

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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3  
4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 March 1, 2017

11 3:44 p.m.

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14 REGULAR SESSION

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18 SENATOR JOSEPH GRIFFO, Acting President

19 FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

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

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
3 Senate will come to order.

4 I ask all present to please rise  
5 and join with me as we recite the Pledge of  
6 Allegiance to our Flag.

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

9 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Today's  
10 invocation will be offered by Rabbi Eli J.  
11 Mansour, lead rabbi of the Edmond J. Safra  
12 Synagogue, in Brooklyn.

13 Rabbi.

14 RABBI MANSOUR: Members of the  
15 Senate, I would like to read an invocation of an  
16 old prayer originally written in Hebrew. I will  
17 translate it into English.

18 Master of the universe, God of all  
19 works, who extends peace like a river and, like  
20 a rapid stream, the glory of nations, look down  
21 from Your holy dwelling and bless this land, the  
22 United States of America, wherein we dwell.

23 Let not violence be heard in their  
24 land, wasting and destruction within their  
25 boundaries, but You shall call its walls

1       salvation and its gates praise.

2                   Grant them rain in due season so  
3       that the earth shall yield her products and the  
4       tree of the field shall yield its fruit, and  
5       grant peace, goodness and a blessing on all the  
6       inhabitants of the land, that they may lie down  
7       with none to make them afraid. Pour down the  
8       bounty of Your goodness upon them.

9                   Ordain blessings to all the  
10       prestigious members of this State Senate. Teach  
11       them the good ways wherein they should walk, so  
12       as to judge with clarity of mind, fairness, and  
13       abundance of peace.

14                   Members of the Senate, a personal  
15       blessing. As I have committed myself as a rabbi  
16       and a teacher, I bless you that you shall  
17       continue to invest in education, as you have  
18       done so well to this point. And I remind you of  
19       the great counsel of Benjamin Franklin, as he  
20       once said: An investment in knowledge pays the  
21       best interest.

22                   Amen.

23                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
24       you, Rabbi Mansour.

25                   The reading of the Journal.

1                   THE SECRETARY:    In Senate,  
2   Tuesday, February 28th, the Senate met pursuant  
3   to adjournment.  The Journal of Monday,  
4   February 27th, was read and approved.  On  
5   motion, Senate adjourned.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Without  
7   objection, the Journal will stand approved as  
8   read.

9                   Presentation of petitions.  
10                  Messages from the Assembly.  
11                  Messages from the Governor.  
12                  Reports of standing committees.  
13                  Reports of select committees.  
14                  Communications and reports from  
15   state officers.

16                  Motions and resolutions.

17                  Senator DeFrancisco.

18                  SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:  
19   Mr. President, on page 16 I offer the following  
20   amendments to Calendar Number 116, Senate Print  
21   874, by Senator Ortt, and ask that said bill  
22   retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Can I  
24   have some order in the house, please.

25                  The amendments are received and the

1 bill shall retain its place on third reading,  
2 Senator DeFrancisco.

3 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we now  
4 take up previously adopted Resolution 758, by  
5 Senator Stewart-Cousins, read it in its entirety,  
6 and call on Senator Stewart-Cousins to speak.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: I'm going  
8 to ask for some order in the house again, please.

9 The Secretary will read.

10 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
11 Resolution Number 758, by Senator  
12 Stewart-Cousins, memorializing Governor Andrew M.  
13 Cuomo to proclaim March 2017 as Women's History  
14 Month in the State of New York.

