfare system here in Illinois. For years community-based foster care providers, who are a big part of Illinois' child welfare system and are contracted by the state to serve nearly 70% of the more than 19,000 children in care, have faced an escalating crisis related to the cost and availability of liability insurance. This year, the situation has reached a tipping point. In 2024 alone, Illinois providers spent more than \$13.5 million just on general liability insurance, sexual abuse and molestation, and umbrella insurance. That does not include property casualty... or property, auto, cyber, or other critical coverages. Despite paying these ever-increasing premiums, up 61% over the last five years, the amount of coverage available has significantly declined. Most providers now only carry 1 million per incident and 3 million in total coverage, with limited or no umbrella coverage to supplement that. This is

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not unique to Illinois. Other states are facing the same threats to their systems. And many insurers are leaving the market altogether, leaving providers without viable options to renew their coverage. The remaining two major insurance characters... carriers in Illinois have publicly announced that they will not be writing any new policies in 2025 and will only be renewing on a case-by-case basis. Without insurance, these providers will not be able to legally or financially continue to operate, and that can lead to significant disruptions in our system, creating real challenges for children already traumatized by being removed from their homes. We have spent this spring legislative session working intensively with stakeholders, including DCFS, the Department of Insurance, the Attorney General's Office, the Governor's Office, the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, insurers, and providers to craft legislation that would offer a both short-term release and long-term stability. These conversations were substantive and collaborative, and I want to thank everyone who has participated in the conversation and come to the table in good faith. I'd also like to thank Senator Fine over in the Senate for leading this effort there and my colleague, Representative Reick, for his leadership and partnership in this work. Additionally, our staff, Jackson and Maddie, who have continued to be there at the table, ready to assist when we could come up with a solution. Unfortunately, we did not reach a consensus this legislative session. And so, we have decided to continue these conversations over the summer, meeting formally every two weeks. The goal is to bring back a comprehensive and

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actionable solution to this chamber that we can vote on. I want to be very clear: This is more than a policy challenge. It's a test of our collective conscience and leadership."

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

Ness: "This is a shared responsibility, and the need is urgent. The children in Illinois are counting on us. Thank you, Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you. Representative Reick."

Reick: "Sorry, divided attention. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Reick: "I want to thank Representative Ness for her comments on this. Anybody who knows me is... knows that I've been working on the child welfare area for the last five, six years. And this is a storm cloud that has been brewing and has been coming our way for a long time. It's finally has hit the fan, and come June 1, we're going to be seeing a lot... we're going to see several agencies that are going to be losing their coverage completely. Now, what's going to happen here is the kids that are being taken care of by the Lutheran Family Services and other agencies here in the state, they're either going to have to go bareback with no liability insurance or they're going to have to close, and those kids will go back under the auspices and into the control of the Department of Children and Family Services. We don't want that. This state has a collaborative, collaborative effort and a collaborative way of dealing with these things. We put a lot of kids in private agencies, where they thrive, where they can be allowed to thrive and grow. We can't take a step back. But the problem

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we have here is, while there may be a long-term solution out there, and it might come from the federal government, where I believe it finally will come, in terms of indemnity and things like that, right now we have a short-term problem. We have a problem that's starting at the end of this week with agencies here in the state, which are going to lose their coverage. I would urge, instead of us standing here yelling back and forth about things that we have no control over, why don't we get together and put pressure upon those people who could sit... who could actually make the... the determination to extend indemnification, short-term indemnification. We've got a budget coming up. Why don't we... why don't we put a line item in there for some indemnification that will get us to where we need to go to find a long-term solution to this? This is serious. We're climbing out of a hole with the Department of Children and Family Services. It is a new day there. We have seen it. But if we allow this to happen, it's going to... we're just..."

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

Reick: "Yes, sir. We're going to backslide, and we're going to be back to where we were a year or two ago, and nobody wants to be there. Let's do something now about providing coverage for these agencies to continue to do their job. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Moving to page 23 of the calendar appears Senate Joint Resolution 25, Leader Hammond. Please proceed."

Hammond: "Mr. Speaker, Senate Joint Resolution 25 declares October 12 to October 18 of 2025 as Menopause Awareness Week in the state of Illinois. The resolution brings awareness to

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menopause-related conditions and supports women facing the challenges that are navigating through these conditions. Appreciate your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Hammond moves for the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 25. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the resolution is adopted. Leader West in the Chair."

Speaker West: "West in the Chair. Proceeding to Order of Senate Bills on Second Reading, we have Senate Bill 26, Leader Hoffman. Mr. Clerk, read the... read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 26, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. This bill was read a second time previously. Amendment 1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Hoffman, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker West: "Leader Hoffman on the amendment."

Hoffman: "Yes, I ask that the amendment be adopted, and then we can debate it on Third Reading."

Speaker West: "Leader Hoffman moves that Floor Amendment #2... Leader Hoffman moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker West: "Third Reading. Mr... Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 26, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker West: "Leader Hoffman is recognized."

Hoffman: "Thank you. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House. Senate Bill 26, as amended, amends the Code of Civil

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Procedure and the Business Corporation Act to require foreign corporations to be subject to general jurisdiction in Illinois courts. When I say foreign corporations, I don't mean foreign companies from other... other countries. I'm talking about foreign corporations that are not domiciled here in the state of Illinois. This would make it... make the courts available for individuals who are harmed by hazardous substances here in Illinois. And if you are a corporation and you avail yourself of the benefits of doing business in Illinois, and you should have been registered or are registered to do business here in Illinois, then you would be subject to the jurisdiction of the Illinois courts. In other words, if hazardous substance that cause sickness or death, currently, you can avoid Illinois courts, which forces an injured victim, worker, or other family to pursue multiple cases against that foreign corporation in one or more states. This is a direct result... this bill is a direct result of the ruling of Mallory v. Norfolk Southern, which was handed down by the currently Republican-controlled, conservative Supreme Court that indicated that in the state of Pennsylvania and other states that you could have jurisdiction against a foreign corporation if they are doing business in that state, even though they're not domiciled in that state. I believe that this is a bill that's going to make access to Illinois courts more accessible. This does not, again, this does not confer any new jurisdiction on Illinois-domiciled businesses. It simply allows for judicial equity and ensure that injured victims have a place in Illinois courts. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

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Speaker West: "For discussion, Representative Friess."

Friess: "Thank you. First, I ask for a Standard Debate, please."

Speaker West: "Granted."

Friess: "OK. Thank you. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker West: "Indicates he will."

Friess: "So, just so I understand, if... you get in a... does this individual have to be an Illinois resident to now bring suit under this change?"

Hoffman: "He does not. He has to have... the action has to accrue in Illinois, however, and there has to be an Illinois-domiciled defendant."

Friess: "OK. So, you're... you're attorney. You who practiced primarily in St. Clair County, am I understand? You're... you're familiar with the asbestos docket in St. Clair County and Madison County?"

Hoffman: "I'm familiar with it, yes."

Friess: "OK. So, I... I used to practice in that area as well, and my... my area, when... when we do that, we had defendants get brought in from all over the United States and there was never an injury in the state of Illinois. So, I don't know that this is actually necessary. OK. Have you had any dealings with that?"

Hoffman: "Well, I would say that that is true. They have these dockets. However, the defendants are actually making... availing themselves to that jurisdiction. They've made a decision, for whatever reason, that they would be part of that asbestos docket. However, in some cases, particularly in the case of Ford Motor Company, they have brought motions,

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and then the plaintiff has had to go and sue them in other states."

Friess: "Yeah. But now, again, as I understand it, the injury doesn't have to occur in the state of Illinois. They could actually technically be involved in some kind of injury... sustain an injury in... in a neighboring state."

Hoffman: "Yes."

Friess: "Yeah. And... and that's going to put... if it doesn't occur in... in our state, then that's going to put additional burden on our court system."

Hoffman: "Again, you have to have jurisdiction with a business that is domiciled here in this state, and the jurisdiction is very clear what it would take to have that jurisdiction. And this would say that, in addition to that, a foreign corporation who does business in the state, who has availed itself to the business of the state and the benefits of doing business in this state, that they would also have jurisdiction."

Friess: "So, what... what constitutes doing business in this state, according to this change?"

Hoffman: "We did not change what constitutes doing business and what requires registration under the secretary of state in this state. That is already well established in current law. And basically, if you are doing any business in this state, you then have to... not just driving through the state, but actually transacting business in this state. It's my understanding you are supposed to be registered to do business in this state, whether you are domiciled here in Illinois or not."

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Speaker West: "Representative, can you bring your remarks to a close?"

Friess: "All right. Yes, sir. Thanks."

Speaker West: "Thank you. Leader Tarver is recognized."

