NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

May 14, 2026

11:24 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone to please rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the assemblage recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: In the absence of clergy, let us please bow our heads in a moment of silent reflection or prayer.

(Whereupon, the assemblage respected a moment of silence.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Wednesday, May 13, 2026, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Tuesday, May 12, 2026, was read and approved. On motion, the Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Sepúlveda

moves to discharge, from the Committee on Judiciary, Assembly Bill Number 9144A, and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill Number 9286, Third Reading Calendar 571.

Senator Kavanagh moves to discharge, from the Committee on Local Government, Assembly Bill Number 9570C and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill Number 8527B, Third Reading Calendar 763.

Senator Comrie moves to discharge, from the Committee on Transportation, Assembly Bill Number 5134 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 5164, Third Reading Calendar 776.

Senator Sanders moves to discharge, from the Committee on Banks, Assembly Bill Number 3304B and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 9656, Third Reading Calendar 857.

Senator Scarcella-Spanton moves to discharge, from the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, Assembly Bill Number 10418 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 9851, Third Reading Calendar 862.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: So

ordered.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Good morning, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Good morning.

SENATOR GIANARIS: On behalf of Senator Hinchey, I wish to call up Senate Print Number 1788, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 223, Senate Print 1788, by Senator Hinchey, an act to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will call the roll on reconsideration.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is restored to its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The amendments are received.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, there will be an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in Room 332.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: There will be an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in Room 332.

SENATOR GIANARIS: The Senate stands at ease.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senate will stand at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 11:26 a.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 11:31 a.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senate will return to order.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: There's a report of the Rules Committee at the desk.

Please take that up.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Stewart-Cousins, from the Committee on Rules, reports the following bill:

Senate Print 10324, by Senator Serrano, an act making appropriations for the support of government.

The bill reports direct to third reading.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to accept the report of the Rules Committee.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: All those in favor of accepting the report of the Rules Committee please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Opposed, nay.

(Response of "Nay.")

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The report of the Rules Committee is accepted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please take up the supplemental calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 1121, Senate Print 10324, by Senator Serrano, an act making appropriations for the support of government.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Is there a message of necessity and appropriation at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: There is a message of necessity and appropriation at the desk.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to accept the message.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: All those in favor of accepting the message please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Opposed, nay.

(Response of "Nay.")

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The

message is accepted, and the bill is before the house.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is laid aside.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, please take up the reading of the supplemental controversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will ring the bell.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 1121, Senate Print 10324, by Senator Serrano, an act making appropriations for the support of government.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator O'Mara, why do you rise?

SENATOR O'MARA: Thank you, Mr. President.

Would Senator Serrano, the sponsor of this extender, answer some questions?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: Senator, here we are, over a month and a half late on this budget. Can you summarize for us where we stand in getting this budget to a close and when you expect that to happen?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President.

Senator O'Mara, we've gone through a few of these extenders. I can imagine it's a little bit frustrating. But I do feel probably more optimistic than ever that an end is in sight.

We will certainly conclude, I believe, shortly, but we're not quite there yet. And the bill before us allows state government to continue to move forward and execute all of the different things that it needs to do until we get to that moment.

But right now I don't have a concrete update as to where we are with the final budget.

SENATOR O'MARA: Thank you.

Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: Senator, do you expect us to have final budget bills next week or after Memorial Day?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. It's very difficult for me to speculate on that. I would hope that next week we could start working on the final enacted budget, but it's difficult for me to say.

SENATOR O'MARA: Thank you.

Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: Senator, this extender takes us till Monday of next week, three days away.

In my experience, without having any

budget bills finalized at this point, there's really no possible way to have a final and completed group of budget bills by next Monday. So why is this extender only going till Monday and not going later?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. We don't control the length of time the extenders cover, although it has been sort of the pattern throughout these extenders that they do carry us from the last day of session in a particular week to the following week, the beginning of the following week. So this is just, I think, a continuation of that pattern.

But beyond that, I cannot say -- I can't really explain sort of the spacing of them.

SENATOR O'MARA: Thank you.

Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: Senator, do we

have a schedule for the joint budget committees?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. No, we do not.

SENATOR O'MARA: Through you, Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: Do you expect that the budget committees are going to meet again?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. I don't have any information on that at this moment.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Through you, Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: There has been,

you know, several I guess statements, for lack of a better word, by the Governor that there's a budget deal. That was over a week ago. The Governor said there was a budget deal. The Governor had a press conference, a full PowerPoint presentation on this budget deal. And yet still we have no bills in print.

So, you know, you said it's frustrating to have this, but it's concerning also. There seems to be no sense of urgency in getting this done, and very few details about what these agreements may or may not be on the major issues.

Can you tell us where we stand in regards to the agreement on changes to Tier 6?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President, I don't -- I don't have any details on those policy issues.

And again, the bill before us does not encompass any of those. I believe those, if they do exist, will ultimately be part of a final budget.

But to your previous statement, Senator O'Mara, I do sense there is an urgency. I think there's been an urgency from the very

beginning to get a good budget.

But this one has been particularly difficult, and because of the many different factors involved. But certainly it is an important budget, and it's important for our constituents to have a very good budget that speaks to the needs of New Yorkers across the state.

And I feel confident that we will get to that point and it will be a good budget. But right now it is still out there, so we still have some work to do.

SENATOR O'MARA: Through you, Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: I certainly agree that it's better to have a good budget than an on-time budget, but I don't think it's good government to have a two-months-late budget either, with the seeming lack of activity going

on here.

And we want a good budget for New Yorkers, and we want New Yorkers to understand what that budget is. And there's been no information forthcoming other than some overarching bullet points that tell us we have deal on these policy agreements.

Now, it's come out that the Tier 6 agreement is going to cost about $500 million. Who is -- whose cost is that $500 million? Is that state government cost? Does that include local governments' share in that? And is this a one-time $500 million or is this going to be $500 million every year going forward due to the changes being proposed in Tier 6?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. Senator O'Mara, it's difficult for me to give you any answers on that because I don't have the details in front of me.

To your statement as to this budget process and conveying that information, you know, from the Executive Budget through our budget one-house, these have been opportunities for us to convey to our constituents about where our budget priorities lie and solicit feedback from

them on different items -- which my office, and I'm sure all of your offices have gotten.

So while it certainly has not been a perfect process, it has been widely reported, many of the details of the budget. And as we continue to close down these different items, I think we'll have more information to convey back to our constituents.

SENATOR O'MARA: Through you, Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: Senator, is there any other Senator present here today that has information and details on this issue?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President, I cannot say for sure.

But the bill before us is a bill that I sponsor, so I'll be more than happy to give you as much information as I can.

SENATOR O'MARA: Through you,

Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: You know, having no information as things progress (air quotes) doesn't really make us feel that things are progressing on this.

And seemingly every time the Governor makes an announcement on where we stand, there's more things being added, such as an additional $4 billion to bail out New York City, in one of her most recent comments on that.

Can you tell us, this additional $4 billion, where's it coming from and what's it going to, other than just New York City? Is there parameters on what it's being used for?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. Senator O'Mara, it's difficult for me to give you that answer without final budget language in front of me.