15 "WHEREAS, March is Women's History  
16 Month; and

17 "WHEREAS, March 8th is International  
18 Women's Day; and

19 "WHEREAS, Each year New York State  
20 officially sets aside time to recognize the  
21 unique contributions that women have made to  
22 New York State; and

23 "WHEREAS, New York State has a  
24 distinguished history of monumental achievements  
25 in the area of women's rights; and

1               "WHEREAS, In 1826, New York State  
2     opened one of the first public high schools for  
3     girls, resulting in a future for women in which  
4     they were no longer confined to the home, a  
5     future in which they were educated and able to  
6     use this education to better their social and  
7     economic status; and

8               "WHEREAS, In 1848 in New York, the  
9     first women's rights convention was held at  
10    Seneca Falls to secure for all women the right to  
11    vote; and

12              "WHEREAS, In 1903, The Women's Trade  
13    Union League of New York was formed to represent  
14    working women, later becoming the nucleus for the  
15    International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; and

16              "WHEREAS, In 1918, one year after  
17    New York guaranteed women the right to vote in  
18    all elections, the first two women, Ida Sammis  
19    and Mary Lilly, were elected to the New York  
20    State Legislature; and

21              "WHEREAS, In 1967, Muriel Siebert  
22    became the first woman to own a seat on the  
23    New York Stock Exchange, opening the door for  
24    women to gain positions of greater economic  
25    power; and

1                   "WHEREAS, In 1968, New York State  
2     Assemblywoman Shirley Chisholm became the first  
3     black woman elected to Congress, and in 1972, she  
4     ran for President of the United States, another  
5     first for black women; and

6                   "WHEREAS, In 1970, New York City was  
7     the site of the first Women's Strike for  
8     Equality, in which 50,000 people marched for  
9     equal rights; and

10                  "WHEREAS, In 1983, New York State  
11     women legislators established the Legislative  
12     Women's Caucus to improve the participation of  
13     women in all areas of government, support issues  
14     that benefit women and provide a network of  
15     support for women in the State Legislature; and

16                  "WHEREAS, In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor  
17     was the first Hispanic Justice appointed to the  
18     United States Supreme Court; and

19                  "WHEREAS, In 2014, four women from  
20     New York State participated in Olympic events  
21     held in Sochi, Russia: Anneliese Cooke, Saranac  
22     Lake - Biathlon; Jamie Gruebel, Lake Placid -  
23     Bobsled, earned a Bronze medal; Erin Hamlin,  
24     Remsen - Luge, earned a Bronze medal; and  
25     Josephine Pucci, Pearl Lake - Women's Hockey,

1       earned a Silver medal; and

2               "WHEREAS, In 2015, Loretta Elizabeth  
3       Lynch was appointed as Attorney General of the  
4       United States, becoming the first  
5       African-American woman to serve in this esteemed  
6       position; and

7               "WHEREAS, New York has been the home  
8       of many extraordinary women who have led society  
9       to a better future: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and  
10       Susan B. Anthony led the campaign for women's  
11       suffrage; Sojourner Truth spoke out for the  
12       abolition of slavery and for suffrage for women;  
13       and

14              "WHEREAS, Carrie Chapman Catt became  
15       the first president of the League of Women  
16       Voters; Emma Willard opened the first endowed  
17       institution for the education of women; Civil War  
18       surgeon Dr. Mary E. Walker was the only woman  
19       ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;  
20       Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist who led slaves  
21       to freedom by way of the Underground Railroad in  
22       the 19th century; and

23              "WHEREAS, Elizabeth Blackwell and  
24       Belva Lockwood were the first women in the fields  
25       of medicine and law; pioneer birth control



1 educator and advocate Margaret Sanger established  
2 a research center in New York City; and

3 "WHEREAS, Emma Goldman founded the  
4 Free Speech League, which led to the American  
5 Civil Liberties Union; humanitarian Eleanor  
6 Roosevelt served as United States delegate to the  
7 United Nations; and

8 "WHEREAS, Civil rights lawyer and  
9 New York State Senator Constance Baker Motley  
10 became the first black woman to sit on the U.S.  
11 District Court in New York, and there have been  
12 so many more known and unknown women who  
13 championed rights and opportunity for all; and