Tarver: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker West: "He indicates he will."

Tarver: "Jay, just a couple of quick questions for you. Does this bill have any impact on nongovernmental entities? So, for example, nonprofits, charities."

Hoffman: "No, it does not."

Tarver: "OK. And then what about Illinois-based companies? So, companies that are based here in Illinois. Does this bill affect them in some kind of different way if it were passed?"

Hoffman: "It does not. They would... they would already have jurisdiction in the state."

Tarver: "OK. Thank you. I appreciate it."

Speaker West: "For discussion, Leader Ugaste is recognized."

Ugaste: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker West: "Indicates he will."

Ugaste: "Thank you. Good evening, Leader Hoffman. In committee we talked about this a bit, and I believe the witness testified that this was going to involve toxic substances and those listed on the hazardous waste schedule within the state of Illinois. Is that... is that how you recall it?"

Hoffman: "Yeah. I... the witness did use the term 'toxic.' I would... I would rather use the term 'hazardous substance' because that's how it's defined in the Uniform Hazardous Substance Act. Under Section 2-4, they're called hazardous substances. So, this would be limited to hazardous substance... cases that

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result from hazardous substances under the Uniform Hazardous Substance Act."

Ugaste: "OK. But it... it's not just limited to those substances. It's limited to anyone who registers as a foreign business operating within Illinois as well, correct?"

Hoffman: "No. These cases that we are talking about here under this act, we would only have jurisdiction of a... with a foreign corporation who is doing business in this... in this state if the illness or the injury was caused by a hazardous substances defined under the Uniform Hazardous Substance Act."

Ugaste: "Well, you know, and... and, Leader Hoffman, I... I wish I... I read the statute or the bill the same way. But in reading it, that is the Civil Practice Act conferring general jurisdiction if it falls within that category you're talking. And then in a different spot, within the Business Registration Act, I believe it is, it talks about conferring jurisdiction merely if you register. And if you fail to register and should have registered, we're going to confer jurisdiction as well. So, I... I'm going to the bill at this point. Ladies and gentlemen, we just did a 15-, 20-minute argument on what affects the cost of living and impacts people here in Illinois. And while this will not have a direct impact on anybody, I doubt, it's going to have a very indirect impact. It's going to, again, want companies who are doing business to avoid Illinois or increase the cost of what they do in order to do business in Illinois. And the reason is, is because we are subjecting them to additional cost by taking jurisdiction over anything that happens to anything involving their products anywhere in the world solely because they're

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registered to do business in Illinois. We don't need to be doing this. This isn't going to be helpful. Other states have remedies for everyone injured in their state. We shouldn't be... be contributing to something that is going to provide a harm to the citizens of the state in the long run. Thank you."

Speaker West: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 26 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 75 voting in 'favor,' 37 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' This bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. The clerk is in receipt of Motions in Writing to waive the posting requirements for several bills. If there is leave, we will make these motions together in one motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Leader Morgan on the motion."

Morgan: "Thank you, Speaker. I move that the posting requirements be waived so the following legislative measures can be heard in the following committees this week: Senate Bill 1697 in Energy & Environment Committee, Senate Bills 243 and 1331 in Executive Committee, and Senate Bill 453 in Labor Committee."

Speaker West: "Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We request a record vote on this motion."

Speaker West: "Leader Morgan has moved to waive the posting requirements. All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. There being 74 voting in 'favor,' 37 voting 'against,' 0

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voting 'present,' and this motion, having received a constitutional majority, the posting requirements are waived. Proceeding to Order of Senate Bill on Third Reading, we... excuse me, proceeding to Senate Bills on Second Reading, we have Senate Bill 1418, Representative Jones. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1418, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. The bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker West: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1418, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker West: "Representative Jones."

Jones: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. I rise to present Senate Bill 1418, which is an initiative of the Illinois Association of Black Cardiologists. This bill is the peripheral artery disease. This bill basically is a preventative measure. Many of you who were around in 2018 know that my brother passed away from a similar disease. He had his leg amputated and... and passed away. This bill seeks to identify and help at-risk individual... individuals and allow them to have their blood... blood pressure taken through their legs. This is a good bill. I know of no opposition to this bill. It is not only a bill of the Black Cardiologists of Illinois Chapter, but also the American College of Cardiology. This is a great bill. And, Mr. Speaker. I ask for its support and prepared to answer any questions."

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Speaker West: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1418 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 112 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Hoffman back in the Chair."

Speaker Hoffman: "On page 3 of the calendar appears Senate Bills on Second reading. Senate Bill 100, Representative Meyers-Martin. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 100, a Bill for an Act concerning gaming. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 100, a Bill for an Act concerning gaming. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Meyers-Martin."

Meyers-Martin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 100 amends the Illinois Gaming Act. Provides that the Illinois Gaming Board shall allow sworn law enforcement personnel employed by the board who retire in good standing to keep their previously issued board identification cards or issue photographic identification cards to sworn law enforcement personnel employed by the board who retire in good standing. This... this bill has passed this House twice, and it passed out of Police & Fire Committee unanimously. So, I ask for an 'aye' vote."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking recognition, the question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 100 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's 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 110 voting 'yes,' 0 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 3 of the calendar appears Senate Bill 406, Representative Mason. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 406, a Bill for an Act concerning education. This bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 406, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mason."

Mason: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill continues the work of the new Department of Early Childhood that we established last year to create more efficiency and less confusion for providers and families. It creates the Early Childhood Data Integration System. And it has passed with full support through both committees, and I ask for your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

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Windhorst: "Representative, will the Department of Early Childhood be collecting new data or only the data that is currently collected by ISBE, DCFS, and DHS?"

Mason: "They'll only be collecting the same data. It will just be consolidated."

Windhorst: "Do we have an estimated cost for the development of the new system?"

Mason: "I do not, but I'm happy to get back to you."

Windhorst: "I believe the bill discusses equity-driven and inclusive decisions. What kind of equity-driven and inclusive decisions will be made with the insight gained from the data?"

Mason: "So, you know, in education, when we talk about equity and when we talk about inclusion, it's a little bit different from the conversations that are currently going on now. When we talk about giving equity in education, we're talking about making sure that every child has the same opportunity to learn. So, for example, if there is somebody with a developmental disability or who may be blind or deaf or speak a different language, we want to make sure that they have the same opportunities as every other child. And inclusion is the same. You know, when I was in elementary school, if someone had a developmental disability, they were put in a separate classroom or a separate school. And now we try really hard to be inclusive so that students can be there among their peers and learn together. And that's what we're talking about here."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Mason: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mason to close."

Mason: "I ask for your support."

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Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 406 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'no.' The voting's open. Have all voted who wished? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 111 voting 'yes,' 0 voting 'no,' and 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 3 of the calendar, on the Order of Second Reading, appears Senate Bill 637, Leader Hernandez. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 637, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. This bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor... Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Lisa Hernandez, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Hernandez."

Hernandez, L.: "Thank you, Speaker. Senate Bill 637 addresses a parking situation between the..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader, let's adopt the amendment and then we'll go to Third Reading. I apologize. We need to adopt the amendment on Second. Let's do that first."

Hernandez, L.: "OK."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative... Leader Hernandez moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 637. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Third Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 637, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Hernandez on Senate Bill 637."

Hernandez, L.: "Yeah, so the... the bill addresses a parking situation between the Brookfield Zoo and the Riverside Brookfield High School in my district. The zoo resides on land owned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County, which leases their land to the zoo for the operation of the zoo. And part of that property butts up on the side of the Riverside Brookfield High School. Over the years, the... the zoo has casually allowed the high school to play baseball on this property. But during large attendance days, the zoo also parks on the property, causing ruts in the fields and disturbances in existing sports schedules. The zoo and the high school would like to enter into a sublease agreement whereby the zoo would agree not to park on the ball fields, and the high school... high school would provide funding to invest in alternative parkings around the zoo. The current law allows... does not allow the zoo to sublease and neither does the Forest Preserves. So, what the solution here is giving authority for the zoo to sublease... sublease to the high school. All parties around surrounding villages are on board with this, and I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking recognition, the question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 637 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's 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 111 voting 'yes,' 0 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 5 of the calendar. On

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the Order of Second Reading appears Senate Bill 2201, Representative Johnson. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2201, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. This bill was read... read a second time previously. Amendment 1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendments 3 and 4 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #3 is offered by Representative Johnson."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Johnson moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #3 to Senate Bill 2201. All those in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment #4 is offered... offered by Representative Johnson."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Johnson moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #4 to Senate Bill 2201. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The amendment is adopted. Further amendments?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2201, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Johnson on Senate Bill 2201."