But considering the size of the

State of New York and all of the different agencies and programs and schools and really worthy items that need to be addressed in this budget, I think it's not surprising that it has taken this long, considering the magnitude of our budget.

However, I do feel good that we are in the final stretch and that we are getting closer to a resolution on this budget. And I hope, in the coming days, to have budget language that we can begin voting on.

SENATOR O'MARA: Through you, Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: We have these general proposals of an additional $5.5 billion to bail out New York City.

We all represent various constituencies, various local governments, various school districts that all have their own

fiscal concerns. And while the dollar amounts may not be as large, the percentages of what these local governments are facing are equally as large as what the City of New York is looking at.

So what, in addition to this $5.5 billion that the Governor's earmarking for New York City, how much more is being discussed to give to our local governments to help them stave off property tax increases?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President, in our Senate budget one-house we tried our best to support all the localities throughout the State of New York, with an understanding that they have tremendous need and they're also great economic generators for the entire economy for the state.

So that can be, I think, a very clear blueprint of where we stand and where negotiations are. But certainly we feel very strongly about the City of New York, as we do of every town and village throughout the State of New York, ensuring that they can have the resources they need to thrive and to be part of the great State of New York and be the economic generators that they all are.

SENATOR O'MARA: Thank you.

Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: Senator, I can tell you that my local governments and school districts aren't feeling it -- school districts in particular, with budget votes next Tuesday. And we're extending this budget until Monday. There will be no budget on Monday.

You know, when it was initially -- came out of the agreements with an additional $1.5 billion going to New York City, and then $100 million for basically the rest of the state, other than some amounts in particular for the big cities along the Thruway.

But, you know, $100 million to $1.5 billion is 1/15th. Now, we're at 5.5 billion. And I haven't done the math in my head, but it's four or five times more of that discrepancy between how much New York City's

getting and how much the rest of the state is getting.

How is that balanced? And how can you justify that?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. There is a very large concentration of people in the City of New York, and there certainly is a lot of need and need for resources there.

But I can tell you, when it comes to school districts -- you did mention that, Senator O'Mara -- that the Executive Budget had a good number in there. We in our Senate budget one-house, we built up from there as well.

So while we don't have a final enacted budget in front of us to vote on and to point to as far as what school districts can expect, I think it's safe to assume, based on what the Executive Budget had and what our one-house had, that it would be a good number.

SENATOR O'MARA: Through you, Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: Well, I can't disagree with you strongly enough on that, Senator. That, you know, the Governor's budget came out with a 1 percent increase for some 65 percent of the school districts in this state.

And we don't have a firm number as to where we are now. At best, from what I've heard, those lower school districts, all non-urban school districts, all rural, poor school districts, getting 1 percent, maybe 2 percent in this budget -- but yet they're putting budgets to their voters next Tuesday.

What is the total amount that's agreed to at this point going to school aid?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. Thank you for that question, Senator O'Mara.

In our Senate budget one-house we actually had a 3 percent increase, so we were building upon what the Governor had put forth.

But again, not to get too deep into the speculation, because I will remind everyone

that the bill before us does not contain any of this information. This is a budget extender.

But please know that all of us in our conference care deeply about every town, village, locality and school district throughout the State of New York. And we want to ensure that they have the resources that they need to educate the kids, the children, the students in their localities.

SENATOR O'MARA: Thank you, Senator.

Madam President, if the Senator will continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Does the Senator yield?

SENATOR SERRANO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Senator yields.

SENATOR O'MARA: There's been a lot of discussion around giving New York City the opportunity to impose a pied-à-terre tax on high-end second homes in New York City. And there's been some discussion of spreading that to upstate.

Can you tell us, is that going to be

spread across upstate and the rest of the state, Long Island included? And what are the parameters going to be? What's the criteria to make a pied-à-terre qualify to have to pay this tax, and what is that tax rate going to be?

SENATOR SERRANO: Through you, Madam President. Senator O'Mara, I cannot speculate on that. It's certainly not in the bill before us.

SENATOR O'MARA: Through you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator.

On the bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator O'Mara on the bill.

SENATOR O'MARA: That's the problem. There's nothing in this bill before us today on where things stand in the budget.

Things should be being resolved and checked off, and we should be letting New Yorkers know where we stand on these issues, where this Legislature is, where the Governor is, what agreements have been made so, you know, maybe, by chance, we could get some actual feedback from the citizens of New York across the state, not just the interests of New York City, of where

this budget is headed, what they can expect.

I know there have been certain agreements that are final. What they are and what the details of those are, we don't know.

But there's no way that there aren't some things that are finalized that we could be informing New Yorkers of so they could be talking to us and telling us what they think about that, every one of us.

And we should be very concerned about that, because we're their representatives. They elect us to come here and represent them, and look out for their interests and look out for the interests of the state as a whole.

But keeping everybody in the dark, now over a month and a half late on this budget, as I've said many times on these extenders, it's not good government. Really, it's embarrassing that we operate this way. And we need to do better for the citizens of this state.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard?

Seeing and hearing none, debate is closed.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, we've agreed to restore this bill to the noncontroversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill has been restored to the noncontroversial calendar.

There's a substitution at the desk.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Serrano moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 11365 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 10324, Third Reading Calendar 1121.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Rhoads to explain his vote.

SENATOR RHOADS: Just to clarify, Madam President. Is this vote on the substitution, or is this vote on the bill-in-chief?

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: There's a substitution at the desk. It is the bill, but --

SENATOR RHOADS: So it is the bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Yes.

SENATOR RHOADS: Okay. Madam President, I rise to explain my vote.

Budgets are supposed to be about priorities. Senator Serrano tried to explain where the Majority's budget priorities are. He uses the term "ours." These are not the priorities of the Republican Conference. They are certainly not my priorities in this budget.

But the problem is we are now passing our 12th budget extender. The budget is now 45 days -- is almost 45 days late. We are spending 10 percent of last year's State Budget this year by extender.

We have the Governor, who came out last week and not only announced the fact that we had a budget deal, but had an entire PowerPoint presentation with details about the budget bill.

We had the Majority in the Assembly and the Senate come out and say, We have no idea what they're talking about, but we don't think

we'll have another extender that's going to influence payroll.

As of today, we are guaranteed to have to pass another extender that is going to deal with payroll.

Bipartisan budget subcommittees, conference subcommittees, have not met in two months, which is the process that we're supposed to be going through by this budget.

Apart from the fact that we don't know whether people are lying, don't know what's happening, we can't get any information -- there's no transparency in this process.

The people of the State of New York and their representatives, at least on this side of the aisle, haven't been told anything about what is happening in this process other than what we're hearing on the floor, which is essentially -- with all due respect, is essentially answers without answers.

What this process has been turned into -- and I thank you, Madam President, there is no urgency. We, after we consider today's calendar, will be going home. Not staying here to work over the weekend, but going home.

This budget process has been turned into an abomination of the democratic process. I don't know --

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator, how do you vote?

SENATOR RHOADS: I do not want to support a shutdown. However, I don't know another way to register my opposition to what that process has been turned into.

I'm voting in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Rhoads in the negative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 1121, voting in the negative are Senators Rhoads and Weik.