14 "WHEREAS, New York State has hosted  
15 many conventions, campaigns and events of the  
16 Women's Rights Movement, from the 1848 convention  
17 at Seneca Falls to the 1999 Berkshire Conference  
18 of Women Historians, which was held to improve  
19 the status of women in history and in the  
20 historical professions; and

21 "WHEREAS, Today, 58 women serve in  
22 the New York State Legislature, holding  
23 leadership positions in both houses and bringing  
24 the diverse experiences of women into law and  
25 public policy, the largest class of women in the

1 history of New York; now, therefore, be it

2 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
3 Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize  
4 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2017,  
5 as Women's History Month in the State of  
6 New York; and be it further

7 "RESOLVED, That copies of this  
8 resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to  
9 the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the  
10 State of New York, and the Legislative Women's  
11 Caucus of New York State."

12 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
13 Stewart-Cousins.

14 SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank  
15 you, Mr. President.

16 I rise because it is such a  
17 privilege to serve in this body. It's certainly  
18 a privilege to be a woman in this body. It's  
19 certainly a privilege to be able to represent the  
20 aspirations of so many women and so many people  
21 in New York State.

22 Over the weekend, the Caucus  
23 Weekend, I had my grandkids up, and we looked at  
24 a lot of the paintings around and looked at the  
25 early depictions of the chamber, where, again,

1     there were no women allowed, no women allowed to  
2     even set foot on the floor here. Women were able  
3     to look down and see what was happening and what  
4     the business was that the men conducted.

5                 I took a picture in front of that  
6     painting, because it was a reminder for me and a  
7     teaching tool for them of how far we've come and  
8     why it's important that the voices of everyone be  
9     brought to a legislative process.

10                Earlier today, as women gathered to  
11    commemorate this year as the centennial for  
12    New York's women's right to vote -- because we  
13    were able to begin voting in 1917 here in  
14    New York, but we couldn't vote on a national  
15    level until the ratification of the  
16    19th Amendment. But it's been only a  
17    hundred years since New York women were allowed  
18    to vote. When my mother was born, she  
19    technically could not vote.

20                So when you look at how far we've  
21    gone, we have to remember that it's only been a  
22    short time. And so much has changed in this  
23    short time, but the fact is so much of that  
24    change was pushed by women who understood that  
25    equality and justice was essential. When women

1     come to the table, they bring their vision, but  
2     the vision is generally for a broader  
3     cross-section of the population.

4                 That's why you see the amount of  
5     activism of women right now in the streets of  
6     New York and all over the country. Women are  
7     realizing that they push so much of an agenda  
8     that's all-encompassing and really provides an  
9     opportunity for growth for everyone. And we also  
10    realize that we cannot go backwards.

11                I was also saying earlier about  
12    someone named Frances Perkins, and I think it  
13    just, again, crystallizes what women can bring to  
14    the table. When FDR became the president, he  
15    decided to appoint the very first woman to his  
16    cabinet, and that was a New York woman, Frances  
17    Perkins. Frances Perkins was, in 1933, in the  
18    Department of Labor.

19                And it is Frances Perkins that  
20    pushed the idea of Social Security, that pushed  
21    the idea of providing, after you had spent your  
22    time working and doing what you had to do, having  
23    a little something to prevent poverty. It is  
24    Social Security today that allows us to not have  
25    a higher impoverishment of our seniors as they

1 retire.

2           It was this woman, this New York  
3 woman, one of so many women whose names were read  
4 in the resolution, the women's whose names will  
5 not be spoken -- our mothers, who went through so  
6 much in order to advantage us to be able to sit  
7 in these chambers, look at those pictures,  
8 realize how far we've come, realize how far we  
9 have to go, but also to realize the agitation,  
10 the input, and the vision of women helped to get  
11 this society where it needs to be. We rise, and  
12 we lift everyone as we rise.

13           So thank you very, very much.

14           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
15 you, Senator Stewart-Cousins.