Johnson: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Senate Bill 2201 requires the Department of Corrections to collect and publish data on contraband found, substance use disorder treatment or educational programming, emergency medical response and hospitalizations and overdoses by each correctional facility.

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This did pass unanimously in the Senate, and I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates he'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, this bill is a data collection bill for the Department of Corrections. Is that correct?"

Johnson: "Yes, sir."

Windhorst: "And we're collecting data around contraband in the facilities for both staff and inmates as it... that a contraband impacts them?"

Johnson: "Yes. And also... also visitors as well to the facility."

Windhorst: "And visitors. As you mentioned, this vote was unanimous in the Senate, and I believe there may have been some concerns expressed by AFSCME. Not necessarily to this bill because my understanding is they see an issue with contraband in the facilities."

Johnson: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Their bigger issue is the amount of data collection we're requesting from the department. Would you care to discuss their position as you're aware of it?"

Johnson: "Yeah. We continue to have discussions with the department, with the John Howard Association and AFSCME. There's basically five employees that are responsible for collecting the data. So, we... we did offer and moved the reporting date out a little bit, and we're... we're kind of willing to have conversations. We think the data... getting this data is very, very important with all of the things we've

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been hearing over the last couple years in the department. So, we were very open to... to moving it out and giving them sufficient time in which to compile and report the data."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Johnson: "You bet."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Johnson to close."

Johnson: "Ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2201 pass?'

All those in favor vote 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wished? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 109 voting 'yes,' 1 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 5 of the calendar, under the Order of Second Reading, appears Senate Bill 2153, Representative Guerrero-Cuellar. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2153, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. The bill was a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #3, offered by Representative Guerrero-Cuellar, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Guerrero-Cuellar on Floor Amendment #3."

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Thank you, Speaker. Floor Amendment 3 is just two minor changes to the language. So, it's a technicality."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Guerrero-Cuellar moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #3 to Senate Bill 2153. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of

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the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted.
Any further amendments?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2153, a Bill for an Act concerning
regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please proceed."

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Thank you, Speaker. The bill, what it does is
a Physical Therapy Act, amended, of changing the restrictions
regarding using telehealth are loosened and allowing for more
cases where telehealth may be used. Discretion is allowed to
the therapist and the Illinois Department of Financial and
Professional Regulation."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking recognition, the question
is 'Shall Senate Bill 2153 pass?' All those in favor vote
'aye'; opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's 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 112 voting 'yes,' 0 voting 'no,' and 0 voting 'present.'
And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is
hereby declared passed. Representative Deuter on Senate Bill
2215. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2215, a Bill for an Act concerning
State government. The bill was read a second time previously.
Amendment 1 was adopted in committee. No Floor Amendments. No
motions are filled."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2215, a Bill for an Act concerning
State government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Deuter."

Deuter: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 2215 directs the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide information about fertility options, including ovarian reserve testing, to health care professionals who may distribute the information to interested patients. For women making family planning decisions, knowing what fertility-related assessments are available can be incredibly helpful when considering their options. This legislation also outlines that they should be informed of testing limitations as well as potential results and resources that are available after an assessment. Making this material more available in routine health care appointments will allow more-informed decisions. This bill passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support and came out of committee unanimously. I ask for your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Why is this bill being brought forward? What are you hoping to accomplish?"

Deuter: "This was in response... it came from my Senator in response to a constituent question and... and concern that was expressed, and the idea is really to give women more information when it comes to their family planning."

Windhorst: "And the information that's being discussed shall be provided by the Department of Public Health to the provider. Is that correct?"

Deuter: "That's correct. The department of..."

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Windhorst: "And the provider may provide it to the patient. Is that correct?"

Deuter: "That's correct, may provide to the patient."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Deuter to close."

Deuter: "Thank you. I ask for your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2215 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's 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 109 voting 'yes,' 0 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 6 of the calendar, on the Order of Second Reading appears Senate Bill 2426, Representative Harper. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 2426, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Harper."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Harper on Floor Amendment #1."

Harper: "I ask that the amendment be adopted, and I can explain it on Third."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Harper moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 2426. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk, any further amendments?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 2426, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Harper."

Harper: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. Law enforcement has said that the timber industry would like to clarify confusion over the 4% timber harvest fee and the transportation of timber by secondary buyers or transportation from concentration yard to concentration yard. So, Senate Bill 2426 aims to provide an additional layer of protection for secondary buyers and timber growers. This is an initiative of the Department of Natural Resources. Now, this new form will indicate the source of the timber and confirm that the 4% timber harvest fee has been paid while safeguarding growers, especially as law enforcement has reported increased instances of theft on multiple layers. Lastly, it would enable law enforcement to trace the origins of the timber and conduct further investigation, if needed, to help deter theft. I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, we had a good discussion about this in committee. The point of the bill is to try to limit situations where individuals who are transporting timber will be subject to enforcement under this act. Is that correct?"

Harper: "That is correct."

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Windhorst: "The limitation involves the Timber Buyers Licensing Act, I believe, to those individuals who are subject to that act."

Harper: "Yes."

Windhorst: "There is some concern I've heard expressed. I do appreciate the... the effort to tighten up the law, but I've had individuals I've spoken with about the bill express concern about the provisions that allow law enforcement to pull over anyone hauling timber to determine if they are complying with the act or subject to the act. If you wouldn't mind to address that concern and why you believe it is not a concern."

Harper: "So, any person already transporting timber has to show this proof."

Windhorst: "And as it relates to proof of ownership, that has a definition in the... in the bill. There's also going to be administrative rules from the department to establish what proof of ownership is. The issue I have is for individuals who are not involved with timber... or not subject to the Timber Buyer Licensing Act, how will they provide proof of ownership to demonstrate they're not subject to the act?"

Harper: "Only people who are subject to the licensing act have to show proof of ownership, and this is what we corrected in amendment 1."

Windhorst: "We have changed... or the bill, rather, changes that violations of this act or any administrative rules under the act will be a Class C, rather than a Class A, misdemeanor. Why was that reduction in penalty made?"

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Harper: "It was made because that is what the Department of Natural Resources would like."

Windhorst: "I appreciate you answering my questions. To Members on our side, there was a split Republican vote in committee. Considering the name on the board, you will probably see a Christmas tree here on our side of the aisle as it comes to the vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Harper to close."

Harper: "I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2426 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's 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 77 voting 'yes,' 35 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Mah, for what reason do you arise?"

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

Speaker Hoffman: "State your point."

Mah: "Thank you. I'd like to direct your attention up in the gallery and introduce an old friend of mine, Charmaine Manansala, who is here with her... her organization. She's the chief advocacy officer for the Compassion & Choices Action Network. She and... they're here to advocate on behalf of the medical aid in dying legislation. They've come from all over the country, and they're... they're here in the gallery. So, please give them a warm Springfield welcome."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Going... going to page 4 of the calendar appears Senate Bill 1950, Leader Gabel. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1950, a Bill for an Act concerning health. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 1 and 2 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Hirschauer."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer on Floor... Floor Amendment #1. Representative Gabel on Floor Amendment #1."

Gabel: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment #1 is a Hirschauer bill. We... we don't want to call that one. We just want to call Floor Amendment 2."

Speaker Hoffman: "Mr. Clerk, please withdraw Floor Amendment #1. Any further amendments?"

Clerk Bolin: "Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Gabel."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Gabel on Floor Amendment #2."

Gabel: "Thank you. Floor Amendment 2 is a new bill. It is the Medical aid in dying bill, and I will speak to it on... on Third Reading."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 1950. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments, but a correctional note has been requested by the sponsor and has not been filed."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Gabel moves to withdraw the corrections note. The corrections note is withdrawn. Any further notes?"

Clerk Bolin: "Nothing further."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1950, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Gabel on Senate Bill 1950."