Ayes, 56. Nays, 2.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of the controversial calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, let's get back to motions and resolutions and take up previously adopted Resolution 1896, by Senator Bailey, read that resolution's title and

call on Senator Bailey.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 1896, by Senator Bailey, mourning the death of the Honorable Eliot Engel, Assemblyman, Congressman, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of his community.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Madam President.

I'm rising with a heavy heart, almost a month post the untimely death of the great Eliot Engel. And I do so at this time, at the onset of my remarks I just want to let my colleagues here know, let the public know that there will be a public memorial this coming Sunday for Congressman Engel at Lehman College, his alma mater, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., which is why the timing of this was important, so that we can remind people about what Congressmember Engel was able to accomplish in his life.

But my first interaction with Congressman Engel wasn't by virtue of my working

in government or being around government, it was when I went to school with his daughter Julia. People would say that her dad is a Congressman, and I was like, What's that?

Well, we learned what it was. And I went to elementary school and junior high school with Julia. And some of the things that Congressman Engel did were quite inspirational.

He grew up in Eastchester Gardens public housing. Went from public housing to teaching public school. Then he wanted to be a public servant, and he ran for the Assembly. He served in the Assembly for about 11 years, and then ran for Congress, and did a lot more for America and our district than just standing on the edge of the aisle.

A lot of people knew Eliot Engel because he stood on the edge of the aisle to shake most president's hands, Madam President. But Eliot Engel did a lot more.

He did great things in Co-Op City, where he represented and where he once lived also. He did great things -- he was a sponsor or cosponsor of single-payer healthcare back in 2003. Before it became a national talking point,

Congressman Eliot Engel was talking about how we needed to do better amongst our society.

But I wanted to focus on the man Eliot Engel, Madam President. He was someone who really cared. He actually really cared about his community. And he would show up in the most random places by himself, without his staff, even though his staff wouldn't want him to go to these places by himself.

Long before his reelection, Eliot Engel would be at a block party or a street renaming with three other people. And he would sit there and talk to the three other people that were there because he loved his community.

I specifically remember the street renaming for J.W. Smith, Madam President. It was 95 degrees that day. And everybody that was supposed to come, most of them didn't come. Eliot showed up. Now, this wasn't because he was running, because he didn't have a primary that year. This wasn't because he needed electoral credit. Because he cared about his community, and he showed up. And that's a shining moment of how I remember Eliot.

His wife, Pat, amazing woman. I

remember her from when I was a kid, seeing the family at PTA conferences. They were a very civically involved family with their other children, Philip and Jonathan -- and Julia, as I mentioned earlier.

And I just wanted us to remember that he had a life well-lived outside of the space of Washington.

And recently -- I just wanted to make sure this is record. Congressmember Latimer reached out the other day and noticed that the House Foreign Affairs Committee, one of the few bipartisan things that's happening in Washington, they voted 39-7 so that building of the chancellory in Kosovo would be named after Eliot.

Eliot did a lot of great thing for the residents of Kosovo and Albania. He's very highly regarded over there.

But I think that this should show who he was, Madam President. That even in times of deep political discord and division that when we're looking to do something for Eliot Engel, we can do so in a bipartisan manner.

I just want to make sure I send my love again to Pat and the family and to the

Team Engel folks like Bill Weitz and John Calvelli and so many other from the Team Engel tree. We know how much you loved him, and we loved him as well.

I thank you for the opportunity to be able to present this resolution. May Congressmember Eliot Engel's memory be an eternal blessing.

I vote aye, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Leader Stewart-Cousins on the resolution.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you so much, Madam President.

And I rise also to pay tribute to someone who was a friend, who was demonstrably, as Senator Bailey said, committed to community and to public service. And thank you again for sponsoring this resolution and having this moment to talk about someone who was, for those of us who knew him, really a friend.

You know, yeah, he was a politician. And yes, he was a public servant. But he was also a guy that you could always talk to and ask

his opinion. He would never be the person who would say, "By the way, what I think you should do" -- unless you asked. But if you asked, he would tell you. In a way that you understood it, he would explain his reasoning and give you an opportunity to really assess what your options were.

And in times where we know, as politicians, it can be difficult to determine whose advice you can really take, Eliot Engel was not one of those people. You knew that what he was saying was heartfelt and that he was doing it to help you.

So I really appreciated this about him. And the fact that when I got into politics, actually it was '92, and Eliot was my Congressperson. I'd moved to Yonkers from the Bronx. He and I had very similar paths. I grew up in public housing, he grew up in public housing. Went to public schools, taught. And actually he and I went to the same high school.

So we had a lot in common. But the first Congressperson that I was aware of when we moved to Westchester was Eliot Engel. And so in that regard, he was a model for so many who were

growing up in politics. And again, to have someone who had the title of Congressman but who was accessible, who was willing to be in your community no matter how big or how small, left an indelible impression on me and so many others about what public service looks like and what it means to actually be someone who is not only active in D.C. or on the floor of Congress, but also in our very communities.

So I too want to give my condolences to the Engel family, to Pat, to Julia, to Philip and Jonathan, and his grandchildren. And, you know, to let them know that his service, whether it was on an international stage in his role as -- he always used to say foreign relations, foreign affairs. We would always laugh about how they are two different things in the Senate and in the Congress.

But whether it's an international role, a national role, and most importantly a very, very local role, his legacy will be treasured, remembered, emulated.

And again, we wish that he rest in peace, because he has contributed over 44 years to taking care of the rest of us.

So thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Madam Leader.

Senator Mayer on the resolution.

SENATOR MAYER: Thank you, Madam President.

And thank you, Senator Bailey and Leader Stewart-Cousins, for talking about our friend Eliot Engel.

He really was, for those of us who were in his world, a friend as well, as the leader said, a congressman and a leader in the Washington world.

I just want to for a minute focus on his role as chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Many members of Congress who have such distinguished roles don't translate it for the people they represent, but he did.

And in Yonkers, where there's so many people who are either first or second generation coming from another country here, in those years, whether it was from Ukraine, Albania, Kosovo, he was present in our community standing up with tremendous courage on behalf of their families at home.

And I remember being at the Ukrainian festival many times, with the leader and others in Yonkers, with thousands of people of Ukrainian heritage who cared and were concerned about their families back home, welcoming him as if he was a fellow Ukrainian-American. And the same when we were in the Albanian-American community.

Each of these immigrant communities, he was able to translate his own history as a child of immigrants into a real sympathy and empathy with the next generation of Americans.

We miss having that kind of leadership now, someone who understands the next generation of our friends and neighbors. Eliot Engel was exceptional in translating that into a meaningful connection to the people he represented at home, as well as on the international stage.

We were very, very fortunate to have his leadership. Toward the end of his term, I was in a church in Tuckahoe with him in a very tough time. He was courageous, thoughtful, empathetic, and exhibited leadership.

We really treasure his memory. May

his memory be a blessing.

And I proudly vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Stavisky on the resolution.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Madam President.

And as I'm listening to Senator Bailey -- and thank you for introducing this resolution -- and the leader and Senator Mayer, I'm struck by the warmth that we all felt for Eliot Engel.