16           Senator Alcantara.

17           SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes, hello. I  
18 would like to congratulate all my colleagues in  
19 the State Senate. Today we heard that it's a  
20 record number of women that are serving in the  
21 Legislature, and that New York is not last, like  
22 it used to be.

23           It would be nice if New York and the  
24 United States in general can get up to par to  
25 other European nations, where you have a high

1 number of women serving in elected office.

2 Women's History Month is an  
3 opportunity for all of us to celebrate the  
4 accomplishments of women from all over New York  
5 and to celebrate each other and to support each  
6 other.

7 As the only Latina sitting in the  
8 State Senate, I know how tough it was for me to  
9 run for office. I would like to congratulate my  
10 colleagues, because I know that they probably had  
11 the same challenges that I did, regardless of  
12 your race and your background.

13 And I think it's a great time that  
14 we get through the whole month of March to  
15 celebrate the accomplishments of women, not only  
16 in politics, but also in labor -- housewives, who  
17 have made the decision to stay at home. And we  
18 can talk about all the achievements that we have.

19 We saw for the first time a woman  
20 running, being the nominee of one of the two  
21 biggest parties in our country, and that she was  
22 able to make it that far. And regardless of our  
23 political affiliation, that's an achievement in  
24 itself, and it shows how far we have come as a  
25 society.

1                   Thank you.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator  
3 Sanders.

4                   SENATOR SANDERS:    Thank you,  
5 Mr. President.

6                   You know me as State Senator  
7 Sanders, but today I want to give another title.  
8 I am the proud son of mother Lois, my mother, who  
9 was in her own way a pioneering woman who decided  
10 to move her children forward. And she showed me  
11 that women can do every single thing that anybody  
12 else can do, in spite of the difficulties that  
13 may be launched on them.

14                  But I also stand because I have  
15 numerous aunts who upheld that. I have two  
16 sisters, and I stand for them. I certainly stand  
17 for my three nieces and one granddaughter.

18                  Women hold up half the sky. If this  
19 world collapses, if we are going to be troubled  
20 one way or the other, it's because we didn't  
21 allow women to hold up their end. So we men  
22 really need to understand this. And the solution  
23 sometimes is not going to come from us. We're  
24 going to have to let women in, or else this  
25 planet is going to go down the drain.

1                   Every step forward for women has  
2       been a step forward for humankind. Every step  
3       forward that they have made has moved all people  
4       forward. And it's not just yesterday. We can  
5       look to women still organizing. The Million  
6       Woman March took place on all over -- every  
7       continent that there is. I even heard they were  
8       marching in Antarctica. I can't understand that,  
9       but that's all right. I don't have to march with  
10      them in Antarctica, but I will march with them  
11      everyplace else.

12                  So the struggle is nowhere near  
13      over. Even in this state we need to ratify that  
14      women get equal pay for equal work. It's just  
15      ridiculous. We need to just ratify, codify this  
16      stuff and just say, all right, whatever  
17      foolishness, stupidity -- I'll be kind --  
18      whatever backwardness we had years ago, we don't  
19      have it anymore. Women, if you can do the job,  
20      you get the pay. End of conversation.

21                  We need to defend people's rights to  
22      choose. All of these things that we -- we  
23      shouldn't just have women in some theoretical --  
24      on a pedestal, but side by side, fighting for  
25      moving the world forward to that beloved



1 community that we should be trying to go to.

2 So today is a day in this month that  
3 allows us to rededicate ourselves to ourselves,  
4 to rededicate ourselves to moving the human  
5 family forward. And we can do that by  
6 rededicating ourselves to the simple principle  
7 that women are equal to men.

8 Thank you very much.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
10 Bailey.

11 SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,  
12 Mr. President.

13 Apparently I'm rather shy when it  
14 comes to speaking on resolutions.

15 I want to thank my leader, Andrea  
16 Stewart-Cousins, for introducing this resolution  
17 today.

18 And Beyoncé said, Who runs the  
19 world? Girls! In my house they certainly do.  
20 My house is run by my two little girls, Giada and  
21 Carina, and my wonderful wife, Giamara. They run  
22 my world. They are the reason why I'm in front  
23 of you today. Without them, I am nothing.

