NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

January 8, 2018

3:31 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR THOMAS D. CROCI, Acting President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone present to please rise as the Civil Air Patrol presents the colors.

Color Guard, parade the colors.

(The Color Guard entered the chamber and, proceeding to the front, posted the colors.)

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

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

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

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Would you please remain standing as the colors are retired.

Color Guard, please retire the colors.

(The Color Guard retired the colors and exited the chamber.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday, January 7th, the Senate met pursuant to

adjournment. The Journal of Saturday, January 6th, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: 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 DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, Mr. President, I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause. That's Senate Bill Number 5476, by Senator Murphy.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: So ordered.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I also move that the following bills be discharged from their respective committees and be recommitted with

instructions to strike the enacting clause: Senate 5170A and Senate 6596. And that's both by Senator Felder.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: So ordered.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Now would you please recognize Senator Gianaris.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of our newest Senator, Senator Kavanagh, I move that the following bill be discharged from its committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Bill Number 7022.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: It is so ordered.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, there's a privileged resolution, 3347, by Senator LaValle at the desk. Please read it in its entirety and call on Senator LaValle.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3347, by Senator LaValle, commending the Civil Air Patrol-New York Wing Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Squadron upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate on January 8, 2018.

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

"WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Squadron Color Guard from the Civil Air Patrol-New York Wing upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate, to be held at the New York State Capitol in Albany, New York, on January 8, 2018; and

"WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol

enjoys a proud legacy of selfless sacrifice and service to country and community that spans decades; the organization was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and whose members serving in World War Two were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and

"WHEREAS, Thousands of volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol answered America's call to national service and sacrifice by accepting and performing critical wartime missions; and

"WHEREAS, On July 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 476 incorporating the Civil Air Patrol as a benevolent, nonprofit organization; on May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557 permanently establishing the Civil Air Patrol as the auxiliary of the new United States Air Force; and

"WHEREAS, Three primary mission areas were set forth at the inception of the Civil Air Patrol: aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services; and

"WHEREAS, Today, the Civil Air Patrol handles 90 percent of inland search and rescue missions, with approximately 75 lives

saved each year; its members are generally the first on the scene transmitting aerial digital images along with providing disaster relief and emergency services following natural and manmade disasters, including such events as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, Texas and Oklahoma wildfires, tornadoes in the south and central United States, North Dakota flash flooding, and the October 2006 earthquake in Hawaii, as well as humanitarian and homeland security missions along the United States and Mexican border; and

"WHEREAS, In response to the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy, the Civil Air Patrol's New York Wing promptly reacted by flying 373 damage assessment sorties and providing 143,360 aerial photographs to New York disaster relief organizations, FEMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers; providing air transportation throughout the affected region for disaster response teams; deploying 30 volunteers to assist with shelter operations conducted by the New York City Office of Emergency Management; and installing 40 volunteers to assist the Red Cross with the logistics of relief supplies; and

"WHEREAS, In addition, Civil Air Patrol members are dedicated to counterdrug reconnaissance and to teaching a new generation about aerospace and its impact on our future; its cadet programs ensure our youth receive the finest leadership training the nation has to offer; and

"WHEREAS, The members from the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Squadron Color Guard Civil Air Patrol-New York Wing include: 2nd Lt. Craig Markowitz, 1st Lt. Amie Shapiro-Markowitz, C/2nd Lt. Ailysch Markowitz, C/2nd Lt. Kerri Campbell, C/2nd Lt. Mairead Riley, C/CMSgt. Christopher Riley, C/MSgt. Adrian Morales, C/SSgt. Carlos Morales, Lt. Col. Patrick Magee, Lt. Col. Thomas Carello, Lt. Col. Benjamin Nodar, and Lt. Col. John Jones; and

"WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol makes a huge impact each and every day, going above and beyond to make a profound difference in America's communities; and

"WHEREAS, This occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the members of the Civil Air Patrol-New York Wing Colonel Francis S.

Gabreski Squadron Color Guard; and

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Civil Air Patrol-New York Wing Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Squadron Color Guard and its members upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate on January 8, 2018; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Carello, New York Wing Commander, Civil Air Patrol, and the aforementioned members of the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Squadron Color Guard Civil Air Patrol-New York Wing."

