NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

February 2, 2005

11:05 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

LT. GOVERNOR MARY O. DONOHUE, President

STEVEN M. BOGGESS, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

THE PRESIDENT: The Senate will please come to order.

I ask everyone present to please rise and repeat with me the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

THE PRESIDENT: In the absence of clergy, may we bow our heads in a moment of silence, please.

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

THE PRESIDENT: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, February 1, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, January 31, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President, I move that we adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolutions 257 and 294.

THE PRESIDENT: All in favor of so adopting the Resolution Calendar please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

THE PRESIDENT: The Resolution Calendar is so adopted.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President, at this time if we could have Resolution Number 294, by Senator Little, read in its entirety. And then I'd like to move for its immediate adoption.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary

will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Little, Legislative Resolution Number 294, memorializing Governor George E. Pataki to proclaim February 2005 as Parent Leadership Month in the State of New York.

"WHEREAS, Meaningful Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills necessary to function in meaningful leadership roles and present a 'parent voice' to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities; and

"WHEREAS, Parent Leadership is an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect; and

"WHEREAS, Parents Anonymous Incorporated has created National Parent Leadership Month to recognize the extraordinary courage and tenacity of parents who have reached out to make improvements in their families and communities; and

"WHEREAS, The Child Care Council of the North Country recognizes the vital importance of partnering with parents and

assists public systems and private organizations, policymakers and other key stakeholders to effectively implement Parent Leadership strategies; and

"WHEREAS, Parent Leadership is a necessary component in an effective family strengthening and family support program; and

"WHEREAS, Parent Leadership is successfully achieved when parents received support and training and share responsibility, expertise and leadership in the planning, implementation, oversight and evaluation of policies, practices and programs that affect families and communities; and

"WHEREAS, More parents each year are developing vital partnerships with service providers, policymakers and key stakeholders to shape policy and practice and build stronger, safer communities for children; and

"WHEREAS, The power of parents speaking publicly about their experiences has made and will continue to make an impact on the lives of families everywhere; and

"WHEREAS, Parents Anonymous Incorporated developed the National Parent

Leadership Team, an innovative model that actively supports parents in meaningful Parent Leadership roles to help shape programs, practices, policies and legislation that impact families everywhere; and

"WHEREAS, National Parent Leadership Month recognizes, honors and celebrates parents for the vital leadership roles in their homes and communities and in local, state, national and international arenas; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor George E. Pataki to proclaim February 2005 as Parent Leadership Month in the State of New York; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, and to the Child Care Council of the North Country."

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Little.

SENATOR LITTLE: Thank you, Madam President. If I may, I would like to speak on the resolution.

This is a new initiative being sponsored by a group called Parents Anonymous, a national association that recognizes the role and the leadership of parents in the lives of their children.

In our lifetime we assume many roles in our personal and professional lives, but I don't believe that there's any role more important in a person's life than that of a parent. And also, many times it's the one role in life that you're not prepared to assume.

I can remember in college writing a term paper on the effects of the first child on a marriage. And it was great on paper, but it was a whole different thing when I had my first child and realized the effect.

A parent is responsible for the care, for the education, for the development of a child for that child's lifetime. And as spoken by Kahlil Gibran, a parent is like the bow shooting the arrow and the child is an arrow.

A parent develops a child in life with the idea that that child can go out and

lead a life of their own and be an independent person. And while they're independent, they are forever with their parents.

We're all very pleased and proud of being parents and of developing our children to adulthood. But many times it's not as easy as we think it is going to be. I was once taken by a poem -- and I don't know if you've all heard it, it's called "Welcome to Holland."

And it's a poem about a person preparing for a trip to Italy, learning the language, learning all about the country, deciding on things that they are going to do when they get to Italy, and being very excited about getting to Italy. And on the way, on the plane, the plane finally arrives at an airport and when they go to get off the plane, the attendant says, "Welcome to Holland." And the person said, "No, I wasn't going to Holland, I was going to Italy. I'm prepared to go to Italy."

And I'd liken this poem to what happens in the life of a parent when they have a child with special needs and with

disabilities. Because they've learned one language, they've been excited about having a perfectly normal child of good health and all, and yet that's not what happens. They have to learn a new language, they are in a new place, and yet they find that there's a great deal of beauty in that place once they adjust to being in that place.

And the moral of that story was to recognize where you are at the time and what you have and not always be wishing you were in that other place, that you have that child.

These parents are special parents, and they are advocates for their children. And we know many of them who have been here who have come to our offices and advocated on behalf of their children.

I was particularly taken yesterday by a parent who came in and told about her child who has mental health illness and has been institutionalized for the past year and a half. And yet this parent is a true advocate of that child, working hard for policies and programs to help that child.

The other role of parents that

doesn't always happen the way we'd like it to is parents who abuse their children. And we know that that happens every day.

What we are doing here in this resolution is trying to express our gratitude and our recognition of those parents who assume leadership roles in developing public policy, programs and helping other parents to become better parents for their children. In their role of leadership, they try to help parents so that there is no more child abuse and parents do not abuse their own children.

This is an effort to bring that to national attention, to recognize all parents for their roles in advocacy, for their roles in promoting policy, PTAs, in their roles in volunteering for children's programs, for recreational programs, for educational programs, for all the things that parents do. And in doing so for their own children, they help other children and other parents.

And in our resolution today, we recognize them. And I thank you for joining me. I invite all of you to join us on this resolution.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The question is on the resolution. All in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President, if we could open the resolution to cosponsorship. If anybody wishes not to be on the resolution, they should notify the desk.

THE PRESIDENT: Any member who does not wish to be a cosponsor of the last resolution please notify the desk.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President, if we could take up Resolution 257, by Senator Connor, have the title read and move for its immediate adoption.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senators

Connor, Duane and Savino, Legislative Resolution Number 257, commemorating the Asian American community's celebration of the Lunar New Year, 4703, the Year of the Rooster, on February 9, 2005.

THE PRESIDENT: The question is on the resolution. All in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President, Senator Connor has consented to the resolution being open for cosponsorship. If anybody wishes not to sponsor the resolution, they should notify the desk.

THE PRESIDENT: Any member who does not wish to cosponsor the last resolution please notify the desk.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Is there any housekeeping at the desk?

THE PRESIDENT: No, there isn't, Senator.

SENATOR SKELOS: There being no further business to come before the Senate, I move we stand adjourned until Monday, February 7th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

THE PRESIDENT: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, February 7th, intervening days being legislative days.

(Whereupon, at 11:15 a.m., the Senate adjourned.)