Gabel: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Medical aid in dying is a trusted and time-tested medical practice that is part of the full spectrum of end-of-life care options, including hospice and palliative care. Deb's Law would allow terminally ill, mentally capable adults with a prognosis of just six months or less to live to request from their doctor a prescription for medication that can decide... that they can then decide to self-ingest to die peacefully in their sleep. Medical aid in dying is authorized in 12 jurisdictions: Oregon, Washington, Montana, Maine, New Jersey, Vermont, New Mexico, Colorado, California, Hawaii, Washington, D.C., and now includes Delaware. Beyond authorizing medical aid in dying for a terminally ill adult who is an Illinois resident and has a six-month prognosis, as confirmed by two Illinois physicians, Deb's Law also requires the following steps: Qualified individuals must be able to self-administer, i.e., self-ingest, the medicine. Physicians must inform the requesting individual about all of their end-of-life care options, including comfort care, hospice, palliative care, and pain control. No physician, health care provider, or pharmacist is required to participate in the law. The individual can withdraw their request for medication or

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change their mind after receiving the medication and decide not to take it. An individual's providers may refer the person for a mental health evaluation to ensure the person's capacity to make an informed decision. The law includes multiple protections to prevent coercion, including strict eligibility requirements, two separate physician assessments, and mandatory counseling on all treatment options. The law makes it a felony to coerce someone to request the medication or to forge a request. Life insurance payments cannot be denied to the families of those who use the law. Health care providers who participate and comply with all aspects of the law are given civil and criminal immunity. Health care providers must submit documentation of medical aid-in-dying deaths to the state health department so it can compile an annual report for lawmakers and the public. Death certificates list the terminal disease as the cause of death, consistent with statutory language to provide accurate data and to prevent inappropriate suicide investigations. The law includes several... several other regulatory requirements: two verbal requests for the medication directly from the patient with a five-day waiting period between the first and second request, a written request is also required from the individual requesting medical aid in dying, prescribing physicians must comply with medical record documentation requirements, and unused medication must be disposed of according to state and federal law. In a February 2023 poll of 700 likely Illinois voters conducted by Impact Research, more than seven out of 10 Illinois voters, 71%, including 73% of voters living with a disability, think a mentally capable adult patient with an

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incurable terminal illness who only has six months or less to live should have the legal option of medical aid in dying to pass peacefully in their sleep. Less than one out of five voters, only 17%, oppose the legal option of medical aid in dying. Majority support for medical aid in dying spans the age, gender, racial, and religious spectrum. White voters, 69%; Black/African American voters, 69%; Hispanic/Latino voters, 86%; Catholics, 69%; non-Catholics, 50... Christians, 58%; and atheists, agnostics, nonaffiliated, 89%. In a February 2011 Medscape/WebMD poll, nearly seven out of 10 Illinois physicians, 58%, said they support medical aid-in-dying practice in which a terminally ill adult with decision-making capacity asks for and receives a prescription medication that may be self-ingested to hasten a foreseeable death. Only one out of four Illinois physicians, 25%, oppose medical aid in dying. There are also many safeguards in this law. So, Deb's Law, like all medical aid-in-dying laws in the U.S., contain core safeguards to protect patients from abuse and coercion under the law. Patients, not doctors, nurses, or health care proxies, must initiate a request for medical aid in dying. The patient must make two oral and one written request for medication. The patient must have a terminal diagnosis with a six-month prognosis and must be able to... of making medical decisions for themselves. The patient's diagnosis, prognosis, and decision-making capacity are evaluated by two physicians. If there's any question of a doubt of that person's mental state, they must be referred for an evaluation by a mental health specialist. No person qualifies for medical aid in dying solely because of

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disability or age. The patient must ingest the medication themselves, via the GI tract, by swallowing, feeding tube, or a rectal catheter. The medication may not be injected into a vein or administered by IV, and it may not be administered to the patient by a third party. There are criminal penalties for any person who coerces or induces a patient into accessing MAiD. In the 28 years since Oregon's law went into effect, 28 years this law has been in effect, there has never been a single verified case of abuse or coercion under the law, nobody has ever been charged criminally for violating the law. No medical professional has ever faced disciplinary action, and medical aid in dying is time-tested and the safeguards work. Opponents of MAiD will sometimes cite cases from Canada, Europe, or other countries to justify their criticism. We are not Canada. MAiD laws in the U.S. operate with a distinct legal environment and differ sharply from other countries in how patients qualify for and request the medications. It is impossible to compare what is happening in Canada with the bill in Illinois. The medication most commonly used across the country is a compound mixture called DDMAPh containing Valium, digoxin, morphine, amitriptyline, and phenobarbital. The medication typically causes patients to fall asleep within 2 minutes to 2 hours and death occurs within 30 minutes to 8 hours. Across the authorized jurisdiction that report data, 10,211 individuals to date have chosen to use medical aid in dying. Less than 1% of the people who die in each jurisdiction use the law each year. Only 62% of the people with prescriptions actually ingest the medication. Up to 38% of the people who go through the process

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and who die without using the medication die from... from other reasons. What I hear from many people is that people who are terminally ill, they derive a great peace of mind simply knowing that they have the option if their suffering becomes too great. The majority of terminally ill people who utilize medical aid in dying are enrolled in hospice or palliative care services at the time of their deaths. So, this is just one of the... of the medications available to people who are terminally ill and dying. I would appreciate an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "We are instituting Unlimited Debate with a 3-minute time limit. On this question, Representative Meier."

Meier: "As we started hearing of this bill moving over the last couple months, I've had many, many phone calls and emails. And it's because of the way the state of Illinois does things, and they don't do things very well. We have many families here with disabilities with their loved ones. And when you try to get services in the state of Illinois, you are told if you want your loved one to have services, you have to give up guardianship. So, DHS sends them to the Illinois service coordinators so they can give up guardianship of their loved ones to get 'em services. Now, we've watched these services. I've seen these services in action, and I've seen the residents that have been moved into Murray on hospice to die. And I can go there now and watch them in the swimming pool swimming. I can watch Marjorie driving her bicycle around. She was brought there to die because of the services and the way they're set up in the state. So, who... when you're a guardian of the state because your family wanted to get you services to help take care of you, who is going to make that

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judgment if you're going to be put on hospice and given this? It terrifies... groups from national organizations down have contacted me wanting to know about the state guardianship over their loved ones. Who's making that decision if they're better off dead or alive? Can you tell me that? I do have a limit of time here."

Speaker Hoffman: "Yes, sponsor yields. Leader Gabel."

Gabel: "Thank you. This is... for medical aid in dying, a person would have to ask for it themselves. Nobody is allowed to ask for it for them. They have to ask for it themselves. They have to go to two physicians. They have to be able to ingest it themselves. It's a decision that they make themselves. Nobody can make that decision for them."

Meier: "Is a state guardian going to go in and their... because they're nonverbal and say, 'well, you're not saying no, you're not saying yes.'"

Gabel: "If they are not verbal, they are not allowed to take... get this."

Meier: "And if they are verbal and they're not sure what's going on?"

Gabel: "The doctors have to... they have to be mentally capable."

Meier: "Are these the same doctors that come in, as they did a month and a half ago, and change the chart from being a 9-year-old mentality to an 18-month... year-old so that they can be released from state care?"

Gabel: "That's a rhetorical question. I don't know."

Meier: "It's a true question, though. Who is there to protect them in this bill?"

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Meier, please bring your remarks to a close. I'll give you extra time since I... I didn't hear you initially. I apologize."

Meier: "This bill terrifies the families of our most vulnerable. Many of them have done what the state asked them to so they knew their loved one would get services. This bill terrifies them. They're happy to see their loved ones splashing around in the pool or riding a bike now. Even though they were on hospice, they would've qualified for this. They were never given the opportunity in the setting the state had them. They would be dead now, and they're not. Please vote 'no.'"

Gabel: "They... they would not be considered qualified."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader West. Three minutes."

West: "Thank you to Mr. Speaker. To the bill. 'Live every day like it's your last day because it just could be,' a statement I heard in church from the seasoned members while growing up. And it puts things in perspective on what's important to me: my faith, my family, and this job, in that order. My baby girl's about to be 5, and she's the apple of my eye. When she was 2, I found myself in the hospital in excruciating pain, pain that I wish on no one, even those who treat me as if I'm their enemy. Once I came out the hospital, I learned that people go through that same pain that I went through on a daily basis. I'm thankful that my pain was temporary, not terminal, but it could have been. But in this stage of my life, I can only imagine. And I am so thankful to God that I can only imagine. But there are Illinoisans who currently, and, unfortunately, there will be future Illinoisans, who can imagine what it feels like to have a terminal diagnosis. I

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remember the moments of relief during my time of extreme agony. I felt relief when I passed out from the pain in the ER, which my wife told me had happened after the fact. And I felt relief when I woke up, when they cut me open and fixed the problem. There are people who only feel better when their body shuts down. This is daily in perpetuity. I can only imagine. Even those of us who have loved ones who have received terminal diagnoses, you are closer to the experience but you get... can only imagine as well. But what I can't imagine is the mental turmoil of such a diagnosis. I needed to seek out therapy after my curable diagnosis. Depression, anxiety, the thoughts that went through my head were dark. A lot of us can imagine having dark thoughts. But those dark thoughts, this bill has many safeguards in place, where I will not qualify for medical aid in dying. Many safeguards. To quote the bill, 'You must have a sound mind. Any doubt from a medical professional that... that you do not have a sound mind, then you do not qualify.' Let the record reflect, I'm a public official who represents a great many of people with many religions, and I believe in the miraculous healing power of Jesus Christ. I truly believe that cancer is a killer, but God is a healer. I've personally witnessed Ms. Nylene, from my church, receive a terminal diagnosis of six months in '98, and she lived until 2021. I've heard testimony similar to that throughout my life. After my illness, I value life even the more. Life is sacred, but death is sacred too. The sanctity of life includes the sanctity of death. This bill allows, if one chooses by themselves, for someone with a terminal diagnosis to have a dignified death. A decision

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between the patient, their physician, and their God. It is not our decision as government officials to get in the way of that. At the end each of us must work out our own soul salvation with due reverence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Weber."