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator LaValle on the resolution.

SENATOR LaVALLE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'd like to thank our cadets for opening up our session: Craig Markowitz, Mairead Riley, Christopher Riley, and Patrick Magee. Thank you very much. And also for making the trip up to Albany from Long Island -- the far end of Long Island.

The Civil Air Patrol, as was mentioned in the resolution, is to enhance and teach about aerospace education, to inculcate what people need to become leaders in their community, and to deal with emergency services.

So you looked great, cadets, and thank you again for opening our legislative session. This is the second week that we're here in Albany, so you're starting off the legislative process. And I hope you will follow it to the end, which should end sometime at the end of June.

So congratulations.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Seward on the resolution.

SENATOR SEWARD: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm very honored to be joining

Senator LaValle to stand today to recognize the members of the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Squadron. You know, in recent years it has become, I think, a great tradition here in the State Senate to have, early in the session, one of our first sessions in the year, to have the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard come to the Senate chamber to present the colors in such fine fashion. Having you here today truly enhances the start of our legislative session.

The Civil Air Patrol is an integral unit that does great work year-round, supporting various disaster relief entities throughout our state and throughout this nation, for that matter. The Civil Air Patrol makes a real difference in a time of crisis here in New York, and we know that all too well. The Civil Air Patrol fulfilled key roles during our response to the disastrous 9/11 attacks, the natural disaster problems such as Hurricane Sandy. Whenever there is a disaster of any type, the Civil Air Patrol is there to offer support and assistance.

But in addition to this very, very essential role that the Civil Air Patrol plays, it also encourages activities to help develop

fine young men and women and help to shape them into responsible citizens through the phenomenal cadet program. The Color Guard team that we are honoring today is a fine example of one of the best parts of the Civil Air Patrol's cadet program, and my hat is off to each and every one of you for participating as well as the leadership of the Civil Air Patrol.

And I'm very sorry that Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Little, who is one of my constituents from Oneonta, was unable to attend today's ceremony because of health concerns. He helped to start this continuing tradition of bringing cadets to the State Senate during the first week of session, and I know he is very sorry to miss today's presentation of colors.

And I'm certain that he would be extremely proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with this group of extraordinary cadets and the outstanding group of leaders that we have here in the chamber with us today. This is exactly what Lieutenant Colonel Little envisioned when he first came to me a number of years ago with the idea of bringing the Civil Air Patrol cadets to present the colors on the floor of the New York

State Senate.

So I stand to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of you and to say, on behalf of my constituents, thank you for all that you do for the people of the State of New York.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Little on the resolution.

SENATOR LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I echo the comments of my colleagues who have spoken before me. But I really would like to thank all of those who have been involved in the Civil Air Patrol for what they have done to encourage young people to get a taste of the type of life of the Civil Air Patrol -- the volunteerism, the military aspects that these young cadets learn.

And I'm so pleased to see not only young men but young women today who are participating in the Civil Air Patrol. They learn about leadership, but they also learn about the opportunities that are available to them in future military service. And I wish I had had that when I was younger; that's one of my

regrets, that I never was in the military.

Thank you for being here, but thank you for being the leaders and bringing these opportunities to these young men and women throughout the state.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator DeFrancisco on the resolution.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, first of all, I want to congratulate the Color Guard. I was in the Air Force for four years, so I saw a lot of Color Guards, and I've seen a lot of Color Guards here. You were flawless. Outstanding, outstanding job.

Number two, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Carello is here from my district, and I wanted to welcome him.

And lastly, I participated in a ceremony where a young man, a 17-year-old man by the name of Brian Williams -- not the newscaster, 17-year-old Brian Williams -- who won the top award for Civil Air Patrol, the Spaatz Award, which one out of a thousand throughout the whole country is capable and has been honored with this award. And it was a fantastic ceremony, and I

got to talk to many young people like yourselves who are doing great things and are going to be the leaders of tomorrow.

