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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

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 THE PRESIDENT: The Senate will  
3 please come to order.

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

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

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

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

14 THE PRESIDENT: Reading of the  
15 Journal.

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

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

24 Presentation of petitions.

25 Messages from the Assembly.

1 Messages from the Governor.  
2 Reports of standing committees.  
3 Reports of select committees.  
4 Communications and reports from  
5 state officers.

6 Motions and resolutions.

7 Senator Skelos.

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

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

14 (Response of "Aye.")

15 THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

16 (No response.)

17 THE PRESIDENT: The Resolution  
18 Calendar is so adopted.

19 Senator Skelos.

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

25 THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary

1 will read.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 "WHEREAS, Parents Anonymous  
25 Incorporated developed the National Parent

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

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

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

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

22 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Little.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 The other role of parents that

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you.

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

5 (Response of "Aye.")

6 THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

7 (No response.)

8 THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is  
9 adopted.

10 Senator Skelos.

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

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

18 Senator Skelos.

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

23 THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary  
24 will read.

25 THE SECRETARY: By Senators

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

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

9 (Response of "Aye.")

10 THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

11 (No response.)

12 THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is  
13 adopted.

14 Senator Skelos.

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

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

23 Senator Skelos.

24 SENATOR SKELOS: Is there any  
25 housekeeping at the desk?

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

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

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

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

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