We do a lot of resolutions here, and often we don't really know the people individually. But this is different. As many of you know, many years ago my husband was in the Assembly and chaired the Assembly Education Committee. And I think it was in the '70s when he had a person active in Bronx politics by the name of Patty Ennis on his staff, and she worked in the district office for quite a number of years.

And she had the same qualities as Eliot, and in fact they were dating for a long time. She was dating this young teacher active

in Bronx politics.

And one day there was a vacancy in the Bronx for the Assembly, and she -- her partner, so to speak, was running for the seat. He was a teacher at the time. So she asked Leonard and me, and ultimately my son, to come to the Bronx and ring doorbells. They gave us sheets, and we rang doorbells. And I remember going home around 2:30 or so to pick up my son, who was in elementary school, and the three of us rang doorbells in Co-Op City for Eliot.

He was elected to the Assembly, obviously, and then to Congress.

And I do have a connection to his congressional career, because I spent some time in Rockland County. And of course it was great watching him as a member of Congress. And I remember the post office dedication for somebody we knew in common. And I saw the warmth that the people felt for him.

This was not somebody who was aloof and arrogant. This was a teacher who never forgot where he came from.

So to Pat and to his family, we will all miss him.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

The resolution was adopted on April 21st.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Next let's move on to previously adopted Resolution 1843, by Senator Ashby, read that resolution's title and call on Senator Ashby, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 1843, by Senator Ashby, congratulating the Christian Brothers Academy Varsity Basketball Team upon the occasion of capturing the 2026 New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class AAA Boys Basketball Championship.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Ashby on the resolution.

SENATOR ASHBY: Thank you, Madam President, for allowing me to introduce today the Christian Brothers Academy Varsity Basketball Team for capturing the New York State

2026 Class AAA Boys Basketball Championship.

Undefeated season, first AAA boys basketball season to go undefeated and win the New York State Championship.

We're joined by players Jacob Bowden, Brandt Cadet, Amare Coffil, Sebastien Dorcelus, Jack Hulett, Rae'vel Johnson, Kieon Pollydore, Theodore Tidgewell, Jason Vogel, Austin Osinski and Jayden Osinski.

And for some of us, these names may sound a little familiar. Osinski, legendary coach from Schalmont. Corey Osinski, Kevin Osinski, both standout players in the Capital Region, both of whom I fouled tremendously during my time on the court. It was a privilege to play with them.

We are also joined by Head Coach Galal Cancer, Assistant Coaches Malcolm Austin and William Banagan, Athletic Director Blaine Drescher, Assistant Athletic Director Tina Slingerland, Team Manager Trustin Tolliver, and staff members Andrew Goodemote and William Toomey.

Madam President, please congratulate them, offer them all the cordialities of this

august body.

And just a tremendous accomplishment for you guys. I know that we will be welcoming you back here next year.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you.

To the undefeated Class AAA Christian Brothers Academy Varsity Basketball Team, congratulations on everything that you've accomplished. Continue doing well. Continue being excellent not only in academics but in sports.

We welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The resolution was adopted on April 21st.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Now let's take up previously adopted Resolution 2083, by Senator Baskin, read that resolution's title, and call on Senator Baskin.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2083, by Senator Baskin, commemorating the four-year anniversary of the shooting at Tops Friendly Markets in Buffalo, New York, on May 14, 2026, and honoring the victims, survivors, families and community at large in the wake of this devastating tragedy.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Baskin on the resolution.

SENATOR BASKIN: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, last year I stood in this very chamber and I spoke about the horrific events of May 14, 2022, at Tops Grocery Store on Jefferson Avenue in my district in Buffalo, New York.

There was a part of me last year that was fixated on not crying, because I believe that moments of extreme emotion should be reserved for privacy. I did not want to cry last year. I did not want to be embarrassed.

Last year, in the days leading up to the anniversary of the senseless massacre that

took 10 of my community members, I wrote my remarks and I prepared myself not to cry. I did not want to talk about the tragedy of 5/14 while consumed by tears.

But anyone who experienced May 14th as a frontline witness, like the residents of the 63th District did, anyone who sat with and held members of their community as they grieved their inconceivable loss, that person should feel pain. That person should feel grief and anger, and that person should cry.

When we remember that on a normal sunny Saturday afternoon a racist white nationalist came into my community and sought to terrorize and kill as many Black people as possible, that he drove two hours to deliberately target the only grocery store in a historic Black neighborhood -- yes, we should cry.

Madam President, I know that there are Black people across this nation who are born into hardship every day, a hardship that this country specifically designed for them. But I also know personally many, many Black people in Buffalo, in the 63rd District, and I know their trauma. I know their stories. You see,

Madam President, 5/14 was not a standalone trauma for my community. It was a re-trauma. It was a reminder. It was not a dark day; it was a darker day. It was a deeper sadness in a life already afflicted by pain.

The people of Buffalo have been carrying the trauma of May 14th every single day for the past four years. Again, not as a trauma, but as a re-trauma. Ask anyone in the community where they were or what they were doing when they first heard about the shooting. They remember. Survivors relive the fear they felt that afternoon. Children in my community are growing up with the memory of hate and violence attached to a place that should have simply been known as a neighborhood grocery store.

So we should cry. We should mourn when we speak the names of the victims who were ripped away from their families, ripped away from our community in a pure act of hatred and cruelty: Celestine Chaney; Roberta Drury; Andre Mackneil; Katherine Massey; Margus Morrison; Heyward Patterson; Aaron Salter; Geraldine Talley; Ruth Whitfield; and Pearl Young.

Madam President, we should cry when we think about the re-trauma endured by the survivors on that darker day, including the three who were shot and wounded: Zaire Goodman; Jennifer Warrington; Christopher Braden.

We should cry when we remember the 10 people stolen from us that day and the lives that they lived. They were nurturing mothers and fathers. (Weeping.) They were grandparents. They were cherished children. They were siblings. They were dedicated community activists who worked to improve their neighborhood. They were public servants who protected people.

They were selfless caregivers who provided for their loved ones. They were faithful leaders who spread God's light throughout their communities.

The May 14th shooter, who was radicalized online to hate people who were different from him, wanted to divide my community further. He wanted to break my community. But the opposite happened.

The pain that we felt on May 14, 2022, does not disappear because time has passed.

And I guarantee that every year that we remember this day on the floor of the New York State Senate, that I will feel sorrow, I will feel anger, and I will cry.

But grief is not weakness. Tears are not weakness. Anger at injustice is not weakness. These are emotions, and these emotions are proof of our humanity. They are proof that we love people. (Weeping.) They are proof that other communities other than ours matter. They are proof that we care about lives that are stolen from us.

May God bless the City of Buffalo and all the people that are back home today who are anguished. May God remind all of us in this chamber that we have a responsibility to respond to the violence of May 14th with progress. And may He remind me that it's only on the day that I stand to memorialize May 14th and I don't cry, that's the day that I should feel embarrassed.

I also want to ask God for a special prayer and a special healing for the East Side of Buffalo.

I want to thank all of my colleagues in this chamber who will vote in favor of this

resolution and who will continue to keep my district in prayer.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Zellner on the resolution.

SENATOR ZELLNER: Thank you, Madam President.

I rise today as a Senator from Buffalo but, more importantly, to advocate for a community still carrying the pain of May 14th every single day.