The one thing I'm concerned about, I noticed a couple of the people in the Color Guard are my size. Brian was my size when I first met him; now he's about 6'2". So if you're going to win the award and you want me to present it, stay closer to the ground, okay?

(Laughter.)

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: So congratulations again, and thank you for all the great things you do.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: All members wishing to be heard, the question is on the resolution. All in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The resolution is adopted.

Members of the Gabreski Squadron, we extend to you our welcome and thanks for your

presentation of the colors here today, and we ask you all to please stand and be recognized by this body.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Would you open the resolution up for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. If you would like to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I believe we're now ready to receive the unabridged versions of the opening statements for today. And would you please first call on Senator Stewart-Cousins for her remarks.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Very good.

Senator Stewart-Cousins.

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

And once again, it's good to be back. You know, it seems like the time between the recess and its beginning again gets shorter

and shorter. And it also seems to be getting colder and colder. So I am happy to be back, and I'm hoping that our activity here will bring spring along really, really quickly.

I want to start, obviously, by saying that we are looking forward to working with Governor Cuomo and our partners in the other house, especially Speaker Heastie, who I want to thank for his hard work and his dedication to the state, and obviously our partners right here: Senator Flanagan, Senator Klein. I'm looking forward to working productively with you as we tackle the issues that face us.

Obviously this will be, I'm sure we know, an interesting year. We're in this chamber in our seats, ready to work. And who knows? By the end of the session, we may all be in different seats. But our goal, no matter where we are, no matter where we're sitting in this chamber, is to serve the people we represent.

A new year and a new session should serve as a restart button and a time to refresh our commitment to the great state.

Today is unusual for me because I stand here wearing all black, and I stand here

wearing black in solidarity with women everywhere. It's Hollywood, it's Wall Street, and we have to be clear, it's here in government as well. I think every woman in this chamber has had their own "me too" moment. And for those in our workforce now and for our future workforce, that has to stop.

Last week I got to talk with the founder of the #MeToo movement, Tarana Burke. She was up here for the State of the State. And we talked about this moment and what this moment in time means for all of us. I know what it means for us in this chamber. It means that we have to deal with the scourge of sexual harassment in the workplace. It means that we cannot let this moment elude us, we can't let this movement pass us by.

Last year I had an opportunity to work with Saru Jayaraman, the founder and the president of Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, called ROC, as we drafted our tip workers bill. She was even at the Golden Globes last night as a guest of Amy Pohler.

When we worked together, Saru pointed out that 70 percent of tip workers are

women. So let's be clear. These movements are connected. So when we deal with sexual harassment, we also have to deal with our tip workers, we have to pass our tip workers bill. We need to get this done immediately.

These are easy things that will change the lives and change the trajectory of so many mostly women workers and really, really allow us, as we work towards our package, to protect everyone in the workplace, certainly the lowest-wage workers. We need to get this done this year.

This last year we've seen an administration in Washington that has continually attacked our rights and our values. New York must serve as a bulwark against these policies that are hurting everyday New Yorkers. We have so many policies that we must pass that would allow us to serve as that bulwark.

So let's pass real reforms to our voting system so New York is no longer at the back of the pack in voter engagement. We have to implement early voting. We have to combat voter suppression. We have to make registration to vote easier. Things that my conference -- this

conference, the Democrats -- have introduced for years.

We must pass the Voter Empowerment Act that we introduced last year. Let's finally make Albany an example of good government.

We have to restore the public's trust by restricting outside income, closing the LLC loophole, shining a light on how campaign funds are used and ending the practice of using these accounts as personal ATMs.

We have to continue to build our economy and create more jobs. We have a national government that has been vindictively using tax laws to punish our state. We must find ways to stop this from happening and work towards lowering our tax burdens.

We have to reduce the mandates on governments, and we must help our small businesses thrive.

We have to stand up for the health and equality of women in New York. We need to recognize once and for all that women's rights are human rights. And that means we have to pass the Reproductive Health Act and our Comprehensive Contraceptive Care Act.

(Unidentified member clapping.)

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Yeah, go ahead. Only one? Come on. Come on.

(Laughter, applause.)

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Let's make sure that our children and every New Yorker has access to quality affordable healthcare. Let's make sure that all of our New York children have access to quality education they deserve and that all of our children have access to affordable quality higher education. And by the way, it's time to make the DREAM real.