24 I am also the grandson of Lena Belle  
25 Bailey and Flora Pittman. Without them, I am

1 nothing. I am the proud son of Elmertine Hunter  
2 Bailey. Without her, again -- there's a theme --  
3 I am nothing.

4 I was walking down the corridor  
5 today and I was so pleased to see the artwork on  
6 the side on the way in, and it made me stop and  
7 pause and just reflect about the role of women in  
8 my life and in all of our lives, I'm sure.

9 It's such an amazing thing that  
10 women have made so many sacrifices for us, yet  
11 they lag behind us in pay, they lag behind us in  
12 representation. And I just want to say how happy  
13 I am to be in the conference led by Andrea  
14 Stewart-Cousins, to be around so many amazing  
15 women in this body -- not just my party, this  
16 entire body -- that are doing positive things  
17 for the State of New York.

18 And I talked about sacrifice. And  
19 as we begin this season of Lent, as I see many of  
20 my colleagues with ashes on their foreheads, we  
21 talk about the ultimate sacrifice that was made,  
22 and I think about the sacrifice that my mom made.  
23 And I will leave you with something from  
24 Tupac Shakur:

25 "There's no way I can pay you back

1                   But the plan is to show you that I  
2 understand

3                   You are appreciated."

4                   Thank you, Mr. President.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator  
6 Little.

7                   SENATOR LITTLE:    Thank you,  
8 Mr. President.

9                   I just want to remind everyone that  
10 just a year ago this body passed the legislation  
11 that created the Women's Suffrage Committee and  
12 Commission, and that commission met again today  
13 and reported on some of the activities. So we  
14 are underway celebrating the 100th anniversary of  
15 New York passing women's right to vote, and the  
16 many women in New York State and the many sites  
17 in New York State that people can visit and learn  
18 more about this history, women's history in  
19 New York State.

20                   So very happy we have a website. We  
21 are going to be advertising. And as was  
22 mentioned, as you walk through the tunnel on the  
23 way over, some great posters from the women's  
24 movement.

25                   Also, in my own district we had a

1 woman who lived in New York City but summered in  
2 Essex County, in the Town of Lewis, Inez  
3 Milholland. And she is one of our women's  
4 history women that we are honoring this month.

5 Inez Milholland only lived for 30  
6 years -- and she died actually speaking to a  
7 group in California, collapsed and died shortly  
8 after that -- constantly promoting women's right  
9 to vote. She led the parade that happened  
10 February 12, 1917, when women marched from  
11 New York City to Washington, D.C., to lobby for  
12 the right to vote to that administration.

13 And the picture -- you probably have  
14 seen it before -- she was all dressed in white on  
15 a white horse. But she was a New Yorker, among  
16 the many other women who were New Yorkers.

17 So this is a great month for us to  
18 recognize that. And I look forward to having you  
19 learn about all the other things we're going to  
20 be doing this year.

21 Thank you.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
23 Persaud.

24 SENATOR PERSAUD: Thank you.

25 I would just like to commend my

1 leader for bringing the resolution to the floor.

2 As we all know, as we celebrate  
3 Women's History Month, it is important to us  
4 women to acknowledge how far we've come and to  
5 acknowledge how far we still have to go. We  
6 still have a long way to go.

7 And so to my colleagues, I encourage  
8 us all as women to keep fighting, keep fighting  
9 for us, keep fighting for the young girls we see  
10 each day, keep telling them that it's okay, their  
11 place will be here also. There is a place for  
12 them.