And as our Senator April Baskin reminded this chamber, four years ago today a neighborhood grocery store became the site of one of the most horrific acts of racist violence in modern history. Ten innocent people were murdered simply because of the color of their skin.

And I think all of us remember where we were when we heard that news. But this felt different because this was Buffalo. This was our community. These were our neighbors.

For many people on Buffalo's East Side, May 14th did not create the pain. It

was the moment the rest of the country finally paid attention to pain that existed for generations. A community that had already endured segregation, disinvestment, food insecurity, violence, and loss.

And yet even after unimaginable loss, this community still chose compassion. That is Buffalo. And what stays with me the most is who we lost. People like Pearl Young. I knew Pearl in my time as board of elections commissioner. She was one of our dedicated elections inspectors. Pearl lived a life centered on helping others.

And Geraldine Talley. If you asked people who knew Gerry Talley, they would tell you that she was an amazing mom, an amazing baker, someone who made birthday cakes for every one of her colleagues' birthdays every single year. That was who she was.

And today we remember the other eight innocent people who never returned home that day. We remember the survivors, the workers, the shoppers, and the people forced to run for their lives.

Four years later, there are still

some of our neighbors carrying the intense pain of that day.

One of the voices to emerge from this tragedy has been Gerry's son Mark Talley. And over the last four years he has reminded people that for Buffalo, May 14th did not end when the memorials were over.

And while Buffalo will never forget the 10 innocent lives taken too soon, we also know there is plenty of work ahead. Work to make sure families can afford to stay in the neighborhoods they built. Work to make sure children grow up with opportunities close to home. Work to make sure communities have access to fresh food. Work to make sure people feel safe in their own community.

Because the people we lost should still be here. They should still be with their families. They should still have been able to walk into a grocery store on a Saturday afternoon and come home.

So today we remember them. But the best way we can remember them and to honor them is to continue working to build the kind of community that they deserve.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you.

Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Madam President.

This attack certainly took place in Buffalo, but Buffalo is all of us.

I was visiting Buffalo on a banking tour, and I came across a supermarket, a very bland-looking supermarket. And the only thing that stood out was that there was some -- it was a tree or something of that nature where there was a plaque or something on it. And I questioned people. I said, What is this? And they said, That is where the attack took place.

It was so typical. There was nothing extraordinary about the supermarket. It was just a supermarket that you would find anywhere. And that's what struck me, my friends, that this was an attack that would have taken place anywhere, to any of us. A sick and troubled mind decided that this was the area -- it could have been your area. Just luck of the draw, if you wish, that it was theirs.

There's a group of people out there that call themselves the accelerationists. They believe that America is falling, that America is hit and we're going to the bottom, and it should be dissolved. And if they could just end it, they'll create something in their minds better. The accelerationists.

And they want to accelerate America's downfall. These are white supremacists who have a very twisted view of America, and they are hard at work accelerating this downfall that they see.

Now, the American people should take a different position. We should become decelerationists. We should combat the nonsense and the mindset that they have by committing ourselves to these values that we call ourselves holding, values that are worth fighting for and worth dying for.

America is an unfinished product. Nobody can say this more than Black people. America is certainly not the finished product or not the place that has everything together.

But America is worth keeping. America is worth defending. These ideals put up

by imperfect people are bigger than those people. And therefore, attacks by people who want to accelerate the end of America should be stopped by every single person who calls themselves an American.

Buffalo is not an isolated place. Belief is a warning shot across the bow to all of us in America, that there are those who are committed to make sure that this union that so many people have fought and died for goes down the drain.

We in this chamber should commit ourselves that we are not going to let it happen. We're going to reach across the aisle. We're going to -- we could disagree, but we don't have to become disagreeable. We don't have to just say no when we know we should say yes, or vice versa.

We can be bigger than these things, my friends. We can perhaps show the rest of the nation where this country could go if it just believed in the words that were written.

America is larger than any of us in here and deserves to be fought for. And this is why Buffalo should never stand by itself and

never be -- and we should always say it. And not just Buffalo, Charleston -- we could go down the line, all of these places where we're getting these shootings. This is anti-American, and all of us should say it and stand with it.

I'll be kind and end there by saying we stand -- in the Talented Tenth Senatorial District, we stand with Buffalo.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Comrie on the resolution.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Madam President.

I stand to support the resolution marking four years of a tragedy that happened at the Tops Supermarket in Buffalo.

The tragedy that happened, the fact that we had a child that was raised in the State of New York that wanted to commit mass murder of people he didn't know, is a tragedy that we can't walk away from. It's a situation that we have to face, that we as a state have not made sure that our children understand the beauty of New York.

New York was founded to create

opportunities for people. New York embraced immigrants, from the Statute of Liberty, from all of the people that emigrated here from different parts of the world, New York has always been a state that embraces culture. A state that allows people from different areas to come and understand what America is, understand how to make a new life, understand how to escape oppression.

But the fact that we had a young man from New York State that wanted to kill people for no reason, other than listening to hate blogs and being on hatred websites, is something that we need to change. We have lost civics teaching in our schools. We have lost the ability to make sure that our children understand and embrace other cultures. We have broken down our education system because people don't want to take the time to make that happen.

This tragedy should have never happened. There is no New Yorker that should ever want to hurt anyone.

The only Native New Yorkers here are Indians. We are all from different cultures. We're from all different backgrounds. We all

need to respect each other.

I grieve for the people in Buffalo that are still hurting from this. I hope that they can continue to get the services and resources that they need to continue to try to live through this -- because you can never forget it.

And we should never forget that as legislators we need to do more to be responsible to all our children so that no child in New York ever wants to do a hatred act like this again.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Madam President.

Senator Baskin, thank you. Senator Zellner, thank you. But Senator Baskin, you talked about crying.

I'm talking about Psalm 30:5 -- you know what I'm getting ready to say. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy -- I said joy -- I said joy, it comes in the morning.

And so we will cry with you every

night, April. We will collectively cry as a community until that joy comes in the morning.

I'd be lying to you, Madam President, if I was certain when that joy is coming. But I know it's going to come. There's too much weeping. Too much racism. And I'm glad that we lift up the names of the victims, because we become desensitized, Madam President. The year after, when we had the display in the LOB, everybody stopped. And then the year after that, less people stopped. And this year, people just seemed to be walking on By. They just seemed -- that it happened, it was what it was. Those 10 people are still gone.

Their families will never forget. When we lose people, either loved ones or society, we got to be there for them longer than just post a funeral, Madam President. The cards, the influx, the calls, the love for Buffalo -- six months, a year -- four years later we still have to remember those folks that were just trying to eat. If we really distill this down to a basic societal and human need, these folks were just trying to eat.

And they were killed because they

were trying to eat and they were poor and Black. You don't deserve to die because you're hungry. You don't deserve to die because you're Black. That's why they died. We can't forget that.

We can't forget that there's an idiot running around the incident who I'm not going to dignify that's been going around claiming in the name of free speech that he's calling people this and that. And people are clicking on this garbage.

You know why, Madam President? Because the lounge conversations aren't the floor conversations. We all get along, most of the time. We get along. But they don't see that. They see the clips of the debates and they see the you versus this and the D versus the R. They don't see the humanity.