Let's continue to pass smart and commonsense gun laws. We must take guns from domestic abusers, require gun dealers to sell only child-proof weapons, and finally implement the ammunition database which was mandated by the 2013 New York SAFE Act.

Let's invest in our crumbling infrastructure, especially the MTA, and truly make New York the Empire State.

My colleagues, I know this is an ambitious agenda, but it's one that is crucial to the well-being of New York State. So, Mr. President, thank you for indulging me. And

again, the Democratic Conference, each and every one capable and ready, will be standing with our colleagues to work with all Senators, regardless of party affiliation, to get the job done.

So let's get to work. Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Would you please recognize Senator Klein.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Cousins. Thank you, Senator Flanagan. And I want to especially thank my colleagues in the Independent Democratic Conference.

You know, every year the IDC -- and this past week was our seventh anniversary -- puts forth a robust budget agenda. We're doing the same -- and actually, we put that forth two weeks ago, which we're entitling "One New Yorker." Because after all, from the Bronx or Buffalo, from Staten Island or Syracuse, we're

really only one New York.

And I think it's important -- and I'm glad Senator Cousins mentioned it, and I know Senator Flanagan will as well -- that we really move forward as one. I think during these very tough budget times it's more important than ever that the budget should not be politicized, but prioritized to address the needs of every New Yorker. And that's what we actually did here again.

We're going to address issues like reducing student debt. We're going to encourage individuals to become teachers by reducing their student loans and debt. We want to have more doctors in rural areas in New York State. We're really addressing each and every New Yorker as one.

But I just want to highlight, you know, some of the major portions of our very long and comprehensive budget proposals. I think everyone knows that the subway system, especially in New York City, is in total chaos. It's hurting our individuals who rely on public transportation each and every day to go to work and to go to school. It's actually going to

lead, unless we do something about it, to a financial crisis, especially among our small businesses.

Well, the Independent Democratic Conference several weeks ago put forth a Rider Relief Plan which would fund infrastructure upgrades now while keeping commuters safe, stopping a future fare hike, bringing fair fares to low-income riders, and slashing skyrocketing express bus fares in half.

I think we all know by now that the first phase is making sure that the MTA gets the $836 million for infrastructure. That's for new signals and new tracks and new workers. That's the first step. We can't do anything else unless we make those repairs. Later on, we have to look for ways to maintain that, to make sure it doesn't fall into disrepair again.

The MTA and the state, of course, has come up with half. I think it's important, during these tough fiscal times for the state -- and I think everyone who lives in New York City knows how important it is to have a mass transit system that works -- that the city pay their fair share. My proposal is to actually take less than

6 percent of the $7 billion that the city collects in sales tax for half of that money. That's a one-shot. This is not going to happen year after year. Because once we get those repairs made for that MTA infrastructure, then we can move on to the next plan, to make sure the ridership is affordable.

You know something, I don't think there's any secret in this house that I've been one of the leaders behind speed cameras and making sure that each and every school in our city has speed cameras. Well, you want to know something? Today the mayor of the City of New York announced that we have the safest city now as far as pedestrians being hit by cars since 1910, when there was probably horse and buggies on the streets of Manhattan.

Speed cameras work. They save lives. The way it works is very simple. You put a speed camera up at a school, you get a ticket, you don't do it again. I wish I had a dollar for every time one of my constituents came to me and said "I just got a ticket by a school because I didn't know there was a speed camera." I say, "Well, now you know, and you won't speed at the

school."

That's very simple. We all know the purpose is to save lives. But at the same time, there is a $50 ticket. I'm not raising the price of the ticket. I just want to use that money for commonsense approaches to make ridership in the MTA more affordable. I want to make sure that people who make under $27,000 can get a half-price discount, as we give to senior citizens. I want to make sure that express bus riders that are in my district and Tony's district and Diane's district, probably all of our districts in the city, who rely on those express buses to get to Manhattan -- it's presently $6.50; I want to cut it in half.