13 And I just want to read something to  
14 you. It says:

15 "Call me what you want, but I know  
16 who I am;

17 "I am her, who wakes up before dawn,  
18 and does not sleep till the house is quiet;

19 "I am her, who bears the pains  
20 because she knows that the future is what she  
21 births;

22 "I am her, who fights for every one  
23 of her children and never lets go till they are  
24 safe;

25 "I am her, who shoulders the weight

1     so you can stand tall and proud;

2                     "I am her, whose tears are only seen  
3     by the night and meets the morning head on;

4                     "I am her, who will never quit,  
5     never stop, never faint, till she is heard;

6                     I am woman."

7                     That's what we teach our young  
8     girls. We are women, and this is our month.

9                     Thank you all.

10                    ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:     Senator  
11     Krueger.

12                    SENATOR KRUEGER:     Thank you,  
13     Mr. President.

14                    I also rise to thank my leader for  
15     introducing this resolution today and to stand  
16     proudly, as a woman in the New York State Senate,  
17     saying we're 51 percent of the population.

18                    I'm thrilled we got the vote, but we  
19     have a long, long way to go. I'm thrilled that  
20     many of my male colleagues are standing up in  
21     support for equal treatment of women, but we  
22     still have a long, long way to go.

23                    We should have equal rights in our  
24     Constitution. We should have equal rights in  
25     every institution in the State of New York. And

1 we should be represented in numbers that  
2 reflect our balance in the population.

3 I have occasionally gotten up on the  
4 floor of this Senate when we do some kind of  
5 resolution on behalf of women, pointing out --  
6 maybe it's Women's Equality Day, maybe it's  
7 Women's History Month. But I personally believe  
8 women should have equality all 365 days of each  
9 and every year.

10 So I am proud to stand here as a  
11 woman who fights for equal rights for all in  
12 New York State. And I bet if all of us worked as  
13 hard to try to make sure that we had equal  
14 treatment for women in this state, we'd have gone  
15 so much further. And I hope we can.

16 Thank you, Mr. President.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
18 Savino.

19 SENATOR SAVINO: Thank you,  
20 Mr. President.

21 I also rise, I want to thank Senator  
22 Stewart-Cousins for sponsoring this resolution.  
23 And I join all of my colleagues in commemorating  
24 Women's History Month.

25 I also want to particularly say to

1 the gentlemen in the chamber, we thank you for  
2 your support and we thank you for the fact that  
3 you love us dearly, but you have an opportunity  
4 right now to help us, I think, a little bit more.

5 We're in the midst of something for  
6 the next six weeks -- I'm sorry, four weeks --  
7 the budget process. And here's an opportunity to  
8 really show how much you honor women. We have a  
9 chance to really put our money where our mouth is  
10 and recognize that the traditional roles that  
11 have been imposed on women in fact have held us  
12 back.

13 I am lucky in that I don't have any  
14 children, so I don't have to worry about  
15 balancing work life and my family life. But for  
16 millions of New York women, they have to do that  
17 every day. And we have a chance in this budget  
18 process to decide, are we going to put some of  
19 our childcare dollars in place so we can level  
20 the playing field for those women who every day  
21 face that challenge?

22 Are we going to try and figure  
23 out -- are we going to use this budget process to  
24 lift women up so that we can have college  
25 affordability for all women? Because the best



1 way for women to improve their economic  
2 circumstances is through education.

3 We can do that in this budget  
4 process. We can work together, not just talking  
5 about how important women are, but showing how  
6 important women are in the way we spend the  
7 state's dollars and allocate resources, whether  
8 it's housing, education, childcare, social  
9 services. That's the best way to honor women and  
10 move them forward and lift them up. That's the  
11 best way for them to achieve equity in the  
12 workforce.

13 When we recognize that those  
14 traditional roles that have held women back are  
15 still there -- because women are still the  
16 primary childcare providers, we know that -- and  
17 those things get in the way of their career,  
18 let's level that playing field for them in the  
19 way we can. We can do it in the budget.