We've got to show them the humanity. The lounge conversations have got to come to the floor one day, Madam President. That's the only way that the joy will come in the morning, when we collectively as a country have those conversations.

And I'll leave you with this, because I know more people want to speak on this.

Today is 5/14. And one of my favorite verses is from Matthew 5:14: You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

On 5/14, remember Chapter 5, Verse 14: Be that light. Shine the light. Shine the light in places where you didn't think it needed to be shown. But shine the light nonetheless. Because you can't hide the light. Everywhere you go, you've got to let it shine.

God bless the legacy -- not just the memory, the legacy, tragedy to triumph, of those lost in Buffalo. The memories are always going to be a blessing. But we have to make sure we let our light shine.

I vote aye, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you.

Senator Harckham on the resolution.

SENATOR HARCKHAM: Thank you, Madam President.

I want to thank Senator Baskin for the resolution and your powerful words.

You know, if we can't shed a tear in the face of such horror and evil, it's okay. We

can shed a tear. And Senator Zellner and my colleagues, thank you for your remarks.

I was up in Buffalo a little over a week after the tragedy, went up to see our former colleague Senator Kennedy, Senator Ryan, to be moral support. We went to the makeshift memorial outside Tops with piles of flowers and home photographs. Met with grieving constituents of now Senator Baskin. Met a woman whose son had been shot through the neck that day.

And yet on the flip side, we met with the volunteers across the street who were distributing food because the supermarket was closed. And the community coming together.

But as many colleagues pointed out, this was such an act of evil because these folks were killed because of the color of their skin. They were hunted down because they were Black.

And yet there are too many people who look like me saying we're all of a sudden a colorblind society. That we don't have to deal with the inequities of the past, and that we can't even say words like "diversity" or "equity" or "inclusion."

And yet we know there are inequities

in our education system, there are inequities in housing, there are inequities in our legal system, there are inequities in education. There's environmental inequities. We deal with environmental injustice and racism on a daily basis in this body.

And so there is so much more work to do. And we cannot pretend that this was simply a one-off by a madman, because the seeds of that evil are still here.

And so I rise today to support the resolution and support my friends and colleagues in Buffalo, but also to support my constituents in Peekskill and Ossining and Brewster and Mount Kisco who still live with this indecency on a daily basis.

And so that is what we strive to do, and that's why these resolutions are so important -- not only to remember those who we've lost, but certainly the charge that we have as lawmakers and the work we still have to do.

I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Webb on the resolution.

SENATOR WEBB: Thank you, Madam President.

I want to again thank Senator Baskin for introducing this resolution. Of course all of my colleagues who have spoken and will most certainly speak.

You know, as it's been mentioned, four years ago not only did the City of Buffalo suffer a tremendous loss, but our entire state. And no one can deny the continuous trauma that has ensued, especially after that day.

And we know that it was due in large part to the public sickness and pervasiveness of racism.

The many cries and the questions of why still remain to this day. And what do we know, Madam President? Well, what we do know is that our communities deserve to be safe, especially those that are historically marginalized. And unfortunately gun violence, like racism, continues to be a chronic public safety issue.

So whether it's mass shootings like the one that happened in Buffalo four years ago, domestic violence, suicide, or everyday gun

violence in our neighborhoods, we must address the root causes with urgency, compassion, and a commitment to justice.

With this tragedy, Madam President, we know that it was racially motivated. It took place in a predominantly Black neighborhood. The sheer fact of 10 people losing their lives simply going about their day, and three other people injured, that trauma stays not only with those who were lost, their families, but the community at large.

Every person, no matter their zip code, their race, ethnicity, however they culturally identify, should not have to worry about being killed or injured through violence or through policy that sanctions that violence.

Everyone deserves to be able to have a better quality of life. And behind each statistic, this is a loved one, a community member, a future stolen far too soon.

Madam President, we also can't ignore the role of policy in government in this conversation. Almost exactly a year ago the federal Department of Justice canceled roughly $500 million in grants for criminal justice

organizations that work on safety and justice initiatives.

We know this decision will hurt our communities not just in New York State, but across the country, especially those that are already suffering due to having some of the highest rates of violence due to many years of historic underinvestment.

Madam President, gun violence is a public health tragedy, it is a criminal justice tragedy, and it is a mental health tragedy. We have to keep pushing for commonsense gun safety legislation.

We also have to ensure that we commit ourselves to addressing the mindset and the actions that foster hate and bigotry. That we have to take a role, especially in our chamber, an active role to make sure that we continue to center our shared humanity.

And, Madam President, we have to commit ourselves to centering the right to dignity and respect, compassion and love.

Today I stand with all of our colleagues here to not only commemorate this tragedy, but may we strengthen our resolve to

fight against the hate and the violence that resulted in this racially motivated massacre.

May we continue to commit to advancing, not only through policy, but also budgetary investments, practices that will center our shared humanity.

I vote aye, Madam President.

And thank you again, Senator Baskin.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you.

Senator Myrie on the resolution.

SENATOR MYRIE: Thank you, Madam President.

It has been said that only love can drive out hate. So I want to begin with love for the 10 beautiful souls that were lost four years ago. Love for their families that are changed forever because of what happened four years ago. Love for the neighborhoods that are impacted by what happened four years ago.

And from Brooklyn to Buffalo, love to you, April, for your district, for your community that had to endure such a tragedy.

But it isn't just love that drives out hate. We are and should be a society of laws

that drive out hate. Right now there is a young man in his basement being radicalized, being fed algorithms that are watering the seeds of hatred that become a forest, that rob people of their lives, literally.

We have to be a state of laws that drive out this hate. Laws that provide food access for the people of Buffalo. Laws that give the young people of Buffalo something to do, a place to be, community to have. A state that, yes, has laws to hold the gun industry accountable, to hold big corporations accountable, people who profit off of anger and hate and violence.

We have to be a state of laws so that May 14th becomes a day of love. A day of celebration. A day of change, a day of hope, where we say this is how we used to be, but we have changed that together.

So to the people of Buffalo, we got your back. Brooklyn got your back. New York has your back. We will never relent until we rid ourselves of the tragedy that stole 10 beautiful souls.

I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Bynoe on the resolution.

SENATOR BYNOE: Thank you, Madam President.

I stand today in support of the resolution marking the death and the murders of the 10 innocent people in Buffalo.

As many of my colleagues have spoken today, I have similar sentiments. I wanted to talk today as a woman of great faith, a woman who leans on the word of God and the promises of God in times of these struggles. I wanted to talk a bit about weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. But hope comes in the morning. But solace comes in the morning. And resilience comes in the morning.

But faith without works is dead. We must, we must as a chamber, as representatives from across this great State of New York, make sure that God's greatest commandment, which is love, is sealed in every policy and every decision that we make here in this chamber.

We must understand, as Senator Myrie said, that only love can drive out hate. Love.

Love for our communities. Love even in differences.

But standing on commonality, the commonality of our desire to serve our communities and do best by them.

So today, I stand with Buffalo. And I am praying for a peace that can transcend all understanding on a day that they have to relive the trauma of the individual who decided to come there and prey -- not pray to God, but prey on innocent victims.