I also want to use a portion of that money to make sure there is not a toll increase in 2019. Everyone is talking about it. Well, you want to know something? We can't put another burden on hardworking New Yorkers and increase the toll. We want to use those proceeds the right way, by giving it back to the rider.

I know Senator Cousins mentioned and the Governor mentioned and John Flanagan knows as well, taxpayers are under siege. What the tax

policy does to New Yorkers that was just passed by Congress is devastating. It's devastating to middle-income taxpayers.

You know, I know my neighbors in the suburbs or even parts of my district in the suburbs pay high property taxes. There's very few people who say that they pay under $10,000. People in the City of New York have the dubious distinction of paying a city income tax. They're paying a higher tax. Taking away that deduction is going to devastate homeowners. Taking away that deduction is going to devastate the middle class.

Well, I think the state should shoulder some of the burden. What I want to do is let individuals enjoy that $10,000 deduction. Anything over that deduction and your salary is under $200,000 a year, you should be able to take off the difference in your state taxes. That's how we shoulder the burden of what the federal government just did to the hardworking taxpayers in New York.

I also want to help seniors. You know, we have a very good program here in New York -- in New York City, I should say --

called the SCHE program. It's the Senior Citizen Homeowner Exemption. Senior citizens, if they meet a certain income level, can save up to 50 percent on their property taxes. We just raised the eligibility last year to $58,000. We need to make that a statewide program. Why are we only allowing New York City homeowners who are senior citizens to enjoy a benefit? We should expand this program statewide and make sure that senior citizens who are living on a fixed income can cut their property taxes in half.

Finally, I also want to agree with Senator Cousins that I think it's important that we finally do voter reform. You know, when I take a step back and I try to look at things -- because I really do believe in governing in a bipartisan fashion -- I don't understand why this can't be a bipartisan issue. Blue California has voter reform, red Texas has voter reform. And the only thing we're doing is enhancing our democracy. I think it's good for all of us if we encourage individuals to vote.

I think we need to have a 14-day early voting program. I think we have to create no-excuse absentee voting. And a piece of

legislation that I introduced years ago allows 17-year-olds to register, and when they turn 18, they can automatically vote. Again, that's how you encourage young people to get involved in politics or at least do their civic duty.

You know, there's a lot of other things that myself and my colleagues are going to be highlighting in the weeks ahead leading up to the budget. But I think it's extremely important that this year, more than any other year, we join forces, we work together to protect the hardworking taxpayers of New York State.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Will you now please call on Senator Flanagan.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Flanagan.

SENATOR FLANAGAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator DeFrancisco, and my colleagues Senator Stewart-Cousins and Senator Klein.

I always try and provide a little human aspect. Everyone tries to, I think. But I want to just mention there's a gentleman sitting up on the rostrum named Chris Cook. Chris is looking and going, What is going on here? He is -- I just found out that he celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary and is serving in his -- no?

THE SECRETARY: At work.

SENATOR FLANAGAN: Oh, all right. Okay. -- 41st session.

So, Chris, thank you for the work that you do. I think everyone appreciates your professionalism.

(Standing ovation.)

SENATOR FLANAGAN: Chris, we just figured out that you're losing money working, but we do appreciate you being here.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR FLANAGAN: So I want to focus on a couple of basic things and start off with our theme for this year is -- I'm looking right at Senator Ortt -- affordability, opportunity, and security.

And it's interesting, whether you're

from the Southern Tier or Central New York or the North Country or a great community like Oneonta, as Senator Seward spoke of before, I think our colleagues or our taxpayers and our residents are all kind of looking for the same thing. And we're at a juncture where that's why we're going to keep talking about this. We want to have people moving into New York, not moving out. And we have an out-migration that is really problematic. Really problematic.

People want very basic things. They want a good quality of life. They want to be able to, you know what, maybe at the end of the week, go out for dinner and not have to worry about can I put gas in my car, or am I going to be able to pay my rent and stuff like that. It is tough, it's still too tough. Too tough.

So our focus is on some very basic things. Number one, we think the property tax cap should be made permanent. It's proven to be very effective, very effective. So we should make it permanent. A spending cap for the State of New York. We've had this self-imposed cap since Governor Cuomo became governor, but the only house that ever passes a spending cap is

this house. It doesn't happen in the Assembly, and we still haven't seen that proposal from the Governor.