Weber: "To the bill, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Weber: "Well, I don't feel old, but I'm definitely not a youngster. However, I am at an age that I have seen a lot of death. I no longer have grandparents. I've lost sister, brothers, nephews, mom and dad. There's not many left that are older than me in my family. We all wish that there was no suffering, no pain, but watching those last moments of a loved one is never easy. I can understand both sides of this issue, but for many of us, like the previous speaker said, we do believe in miracles. We can all find instances of those who were not supposed to be with us for as long as they were, but I am thankful for that time that we had. Pain management has come a long way, advanced leaps and bounds, making those last months, weeks, days, and hours bearable. I can also remember times where that was not the case, and I wish I could erase those times. Every moment of life should be cherished, and this bill sole purpose is to extinguish it. At the same time, we are turning those who have spent their careers saving life into lifetakers. I find it sad that Illinois wants to be the destination to end life. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Grasse."

Grasse: "To the bill, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

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Grasse: "Thank you. I come here as... not only as a legislator but as a longtime hospice chaplain who has had the sacred responsibility of walking with literally thousands of people through the final days of their lives and being at their bedside for their final breath. I believe deeply in the power of palliative and hospice care, so much so that I've dedicated my entire life to caring and supporting for dying and grieving people. I've seen hospice ease pain and suffering and offer dignity and quality of life as people are dying. But I've also seen the rare moments when even the best care cannot relieve suffering and pain, when patients ask us, with clarity and peace, for the ability to choose how their life ends. This bill is not about choosing death. It's about choosing how we want to live in the face of our dying. It only applies to mentally capable, terminally ill adults, and my hope is after all other care options, such as hospice, have been exhausted. This bill is surrounded by safeguards, and the terminally ill patient is the one who is always in control. I know some people worry about where this could lead, and please know I understand those concerns and I hear those. But I ask all of us here to consider this: Not one of us can control whether or not we will die, every single one of us will die, but we can offer people the comfort of controlling what matters most to them and to us as they are dying. This bill is about compassion. This bill is about autonomy. This bill is about love, love for life and for those who are living their final chapter. And most of all, this bill is about trust, trusting already-dying people to make the most personal decision of all. So, it is with deep understanding

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of this situation and deep compassion for those who are dying that I urge a 'yes' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Spain."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Spain: "Leader Gabel, we had a discussion in committee about the fiscal note that I filed on this bill. You made a commitment to return and have an answer delivered on that fiscal note. Are you satisfied with the answer provided by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Gabel."

Gabel: "Yes."

Spain: "Isn't it true that we agreed we would ask HFS to provide us a number on the current Medicaid spend for hospice care in the state of Illinois?"

Gabel: "I just received this the other day. I... I have not... I did not ask them specifically. I just asked them for a fiscal note."

Spain: "Mr. Speaker, to the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Spain: "Ladies and gentlemen, I requested this fiscal note, and Leader Gabel exercised her prerogative to file a series of other notes, which is fine. What I intended to uncover was an understanding of some of the costs associated with this topic for the state of Illinois. And unlike expected fiscal issues facing our state in other matters where there is a... a fiscal impact that is a... a large cost to the state of Illinois, I wanted to understand how the issue of cost should be considered on this very sensitive topic. Because one of the

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things we learned in committee, that the price of this prescription, fatal prescription, is a cost of five to seven hundred dollars to end one's life. And I think it's important we understand, certainly not because we have this intention, but we need to think about what the impact of this type of action would be on payers, on the health care delivery system. A month of hospice care costs approximately \$15,000, and we have to understand then what an impact of having a five-to-seven-hundred-dollar end-of-life option could be in the wrong hands. It's important that we're sensitive to this very issue. And the spirit of the fiscal note that I filed certainly has not been met with a... a blow-off answer from HFS that didn't seek to provide the explanation that we had agreed to previously. You know, we have medical aid in dying already. It's called palliative care. It's called hospice care. This physician suicide bill is going to cause great harm throughout the state of Illinois, devaluing life, normalizing suicide, making it less likely that patients can engage in the type of breakthrough treatment and cures that I think have advanced our society and medicine so importantly. The bill is not ready to go. It does not have the type of strong protections against coercion that should be included in an initiative as important as this. I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Cassidy."

Cassidy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the bill. Many of you have heard me use the phrase 'nothing about us without us' as how I like to drive my legislative agenda. And so, I want to share some of the words of the people who are most directly impacted by this. 'My name is Beth Langdon. I became disabled due to

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a traumatic injury at 17. The first thing I felt was a tremendous loss of control over my life. Much of what I have done and worked for since then has been to regain and retain that—medically, economically, and personally. It's why I embrace the most fundamental principle of the independent living movement and the disability rights and justice movement—that all of us, regardless of circumstance, have and deserve the right to self-determination, to make decisions and to exert control over our own lives, including about the services and the care we receive. That was 50 years ago. And as I've gotten older, the odds have gotten increasingly better that I will die of one of the terminal conditions that all of us may face—like heart disease or cancer. We as a culture don't deal particularly well with the only thing in life that's certain—our eventual death. I think that one of the most frightening things about death for most of us is that it means the ultimate loss of control. I want—for myself, for those I love, for anyone else—the right to have some modicum of control in not just how I've chosen to live, but in how I approach my death if it is from a terminal illness. And this is about terminal illness, not acute or chronic illnesses or conditions that can be managed with treatment. Death elicits fear. I understand how all of this can elicit fear. And for many of us who have been marginalized by disability, age, poverty, race, and other socially imposed constructs, we also fear being devalued or dismissed by systems and professionals in those systems, including medical professionals when we face chronic or acute care situations. And this is just not what this bill is about. This is not about chronic or acute

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care. Disability is not terminal. Death, like life, is easier to navigate when you know you will have options to choose from, even if you never need to, or even if you choose not to. The ability to control the decision-making process in SB1950 is detailed and robust. It's a very high bar to be eligible to participate. It requires you to be able to be fully in control of the decision-making process and of the administration of medication, only when you have a prognosis of less than 6 months or less to live. It requires consultation with at least two different medical professionals. It has very strong provisions that prevent anyone from assisting or exerting undue influence, including any person to whom you might have already given health care power of attorney. It is a trusted and time-tested medical practice that is part of the full spectrum of end-of-life care options, including hospice and palliative care. People move across the country to access it. For those with disabilities or marginalized by poverty or whose terminal illness prevents it, we need the equity that comes from being able to choose that option where we live. This bill doesn't lessen anyone's control or rob anyone of choice—over our lives, or at the point when our lives reach an inevitable, unavoidable end that no treatment can improve or reverse. This bill strengthens our control. As someone who has learned to never take any right to self-determination for granted'... I like..."

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

Cassidy: "...two more sentences, I promise."

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Speaker Hoffman: "OK."

Cassidy: "'I hope Illinois joins the many other states who extend this ability to the end of our lives so that all can choose a death that is peaceful, without unnecessary suffering, with less fear.' And as someone whose son is named for someone who had to move to California to exercise this option, I urge a 'yes' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Reick: "If this bill ultimately passes, these supposed strict restrictions that we're talking about today will be continually expanded. They always are. It's happened in Oregon. It happened in Vermont. It's happened everywhere. until they eventually melt away. Indeed, Stéphane Gemmani, one of the supporters of the French assisted suicide bill, gave away the game. She said, 'It's a foot in the door, which will be important for what comes next.' That's always the strategy here. Get what you can today, and once we've established the principle that killing is an answer to human suffering, the expansion of eligibility will follow in due course. Charlie Meier made a good point. And as one who is a caregiver for a disabled person, that rang true. Because what we've got here are strict restrictions that will look really, really too strict when it comes time to say about a disabled person, whether that person is in your own home, on a CILA, or someplace like that, it's just too difficult for this person to carry on. We're going to make that decision on behalf of that person. It's going to happen. One thing that

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I don't know that the bill entails is how long does one have to be an Illinois resident in order to avail himself or herself of this... of this assisted suicide? I don't think that was answered. I haven't had a chance to look at the bill, but maybe it's in there. To conclude, our culture has become so nihilistic that the emerging right to death, eventually, and for any reason, is greater... has greater emotional saliency than our steady eroding right to life."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Costa Howard."