20 So I want to congratulate everyone  
21 for recognizing women's history, but let's really  
22 make women's history with the State Budget.

23 Thank you, Mr. President.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
25 resolution was previously adopted on

1 February 28th, yesterday.

2 That concludes the speakers, Senator  
3 DeFrancisco.

4 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Would you  
5 please call on Senator Croci for an introduction.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
7 Croci.

8 SENATOR CROCI: Thank you,  
9 Mr. President.

10 It's fitting and appropriate that  
11 we're talking about very dynamic women, women who  
12 have had an impact on our history, because today  
13 we're going to honor an organization that was  
14 founded by a very famous and dynamic woman,  
15 Clara Barton. And today we're honoring the  
16 American Red Cross.

17 And I know that there are members of  
18 the different chapters of the American Red Cross  
19 here today in our gallery.

20 For those of you who do not know,  
21 the American Red Cross responds to over 3,700  
22 disasters a year -- that's 10 a day.  
23 Twelve thousand individuals are helped every year  
24 by the American Red Cross. And whether it's  
25 financial assistance or healthcare assistance at

1 the scene of a disaster, a bottle of water and a  
2 blanket and a clean towel, the American Red Cross  
3 is there.

4 I would say that for those of us who  
5 have survived Superstorm Sandy -- and I know  
6 there are a number of members who represent such  
7 districts -- when you're digging out somebody's  
8 living room of mud and debris because a storm has  
9 taken their house, and the American Red Cross  
10 shows up on the street or at a nearby center,  
11 it's a breath of hope in a rather dire situation.

12 So I'd like to honor, Mr. President,  
13 all of the men and women who have joined us today  
14 from the different chapters of the American Red  
15 Cross, to thank them for their tireless efforts  
16 to help humanity. And I would like to also  
17 recognize the great woman who started the  
18 American Red Cross, Clara Barton.

19 Mr. President.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
21 you, Senator Croci.

22 We extend the privileges of the  
23 house, and we welcome you to the Senate today and  
24 thank you for your service to our communities  
25 across the state and nation.

1                   Please rise and be recognized.

2                   (Appause.)

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator  
4 DeFrancisco.

5                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Would you  
6 please take up the noncontroversial reading of  
7 the calendar.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
9 Secretary will read.

10                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number 80,  
11 by Senator Serino, Senate Print 2159, an act to  
12 amend the Penal Law.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Read the  
14 last section.

15                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 2.  This  
16 act shall take effect on the first of November.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Call the  
18 roll.

19                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

20                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 59.  Nays, 1.  
21 Senator Montgomery recorded in the negative.

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The bill  
23 is passed.

24                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
25 110, by Senator Ortt, Senate Print 726A, an act

1 to amend the General Municipal Law.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the  
3 last section.

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

6 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the  
7 roll.

8 (The Secretary called the roll.)

9 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 57. Nays, 3.  
10 Senators Díaz, Krueger and Sanders recorded in  
11 the negative.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill  
13 is passed.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 162, by Senator Little, Senate Print 2582, an act  
16 to amend the Penal Law.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the  
18 last section.

19 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
20 act shall take effect on the first of November.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the  
22 roll.

23 (The Secretary called the roll.)

24 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
25 Little to explain her vote.

1           SENATOR LITTLE:    Thank you.   And  
2   thank everyone for voting for this bill.

3           This is a bill that would make it a  
4   crime for an employee of a school district to  
5   have a relationship with any student in that  
6   school district.   Many of these employees --  
7   administrators, teachers -- are persons of power  
8   and trust.   And despite the fact that the legal  
9   age for consent to sexual activity is 17, it is  
10   inappropriate that anyone working in a school  
11   have a relationship like this with a student.

12           And I thank everyone for their vote  
13   on this.   I look forward to having it pass in the  
14   Assembly.   We do have Assembly sponsors.

15           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Senator  
16   Little to be recorded in the affirmative.