May God bless and keep the great people of Buffalo.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Cleare to close.

SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you, Madam President.

I stand today with the people of Buffalo, but with Black people across this country and all over the world.

I remember when this news first came to me -- and I thought it was so ironic -- I have relatives that live in the South, Florida,

calling me to ask me was I okay. That was so odd to me, because it seemed like it was always the other way around. This doesn't happen up here.

And the other thing that it made me think about was, why does all this hate still exist? We pass laws. People know the harms and the dangers. But we have not had equality. We've not had equity. And when we talk about a Black curriculum and teaching Black history, some people may think it's just for Black people. But it's more important in some ways, and clearly from this example, that all people know Black history and see Black people as human. You've got to understand what it takes to kill a person -- a person, someone who did nothing to you -- let alone to go kill 10 or as many as you can.

When I walk through that corridor and I look at those faces, I see my aunties, I see my uncles, grandmother, grandfather. I can never harm anybody like that. This had to be someone who was just that cold and ruthless.

So as we fight to understand these things -- yes, we need gun laws. Absolutely we need them. But we also do need to strongly

oppose these forces of evil that swallow people up and get into their heads. We can't let it go by. We can't ever think or let anyone think that someone else is not valuable.

Senator Bailey, every year I walk past every name and I call it out. I speak it. And I say a prayer for their families and for them. Because I know that on that day, they did not know this was their last moment. They didn't have the opportunity to even say "God help me." They never thought that's what was going to happen. And I think about that.

And Senator Baskin, I am with you. The shock and the trauma spread all the way to Harlem, to the Upper West Side, to every part of my district and every part of this country and even other parts of the world. And we'll always be shocked, and we should always be shocked. We should always be traumatized by this. And let it be a reminder of the work we have to do to truly be one nation under God.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you.

So I misspoke. Senator Lanza to

close.

SENATOR LANZA: Thank you, Madam President.

I just want to make sure that I don't let the moment pass without saying I too -- on behalf of the people I represent on Staten Island and on behalf of my conference, that we stand with Buffalo. We stand with the people of Buffalo.

You know, ever since evil slithered into the Garden of Evil -- Garden of Eden. Ever since that day, Madam President, it has stalked us. It wants us. And it needs us in order to spread evil across the earth. And it is a choice.

I've listened to the wonderful words today and the inspirational words, words of love. Too often it seems that it's easier to hate. Too often it seems that while we're not looking, evil snatches one of us to do its deeds.

And I think part of the response, we've heard about it today -- part of the response is that by deed and by words we can keep evil at bay. But it's a choice. It's a choice every day, every minute, because evil wants us.

And evil needs us.

And so I think of the words today. And if you're searching for the right words, if you're searching to know what it is you ought to think and you ought to say, I would look no further than the words of Senator Baskin, Senator Comrie, Senator Bailey, Senator Sanders, Senator Bynoe. Those are the words. That we're better than it. That we will not let it take our souls.

Those words are powerful. I sat here, and I was moved. And the trick, as so many said, is to hold on to that.

But I believe, I believe that if you embrace love, and if we do stick together and we do crowd out hate, I believe with those words we can ensure, and they will usher in, that light in the morning, as Senator Bailey so eloquently reminded us of.

So, Madam President, I stand with Buffalo. And I vote in favor of the resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

The resolution was adopted on May 12th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you to all my colleagues for their words on that last resolution.

At the request of the sponsors, all the resolutions we took up today are open for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The resolutions are open for cosponsorship. Should you choose not to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I have a motion here.

On behalf of Senator Krueger, I wish to call up Senate Print 8512B, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 698, Senate Print 8512B, by Senator Krueger, an act to amend the Public Service Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The

Secretary will call the roll on reconsideration.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is restored to its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The amendments are received.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please take up the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 250, Senate Print 7942A, by Senator Oberacker, an act to amend the Highway Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce

the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 250, voting in the negative: Senator Brisport.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 459, Senate Print 1838, by Senator Skoufis, an act to amend the General Municipal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 459, voting in the negative are Senators Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, Ortt, Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 46. Nays, 12.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 464, Senate Print 4033C, by Senator Harckham, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 7. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 464, voting in the negative:

Senator Borrello.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 504, Senate Print 8378B, by Senator Palumbo, an act to amend Chapter 495 of the Laws of 2011.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 504, voting in the negative:

Senator Skoufis.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 528, Senate Print 3371A, by Senator Persaud, an act to amend the Executive Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 571, Assembly Bill Number 9144A, by Assemblymember Lavine, an act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 571, voting in the negative: Senator Walczyk.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

607, Senate Print 3836, by Senator Hinchey, an act to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 607, voting in the negative:

Senator Oberacker.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 682, Senate Print 7713A, by Senator Krueger, an act to amend the General Business Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 682, voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 38. Nays, 20.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 724, Senate Print 9742A, by Senator Kavanagh, an act to amend the Multiple Dwelling Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 724, voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Bynoe, Gallivan, Griffo, Murray, Oberacker, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco and Walczyk.

Ayes, 48. Nays, 10.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 763, Assembly Bill Number 9570C, by Assemblymember Lee, an act to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 763, voting in the negative are Senators Martinez and Skoufis.

Ayes, 56. Nays, 2.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 776, Assembly Bill Number 5134, by Assemblymember Solages, an act to amend the Public Authorities Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Oh, excuse me. Sorry.

In relation to Calendar Number 776, voting in the negative are Senators Bynoe and Martinez.

Ayes, 56. Nays, 2.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 811, Senate Print 4969, by Senator Bailey, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 811, voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk and Weik.

Ayes, 46. Nays, 12.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 857, Assembly Bill Number 3304B, by

Assemblymember Tapia, an act to amend the Banking Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 857, voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 44. Nays, 14.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 862, Assembly Bill Number 10418, by Assemblymember Stern, an act to amend the Veterans' Services Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the

last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 909, Senate Print 8371, by Senator Brisport, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill

is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 921, Senate Print 8369, by Senator Stavisky, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 926, Senate Print 9997, by Senator Stavisky, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the

roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 939, Senate Print 4849, by Senator Fahy, an act directing the Department of Transportation to conduct a traffic and planning study on the feasibility of transforming the Harriman Campus.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Fahy to explain her vote.

SENATOR FAHY: Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

I just want to take a moment because this is a bill and an issue that I've worked on

for many, many years.

This is about undertaking a comprehensive traffic and planning study for the future of the Harriman State Office Campus, created in the 1960s and '70s, and we are desperately trying to get it into the 21st century.

We have now relocated a new Wadsworth Lab, a modernized Wadsworth Lab, and we've got to convert the entire campus from what I refer to as the "Uptown Parking Lot District." And it could be so much more.

So this is beyond a traffic study. This is really about reimagining what is the largest and most strategically located state office campus in New York State. It's a few hundred acres.

And we want to connect it better with the City of Albany, where it is located. For decades it has really served as an isolated office complex, with some of the worst of 1960s planning decisions.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity which has been really enabled by a $1.7 billion investment in what will be new

world-class Wadsworth public health labs, something I have long supported.

But that should not be a standalone investment. We shouldn't be doing standalone public investments. We can do so much more here and make it a true hub for the life sciences, biotech, and public health research, as well as adding commercial retail and critically needed housing.