Costa Howard: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of this bill. And while... I think it's more important today for me to share the words of my own constituent who has been educating me on this issue, and her name is Deb Robinson... Robertson, excuse me. 'My name is Deb Robertson. Thank you for allowing me to share my story and make clear the critical need for this legislation that will provide terminal adult Illinoisans—like myself—a full range of end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying. I deserve to have this option available to me. I was diagnosed in January of 2022 with a very rare and aggressive terminal cancer called neuroendocrine carcinoma. I remember the call from my doctor telling me my liver was full of tumors. How could this be? I am in good shape, I eat healthy, and I'm very active. But after a biopsy and multiple scans, I was told there was no cure for this disease. I am going to die. Sharing the news with my wife, parents, children, and friends was brutal. But I have kept fighting. After several months of chemotherapy, it stopped working. I continued to try several more chemotherapies, but the disease kept growing. There are very

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few treatments for this cancer because it is so rare. I am in a clinical trial that has shown some progress and kept me stable for 7 months. But the reality is that this trial will stop working at some point. I know what this looks like. I join a regular Zoom call with people from across the globe who share my diagnosis. I have watched so many struggle in pain to the end of their lives until their last breath. Today, I know the end for me could be near. That is why I hope you will appreciate that I want to spend part of my remaining time doing everything I can to ensure that terminally ill Illinoisans have the full range end-of-life options to include medical aid in dying. Now, let me be clear. I love life. I don't want to die. I love my family. My wife and our children have supported me throughout my cancer journey and support me in pursuing this end-of-life option. They all live in Illinois, my parents, my wife, our adult children, grandkids and siblings. Even my 16- and 18-year-old grandsons support me being here today. But, I am going to die, and when the time comes, I pray that this committee and this body and your colleagues will allow me—and others with terminal illness—this option at the end-of-life. This legislation is truly about options. To be sure, I was not given an option about whether I got this terminal disease: but I deserve options about how and when I leave this earth. I deserve options to enjoy the time I have left with my loved ones and friends, and not worry about how my death will occur. It is the last bit of control left to me. But I can only have those options...' "

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

Costa Howard: "'...if you vote for this bill. And that is why I am spending a portion of the precious time remaining to me to ask this body to support the adoption of medical aid in dying in Illinois.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hauter."

Hauter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Hauter: "Ladies and gentlemen of the House, today I stand before you as a physician to express my strong opposition to physician-assisted suicide. I... I really wish I was more eloquent for the thousands of Illinois physicians who deeply oppose physician-assisted suicide. First, this process, this process is an insult to the seriousness of the topic. Illinois deserves better. When we debate this topic, three minutes, life, death, suicide, mental health, drug safety, coercion, insurance, medical ethics, right of consciousness, the Medical Practice Act, inequalities in care, all stuffed into a shell bill late Friday with little time for stakeholders to have input in the last few days at the end of session, this process is wrong. I object to this being called a sanitary food preparation bill. Many reasons... there are many reasons to oppose. There are many groups opposed. I'm going to try to speak for medicine. The very profession you intend to give this unrequested power to are opposed. And why? We already have MAiD. We already have medical aid in dying. Physicians and other health care professionals have devoted our lives taking care of these patients. We've already recognized the

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need for more concentrated focus on the dying process with pain control, death with dignity, comfort care. With the growing fields of palliative care and hospice care, we have true medical aid in dying. This is medical aid in death, which is to say physicians helping their patients commit suicide. Why is medicine opposed? Our oath. Physicians have been given by God and by the laws of men the primary responsibility to preserve life, to heal, to relieve suffering. Our ancient oath, which we take seriously, passed down from generation to generation of physicians, have always contained the phrase, 'First, do no harm.' Assisting a patient in killing themselves is fundamentally incompatible with this sacred duty and oath and changes forever the soul of medicine. Life has inherent value and inestimable worth. The disabled, the vulnerable, the terminally ill, those with mental health issues, physician-assisted suicide subtlety or not so subtlety introduces the true... a duty to die. Subtlety these patients feel like they are worth less. And I'm not even going to be able to talk about the insurance. We're giving insurance companies another tactic to pressure patients. The cheapest care is no care. In closing, don't undermine the relationship physicians have with their patients. Don't give insurance companies another tactic, another tool to pressure patients, to pressure the disabled, the poor, the terminally ill with no care, with death. I ask the Members of this Illinois House, don't pass this bill. Vote 'no,' or don't vote at all. It's the first time a physician will recommend you go out and take a... a smoke break. This is..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please bring your remarks to a close."

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Hauter: "Thank you. This bill irrevocably changes the principles, the purposes, and the practice of medicine in Illinois. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Guerrero-Cuellar."

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Thank you, Speaker. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Guerrero-Cuellar: "I want to read the perspective from a parent when it comes to their child. 'My name is Nilsa Centeno. I am the mother of Miguel Carrasquillo. Miguel was a chef in Chicago when he was diagnosed in 2012 with an aggressive, deadly brain tumor called glioblastoma multiforme. Despite bravely enduring excruciating painful treatments to try to cure his cancer, it spread across his body. Miguelito was my only son. He was only 35 years old when he died from cancer on June 5, 2016. Miguelito was an old soul with a contagious smile who stood out for his ability to advocate for change, even while he was suffering from the brain tumor that spread all over his body. He spent his last days advocating for medical aid in dying among his beloved Latino community—for a compassionate option that, tragically, was denied to him. The emotional pain of losing my only son devours me every day. I will never forget the last time I... I caressed and kissed my son's beautiful yet tired face. He was in so much pain, and we spoke about God. Miguelito's voice was fragile. His words were mumbled. Yet he reminded me to keep fighting for his legacy to authorize medical aid in dying. Miguel died minutes later, without the end-of-life care option he fought for. Although my son's voice has gone silent, mine has not.

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Passing his... passing this compassionate legislation was Miguel's final wish, and it is now my life's work. I'm honored to say that the bill now contains Miguel's name, along with other powerful advocates for... for this compassionate option. I urge you as a mother: please honor my only son, Miguelito's memory by voting 'yes' on the End-of-Life Option Act.' I do want to add that I've been on both sides of this coin. I've seen this... I'm sorry, I've seen this only from a daughter to a parent. And when you see someone for six months in excruciating pain with no option, it is the hardest thing that you have to live as a child to see your parents suffer. And so, it was the hardest decisions that we had to make medically. And what some of you Members have talked about, hospice and palliative care. And we go through the options, and we talk about it and the cost and the insurance and all those things. We do, but you're looking at a fragile person laying in bed, and you know what that person's asking you. And you want to do right by that person because you know they're suffering. This is not a way to see a loved one at all. This mother saw her son. I saw my father. And it is... I carry his name, and I proudly do, but I would never want to see any parent, I can't see another parent go through something similar. And so, I ask you to support this bill. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Miller."

Miller: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Miller: "Today, we face a truly dangerous proposal, and that's assisted suicide. There's no way to sanitize this topic. My

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answer is simple and unwavering: Absolutely not. Life is a gift from God, not something for government to discard like they have the tens of millions of babies that have been slaughtered. Our doctors take an oath to heal, to save lives and not to end them. This isn't health care. This is a profound betrayal. Legalizing assisted suicide opens a Pandora's box. It tells our most vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled, those battling despair that their lives are expendable. It invites pressure, it invites abuse and a slip.. slippery slope to the culture of death. Instead of offering death, we must offer true dignity. Our focus must be on compassion, compassionate care that supports individuals, providing comfort and real hope and not just a needle. We must reject this policy. We must protect every life and stand for a society that values every person from conception to their natural end. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Stava-Murray."