17           Announce the results.

18           THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 60.

19           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The bill  
20   is passed.

21           THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
22   167, by Senator Flanagan, Senate Print 3525, an  
23   act to amend the Penal Law.

24           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Read the  
25   last section.

1 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
2 act shall take effect on the 90th day.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the  
4 roll.

5 (The Secretary called the roll.)

6 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59. Nays, 1.  
7 Senator Sanders recorded in the negative.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill  
9 is passed.

10 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
11 174, by Senator Croci, Senate Print 1854A, an act  
12 to amend the Public Authorities Law.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the  
14 last section.

15 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Lay the bill  
16 aside for the day, please.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill  
18 will be laid aside for the day.

19 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
20 193, by Senator Carlucci, Senate Print 1206, an  
21 act to amend Lauren's Law.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the  
23 last section.

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

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Call the  
2   roll.

3                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator  
5   Carlucci to explain his vote.

6                   SENATOR CARLUCCI:    Thank you,  
7   Mr. President.

8                   I want to thank the members of this  
9   body for supporting this legislation.

10                  Unfortunately, right now in New York  
11   State over 10,000 men, women and children are  
12   waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant.  And  
13   unfortunately, in New York we've lagged behind  
14   almost every state in the nation when it comes to  
15   the percentage of eligible people enrolled in the  
16   organ donor program.

17                  This legislation that we're voting  
18   on today would make Lauren's Law permanent.  And  
19   that's named after Lauren Shields, who's been a  
20   tireless advocate to increase organ donation.  We  
21   know, by increasing organ donation, increasing  
22   the amount of eligible people to enroll, we will  
23   save people's lives.

24                  And so what this legislation does is  
25   it simply asks the question, when you go to the



1 DMV -- because 97 percent of the people that  
2 enroll in the organ donor program do it through  
3 the Department of Motor Vehicles. So now we ask  
4 the question: Would you like to be an organ  
5 donor? Yes, or skip the question.

6 We've seen an increase, from the  
7 time that this bill has been going into effect,  
8 from an 11 percent rate of people enrolling to  
9 17 percent now. So we're making a big  
10 difference. That means we have over a million  
11 people that have enrolled to be an organ donor in  
12 New York State since Lauren's Law has been fully  
13 implemented.

14 This legislation would make it  
15 permanent. We're moving in the right direction.  
16 Let's keep that momentum going, and in doing  
17 that, we will save people's lives.

18 So I want to thank my colleagues for  
19 supporting this legislation, particularly  
20 Senator Hannon, who has really helped us and  
21 guided us through this process of making sure  
22 we're doing everything we can to increase organ  
23 donation here in New York State.

24 So, Mr. President, I vote aye.  
25 Thank you.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator  
2   Carlucci to be recorded in the affirmative.

3                   Announce the results.

4                   THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 60.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The bill  
6   is passed.

7                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
8   194, by Senator Hannon, Senate Print 1870, an act  
9   to amend the Social Services Law.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Read the  
11   last section.

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

14                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Call the  
15   roll.

16                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

17                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 60.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The bill  
19   is passed.

20                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
21   195, by Senator Hannon, Senate Print 2495, an act  
22   to amend the Public Health Law.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Read the  
24   last section.

25                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 2.   This

1 act shall take effect immediately.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill  
7 is passed.

8 Senator DeFrancisco, we have  
9 finished with the noncontroversial reading of  
10 today's active-list calendar.

11 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Is there any  
12 further business at the desk?

13 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is  
14 no further business at the desk.

15 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: That being  
16 the case, I move to adjourn until Thursday,  
17 March 2nd, at 11:00 a.m.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: On  
19 motion, the Senate will stand adjourned until  
20 Thursday, March 2nd, at 11:00 a.m.

21 The Senate stands adjourned.

22 (Whereupon, at 4:19 p.m., the Senate  
23 adjourned.)

24

25