The bottom line is we need the campus to turn into a vibrant mixed-use innovation district with space for all of the above.

And it will help take some of this state-owned property and put it on the tax rolls by privatizing pieces of it for the City of Albany, where we know there have been tremendous fiscal challenges, partly because well over 60 percent of the City of Albany's land is state-owned, state or publicly owned land, and not taxable.

So this is about planning intelligently, really thinking about how we get out of the 1960s and make sure that as we're recruiting scientists and more, this is a

multi-use, innovative campus connected to the city and surrounding communities.

And with that, Madam President, I vote in the affirmative, and thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Fahy to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 962, Senate Print 10071, by Senator Bottcher, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 962, voting in the negative: Senator Skoufis.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 988, Senate Print 2484, by Senator Parker, an act in relation to directing the State Energy and Planning Board to conduct a study on the time frames for replacing or upgrading battery energy storage systems.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Lay it aside.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of today's calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's move on to the controversial calendar, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The Secretary will ring the bell.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 988, Senate Print 2484, by Senator Parker, an act in relation to directing the State Energy Planning Board to conduct a study on the time frames for replacing or upgrading battery energy storage systems.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Murray, why do you rise?

SENATOR MURRAY: Thank you, Madam President. Would the sponsor yield for a question or two?

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR PARKER: Yes, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR MURRAY: Thank you.

Through you, Madam President.

Senator, there's a lot of important issues that are being covered in this study, but I've heard from constituents, I've heard from many firefighters concern about fire.

Is there a reason -- I don't see anything in here covering that issue. Has that been purposely omitted, or is that just not in there?

SENATOR PARKER: Madam President, through you.

Recently there was an interagency task force led by NYSERDA and the PSC, the

Public Service Commission, that actually addressed the issues of fire safety around battery storage.

In that study, and I will make sure you get a copy of it, they actually upgrade and institute standards and sets of criteria around battery storage that ensure safety.

They were already, you know, frankly relatively safe. Like anything else, this deals with technology. There have been some accidents but nothing, you know, in the State of New York that has, you know, rose to the level of concern in that kind of way with this technology.

The other thing to know is that when you look at accidents that have happened with battery storage, and what -- the current technology is being used is different technology. Right? So there's an upgrade in the technology. There's an upgrade in the standards. There's an upgrade in the criteria, mostly based on recommendations made by the New York City Fire Department, which is the gold standard nationally for fire safety.

In this particular bill, this is not about siting, but just a study about where we

should use them. And so there's no need to refer to that, one, because that work is being done someplace else, and that this bill is not about particular siting around communities as much as it is around planning for battery storage within the context of the CLCPA, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which is the ruling guide for both environmental and energy policy for the State of New York.

SENATOR MURRAY: Thank you, Madam President. On the bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Murray on the bill.

SENATOR MURRAY: And thank you, Senator Parker.

And I do understand that. I understand there was other studies. What I also understand in talking to people within the industry is that this is ongoing. The technology continues to change.

But there continues to be a concern. And so for the purposes of both public safety and for the concerns of the firefighters of my constituents, I think that any study bill on this issue should include fire safety. Because as was

said by the sponsor himself, the technology is changing. And so as we continue to do these studies, I think it's necessary that that be included.

So for that reason, I'll be voting in the negative.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank you, Senator.

Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard?

Seeing and hearing none, the debate is closed.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, we've agreed to restore this bill to the noncontroversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is restored to the noncontroversial calendar.

Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Parker to explain his vote.

SENATOR PARKER: Thank you, Madam President.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, thank you for your attention. This bill is an actually fairly straightforward bill that directs NYSERDA to conduct a study on preparing, you know, around renewable energy.

Again, we have the CLCPA creates, you know, a set of guidelines for us to protect our environment. We need to build a clean energy economy here in the State of New York. First, because we need to protect our actual planet.

But it also will deal with the issue of utility costs. And actually the more that we kind of pay attention and put our energy into a clean energy economy, the lower the bills for our constituents and the ratepayers of the State of New York will be.

But the other thing is as we look at the building out of our clean energy economy, it is the next best opportunity to build full-time jobs at a living wage with benefits.

So as we talk about where is our

economy going, particularly in the context of AI and those kind of things, those opportunities are still in the clean energy economy.

So this is really something that we need to lean into.

And we've heard many times from my colleagues across the aisle about how we need to prepare, about how we need plans. Well, here's a plan. Here's something linking a particular set of technologies around battery storage and we're developing a plan for it.

Battery storage is critical because it's part of what I refer to as the holy trinity of sustainable energy. Right? Solar during the day, wind at night, battery storage for all other times. Right?

And so as we start developing more and more of these projects, and particularly looking at one of my favorite things that I think we need to do about -- around resiliency, which is build microgrids around things like SUNY, CUNY, hospitals, NYCHA, right, to make sure there's both energy resilience and effective energy consumption and use, battery storage is going to be an important part of this.

This bill provides a planning process. And so I ask you all to vote aye as we go forward to build this clean energy economy.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Parker to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Comrie to explain his vote.

SENATOR COMRIE: Madam President, I support this bill. But I do want to take the opportunity, as we talk about battery energy storage, to point out that I do hope the study talks about issues of fire and burning.

Because right now we've been told that the only thing they can do is watch the fire burn. And it's self-contained. And fortunately it hasn't spread to other areas, and there hasn't been a major incident.

But the fumes from a fire and the toxicity coming from a fire freaks out urban communities.

Residents in my district, in a historic community -- an entrepreneur is putting a battery energy storage facility less than 30 feet from someone's home. Less than 30 feet. Literally, you could reach across his

driveway and touch the walls of the facility.

This person is a third-generation homeowner, in a historic community. We've been trying to get them to be considerate, giving them other locations in the area. Because there's no doubt that with all of the tech that we're using, with all of the electronics that are happening, we need to do more for energy storage.

But for companies and for NYSERDA not to take responsibility to try to fix this problem is a travesty.

So I cannot not note that during this time -- and I cannot not note that I hope that this study will include what happens with a total burn. Because the fumes and the toxicity are freaking out -- the possibility is freaking out consumers, residents in my area, and throughout the state.

No one wants to have to be sitting or living next to a facility that may burn internally or externally for hours. And we need to make sure that while they are improving the technology, that there are some real studies done to address this issue.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Comrie to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Stavisky to explain her vote.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Yes, thank you, Madam President.

And thank you, Senator Comrie.

I don't want to be repetitive, but I too have issues in the district concerning the placement and the operation of battery storage facilities. And this is something that we've got to deal with.

And let us hope that we can provide both the energy but, more importantly, the safety for the local residents.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator Stavisky to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 988, voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk and Weik.

Ayes, 45. Nays, 13.

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of the calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: There is no further business at the desk.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to adjourn until Monday, May 18th, at 11:00 a.m., with the intervening days being legislative days.

Since we're breaking for the weekend, once again, let's go, Sabres!

The Knicks may have the weekend off, but if they play, let's go, Knicks!

ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Okay.

On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, May 18th, at 11:00 a.m., with intervening days being legislative days.

(Whereupon, at 1:14 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)