Stava-Murray: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Stava-Murray: "I had a few stories from a constituent of mine, but many of us have already shared the stories of those who did not have access to medical aid in dying here in our state. So, I'm not going to share those stories, but I do have a story from a constituent of mine who I was able to meet by Zoom, as he lived in California. But his mother and father lived back in Illinois in my district, and that is actually where he had hoped to come back to die. And, unfortunately, that was back in 2022, and we know it's now 2025. So, this bill is not in time for him. But I think, in... in his honor,

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I want to read his story from... from his mother's words. 'In August 2017, Suzy, my father, and I flew out to California from Illinois to visit Andrew. I knew Drew wasn't feeling well because every time we'd eat together, he'd have to go to the bathroom. I talked him into having some tests done the week after we left. His doctors couldn't even get through his colonoscopy because the tumor was so large. When he called to tell me the news, I just dropped to the floor, devastated. Drew had been a cancer survivor at the age of five, but this time things were different. I couldn't control everything like I had when he was little, when I managed all his doctor's appointments and so on. Now he was a 29-year-old adult doing all of that alone. The distance was so hard for us, and I was not able to retire at that time. So we did our best going back and forth between Illinois and California, but Andrew did end up spending a lot of time in the hospital on his own, which bothered me. The hospital is a scary place to be by yourself. Optimistic man that he was, Andrew assumed that like when he was a child: He would have radiation, chemo, some surgeries, and then go on about his life. He continued working as a special education teacher and told us that everything was going to be fine after the treatment. He underwent repeated treatment regimens—radiation, chemo, surgery, again and again.' And this is for every single one of the people sitting across the aisle somehow implying someone that would take this option is not trying for their life. That's extremely offensive. Because what this person went through, what Andrew went through, was every step imaginable to keep himself alive. 'But Andrew continued to

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amaze us all with his positive attitude. I never heard him say, "Why me?" He just took the view that this was what he had been dealt in life, and he could either choose to become bitter or keep moving. Thankfully, he chose the latter. Andrew was eventually informed that he likely had six months or less to live. I asked him, "Why don't you come home to Illinois? You can live here in the basement; you'll have your own space." But Andrew was adamant that he wanted to stay in California because he needed the option of medical aid in dying. I did not argue with him; none of our family did. It was...'"

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

Stava-Murray: "'...clear that having that option gave Andrew great comfort. Andrew was determined to be in charge of his disease, and take charge he did. Becoming involved with Compassion & Choices, creating a podcast—*Death with Dignity*—and coming to terms with a terminal diagnosis, Andrew saw the gifts his cancer had brought him in the form of all the people he got to meet because of it. Even through a traumatic illness, he was guiding the people who loved him through that journey in a positive way so that we could grow up to accept his fate. In 2002, Andrew completed the process of requesting a prescription for aid-in-dying medication through California's End of Life Option Act. Although he wasn't yet ready to use it, he wanted the peace of mind that having the medicine in hand would give him.'"

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative, please bring your remarks to a close. I know this is very emotional."

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Stava-Murray: "'Andrew's quality of life was increasingly limited. He did not want to die, and he fought very hard to live as long as he could. But in the end, his day-to-day pain was increasing, his increased pain medications caused miserable side effects, and when he went to the bathroom, it was like a crime scene. One day, he just said, "I think I'm ready." As sunset approached on November 16, 2022, Andrew took some time alone with each of us—his sisters, his roommates, his dad and me. We all gathered around him. The general mood was lighthearted, with everyone commenting on the beauty of the skyline, sharing funny stories from Andrew's childhood and Andrew getting us laughing in turn. It was a really positive moment. Two nurses from hospice mixed up the medication and gave him a spoonful of raspberry sorbet to take it with. He was asleep within minutes. Soon he started snoring, which was music to my ears since he had not slept well for so long. The rest of us sat there listening to the soundtrack he had put together.' I'll skip the rest of her letter, but I will say, 'Bittersweet is a good word for my thoughts about my son's last days. Andrew died peacefully because of the option of medical aid in dying in California where he lived. I'm comforted by that. I also wish he could have had that option here in Illinois. Andrew Flack accessed medical aid in dying in California, unable to move back home to Illinois to bring his suffering to an end.' Before his death, I was able to meet him. He changed his... he changed my life. I hope he has changed yours as well, and please vote 'yes' in his honor."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Grant."

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Grant: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to voice my opposition, my firm opposition to assisted suicide. I don't have a story, though I am very unhappy that we have not been able to ask the sponsor questions because you just haven't given us enough time. As I've said before, I am pro-life. That includes the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, and those who are alone and struggling, alone and struggling. Life is precious, and we should never treat it as... as disposable. This... this policy opens the door for abuse, and the victims will be our most vulnerables. Our friends at Misericordia, have told me their concerns with this... this bill. Individuals with developmental disabilities, like always, will be the ones who get pushed aside. I'm an advocate for life, on the way in the world, while you're here, and on the way out. I'm really wondering why some Members of this body are so obsessed with ending life, including an unborn. Suicide is serious. We shouldn't be glamorizing this. Vote 'no.'"

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader McCombie."

McCombie: "Thank you, Speaker. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

McCombie: "As we can tell, this is a very emotional bill. I... I agree with Representative Hauter on us looking at sanitary food preparation. It certainly isn't this bill. I think we all have experiences of people in our lives that have cancer, terminal illnesses, or we know somebody. And my mom, who is no longer with us, had terminal throat cancer. And near the end of her life, she had about six months left to live. She moved into our home, where we were able to take care of her with the help of hospice. My mom would have taken a drug like

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this, not because of the pain she felt in her bones, in her muscles, or the lack of control that she had. She would have killed herself for me, for my pain, to protect me. That's what this bill is going to do, and that is not the right reason to do it. Those last six months of my mom's life... and I know, obviously, nobody knew her here. But you know me, so you can probably assume she was pretty tough, pretty verbal, much harder on me than she was my brothers. But she didn't want me to take care of her. I think she had a lot of regrets about how she raised us kids and certainly how she raised her daughter. But those final six months with my mom, I wouldn't have had if this was the law. During those six months, we laid in her bed, we had conversations when I was feeding her through her feeding tube that we never would've had if this would have been the law. Because she wouldn't have done it for her pain, she would have done it for mine. I know this is a very emotional issue, but this is not the bill. This is not the way that this needs to go. I implore you, I beg you, vote 'no.'"

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative DeLuca."

DeLuca: "Questions of the sponsor, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "Sponsor yields."

DeLuca: "Thank you. Leader Gabel, can a terminally ill person with a developmental disability qualify for medical aid in dying?"

Gabel: "If the terminally ill person does not have the mental capacity to make and communicate an informed decision, they will not qualify for aid in dying. Terminally ill person must

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be 18 or older and capable of making medical decisions for themselves."

DeLuca: "Thank you. And can you clarify once again the process with the doctor's approval?"

Gabel: "So, the patient has to see a doctor and ask for the medicine, and then they have to wait five days and ask the doctor again. And then they have to see a... a consulting physician and have that... that visit as well."

DeLuca: "And when is this effective, if it becomes law?"

Gabel: "I believe nine months."

DeLuca: "If... will you commit to a trailer bill if we identify any areas that could be tightened up?"

Gabel: "Absolutely."

DeLuca: "That... that you will do that?"

Gabel: "Absolutely. This is not... this bill and this... this work has been done for 28 years now in 11 states. We're not the first state doing it. But absolutely, if we find things that we need to tighten up, I'm... I would definitely..."

DeLuca: "Thank you. Mr. Speaker, to the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

DeLuca: "I've spent a lot of time speaking with my constituents, trying to represent them on this issue as best as possible. And what I've realized is this is really an issue of faith and science colliding. We've discussed God's will, and we've also discussed modern technologies and modern medications, keeping people alive maybe beyond what God's intentions were. What I do know... and I would ask that this not be called assisted suicide. I am what's referred to as a survivor of suicide. My family has gone through the unbelievable tragedy

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when my sister unexpectedly, at 31 years of age, smart, successful, outgoing, beautiful girl, unexpectedly took her life. This bill is not suicide. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Niemerg."

Niemerg: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Niemerg: "I rise to voice my strong opposition to physician-assisted suicide, a practice that goes against everything we should stand for as a state and as a society that values human life. Physicians-assisted suicide is not about dignity. It's about despair. It tells the sick, the elderly, the disabled, and the vulnerable that their lives are no longer worth living, that when they face this despair, the best we can offer is a prescription for death. That is not compassion. That is abandonment. Doctors are called to heal, to comfort, and to preserve life. And let's be clear: This kind of law opens the door to real abuse. We've seen where this becomes practice. The patients are denied lifesaving treatment and offered lethal drugs instead. That is not medical aid. That's a cost-cutting measure disguised as mercy. Every life has value, from conception, conception, until natural death. We must protect the vulnerable, support the suffering, and uphold the dignity of every human life. This does not respect the gospel. This does not respect the teaches of Jesus Christ or uphold the values of God. And I don't mean that as a judgment on anybody's faith in this room. That's not my place to do that. But the gospel, the.. the teaches of Jesus Christ is very clear on this issue, that we have to value all life. Value all life. I ask everybody to vote 'no' on this measure.

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And, Mr. Speaker, if this should get the requisite amount... amount of votes, I ask for verification."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Benton."

Benton: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Benton: "First of all, I want to thank the bill sponsor for all the work that she's done on a difficult issue. This isn't something that just came out of nowhere. This is something that we've talked to our constituents and folks around the state. Since last year, the year before that, we've all gotten emails, and folks acting like this is something new is disingenuous. I also want to thank the advocates that have worked so tirelessly on this issue. Not everybody knows my background. Not everybody knows where I came from. But when I was 17 years old, my mom had brain surgery, and they screwed up. She had a stroke on the table. They let her bleed out. Later to find out, from another neurosurgeon, after denying a mistake that they... they did make this mistake and hid it. I made a lot of sacrifice for my family. I dropped out of high school to raise my niece and keep my family together. I went back. Had difficult relationships with my father. Turns out, we are the same person. I moved out, started getting my life together, and found out on my birthday that he was going to die. So, quit my job. This was before, when I was taking care of him, when we just thought he had some issues and not cancer. I worked two jobs to take care of the family. Once I found out, I wanted to spent every moment with him. So, I quit my job, and I did in-home hospice care with him. I got to a point where I watched him, where a cancer spread to his

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bones, and it was painful for me to hold his hand. He died without my mom, who was in a nursing home, and he couldn't go to see her until I brought her to him. It's not something that people should have to go through, and people should be able to make their own decisions. Do I think my father would have made that decision? No. But that's part of this bill. You don't have to make the decision to do this. And I think people, when they're talking about this, just like one of the previous speakers spoke about, should have compassion and empathy for the families by calling this bill what it is, medical aid in dying, and not assisted suicide. Because if you sign a DNR, do you consider that assisted suicide? Do you consider that person a murderer when they carry out DNR? 'Cause that's me. 'Cause after my dad died, when I was 20, I took care of my mother. By 21, I was her legal guardian. And at 23, I had to hold my family together and carry out my mom's DNR after she became hospitalized after her body started breaking down, and they had to induce her into a coma, and her lungs shut down. Think about what you're saying. Think about the positions that you're putting people in. It's about compassion, empathy. I encourage a 'yes' on this. And I appreciate the work, and the compassion, and the empathy, and the time that you took to get here, and the conversations that we've had. I've had conversations in my district with..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative..."

Benton: "I'll make it quick... with somebody who had a terminal illness with a degenerative disease that was getting ready to lose use of her diaphragm. I've been in a nursing home for six years with my mother and watched people who were terminal

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with no family, with nobody to love them, with no care. I encourage a 'yes' vote, and I encourage compassion and empathy."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Johnson."

Johnson: "To the bill, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the bill."

Johnson: "We've been talking about this bill the last couple of years, and I really had to continue to consider my thoughts on this bill. And like a lot of people, I always go back to my... my lessons from my father. My dad was the toughest man I've... I've ever known, tougher than anybody in this room, I can tell you that. And we used to have conversations about this, and my father was... was a strong advocate for... for people having the ability to not suffer, to make this... to make their own decision. I did not know that in the spring of 2001, years later, that my father would be diagnosed with lung cancer and be given four months to live. This tough, tough man ended up going through rounds of chemo, rounds of radiation, ended up having surgery in December, and was actually declared cancer-free. A walking miracle. Those next several months were some of the best months of my life, and then my lessons continued with my father. But as often the case with cancer, you're never cancer-free. On September 18, 2001, my father had a PET scan, and the cancer was everywhere. The next six weeks were excruciating. He had a tumor growing into his chest, covering his windpipe over his throat. Every single day he got less and less oxygen. My sister and I took turns, along with my stepmother, we would always... those last six weeks, we would sit with him, hold his hand, tell him we loved him. As... as

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fate would have it, though, on November 2, we were both busy. Stepmom went upstairs, and he passed away that night on November 2. Died alone. Wasn't anybody there to hold his hand, tell him they loved him. Had his thumb on this orange button that would provide him oxygen. There was no more... there was nowhere for the oxygen to go anymore. I just want to close. I've... I've heard God's will invoked here a couple times, and this debate started even last week with that term. I'm not going to question anyone's faith. I will tell you that... that my God is not one that believes that someone should suffer all the way... all the way to the end of their life. I just don't believe that. He's a compassionate God. But I also want to say that, once again, we... we find ourselves in a situation where just a few, a few on the other side, seem to think that if... if you... you are in opposition to this bill that you're pro-life. And then I will simply say to that, that in a couple cases, once again, as I did in the case of my mother, I really just see you as anti-choice. So, I would.. I want to thank the sponsor as well. I want to thank the advocates for the work in this bill. And I strongly encourage an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Gabel to close."

Gabel: "Thank you. Thank you all for your comments. So, I've been working on this issue for quite a long time, and in the last six years, constituents throughout the state have reached out to their legislators on both sides of the aisle in support of this issue, and it's resulted in thousands of calls, visits, emails, and letters. Let's be clear: Medical aid in dying is already the law in 11 states and the District of Columbia,

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jurisdictions that cover millions of other Americans. In those places, when the legislation was considered, they heard the very same fears, and guess what? None came to pass. Rather than seeing a score of people coerced into taking an action against their will, what we have actually seen is a small group of terminally ill people, people suffering unbearable pain, to be able to end that suffering and die in peace, using a process that they initiate and that they have control over. That is what this bill is about, not about the fears and the hypotheticals but about helping those who are facing a terminal diagnosis. It is for those that I'm presenting this bill. It is for those who have worked so hard trying to get this bill passed here, who have advocated for this. And... and you know what? They all wanted to live, but they weren't going to. They knew they were going to die. They knew, 88% of them were in hospice and palliative care, and they only wished that they could take medication when the pain was beyond, beyond, beyond too much. So, I... for all those people who have worked so hard, please, please vote 'yes' on this bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Members, Representative Niemerg has asked for a verification. All Members please be in your chairs and vote your own switches. The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1950 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay.' 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 63 voting 'yes,' 42 voting 'no,' 2 voting 'present.' Mr. Clerk, please read the names of those voting in the affirmative."

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Clerk Hollman: "A poll of those voting in the affirmative:
Representative Andrade; Representative Avelar;
Representative Benton; Representative Blair-Sherlock;
Representative Briel; Representative Buckner; Representative
Canty; Representative Cassidy; Representative Chung;
Representative Costa Howard; Representative Crawford;
Representative Croke; Representative Lisa Davis;
Representative Will Davis; Representative Delgado;
Representative DeLuca; Representative Deuter; Representative
Didech; Representative du Buclet; Representative Faver Dias;
Representative Ford; Representative Gabel; Representative
Gong-Gershowitz; Representative González; Representative
Gordon-Booth; Representative Grasse; Representative
Guerrero-Cuellar; Representative Guzzardi; Representative
Hanson; Representative Harper; Representative Barbara
Hernandez; Representative Norma Hernandez; Representative
Hirschauer; Representative Huynh; Representative Jiménez;
Representative Johnson; Representative Jones; Representative
Katz Muhl; Representative LaPointe; Representative Lilly;
Representative Mah; Representative Manley; Representative
Mason; Representative Meyers-Martin; Representative Moeller;
Representative Morgan; Representative Moylan; Representative
Mussman; Representative Ness; Representative Olickal;
Representative Ortíz; Representative Rita..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk. Representative Niemerg."

Niemerg: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the verification."

Speaker Hoffman: "The Member... the Representative withdrawn the...
his verification request. On this question, there are 63
voting 'yes,' 42 voting 'no,' 2 voting 'present.' And this

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bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk, First Readings."

Clerk Hollman: "First Reading of Senate Bill. Senate Bill 2510, offered by Speaker Welch, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. First Reading of this Senate Bill. The Rules Committee will meet immediately. The Rules Committee will meet immediately."

Speaker Hoffman: "The clerk is in receipt of a Motion in Writing to waive the posting requirements for several bills. If there is leave, we will take these motions together in one motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Leader Stuart on the motion."

Stuart: "Speaker, I move that the posting requirements be waived so the following legislative measure can be heard in the following committee this week: Senate Bill 2510 to Executive Committee."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Windhorst."

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

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Stuart. Leader Stuart has moved to waive the posting requirements. All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' 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. There being 75 Members voting 'yes,' 36 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And the posting requirements are waived. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Bolin: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 395, offered by Representative Mah. House Resolution 396, offered by Representative Yang Rohr. House Resolution 399, offered by

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Representative Ford. House Resolution 400, offered by Representative Meier. And House Resolution 401, offered by Representative Lilly."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. And now, allowing perfunctory time for the clerk, Leader Gabel moves that the House stand adjourned until the morning of... 9:30 a.m. Friday, May the 30th. 9:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. Friday, May the 30th. 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."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 4070, offered by Representative Swanson, a Bill for an Act concerning gaming. First Reading of this House Bill. Second Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 24, a Bill for an Act concerning government. Senate Bill 711, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Senate Bill 783, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. Senate Bill 852, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Senate Bill 2319, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Senate Bill 2339, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. Second Reading of these Senate Bills. They'll be held on the Order of Second Reading. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."