So if we're going to be able to control spending, a prudent, wise way to do so is to enact a state spending cap. And again, to make the property tax cap permanent.

Now, the numbers will differ depending upon who is speaking, but clearly a property tax cap has saved taxpayers all across New York billions, billions of dollars. And the world did not come to an end. In fact, we've made huge investments in higher education. We've made lots of investments in education. We've made lots of investments in economic development. So we've proven that some of these things that people find, you know, verboten or anathema are really not that big a deal and we should just do them.

So when I listened to the Governor's speech last week, it was -- boy, was it ambitious. There was a lot of stuff in there. But I heard a lot more about the federal government than I did about New York State government. And I want to talk about New York

State government, because that's where we all work.

And when we're going to focus on New York, it's got to be about jobs and jobs and jobs and economic development, the small business owner, the person who runs the bakery, the nail salon, the auto repair facility. Those are the people we need to help. So we're going to have a very, very maniacal focus coming out of our conference on issues like that.

Now, I've had a good opportunity to be able to do some traveling. And I'm going to use Chris Jacobs, who spoke about a company, Confer Plastics, who said it costs them three-quarters of a million dollars more to do business in the State of New York, and about $650,000 of that comes from additional energy taxes. So we need to lower our energy taxes so people can afford to live here.

And when we travel around -- I don't think I'm any different than anybody else. This is where I feel we are missing some golden opportunities. People feel like it's death by a thousand cuts, that there's too many regulations, too many burdens, it's still too hard to do

business. And why? These are things that we can fix that don't cost any money. At a time where we're having great difficulty financially, there are so many ways, so many ways we can help people.

I look at Murph, Senator Murphy, respectfully. Okay? His colleague sitting right next to him, George Amedore. George is a successful small business owner, but he talks about how hard it is to do business here in the State of New York. We need to fix that. We need to fix it.

Senator Klein laid out an ambitious agenda. I was thinking -- Jeff, I have to say when you made the reference to horse and buggies, that's kind of how it feels to get across Manhattan anytime when you're in there.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR FLANAGAN: I think we all know that.

But with regard to the MTA, they clearly need our help. But so does Rochester. So do other places across the State of New York. So we have to be mindful that we're always focusing on the broad -- as was mentioned, the

broad set of circumstances for New Yorkers. And yes, Senator Valesky, we do care about Syracuse as well. I don't want you to feel left out.

So again, affordability, opportunity, security. Those are going to be our themes. We will work very closely with our colleagues.

Now, lastly, but tremendously, tremendously important is the whole notion of workplace discrimination, sexual harassment. You know, I think of this through a prism of children, grandchildren, seniors. It affects everybody. It affects everybody.

Now, to be clear, in this house we've already taken additional steps. We're giving additional training to our session interns, the people who are in our fellows program. And instead of doing it every other year or when an employee just starts, it's going to happen all the time. I had outside counsel hired to review our practices in the Senate to find out what we did well and frankly to find out what we can do better. And that's in the process of being implemented.

So this is an issue that is a

scourge upon our society, like opioid and heroin addiction and things like that, and it has to be addressed. And it has to be addressed in this session in a timely fashion, but we'd better get this right. We'd better think long and hard -- well, maybe not too long, Senator Stewart-Cousins. But maybe we should just think very carefully and clearly about what appropriate public policy can we enact to protect everyone in New York, everyone, who all deserve that protection.

So it's an issue that we all care about and take very seriously. I look forward to working with Speaker Heastie, with the Governor, with my colleagues. And you know what we're going to do too? We're going to ask hard questions. We're going to ask hard questions. Because when we're spending the amount of money that we do, that's exactly what we should be doing. Whether it's the MTA and the city's contribution or something else like that, those are the things that should be done as part of our legislative duties.

So to all of you, as always, I appreciate your willingness to listen to me. I

look forward to a very productive year. And Godspeed to everyone. Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we please return to motions and resolutions, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Motions and resolutions.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause. That's Senate Bill 6543, by Senator Little.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: So ordered.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Would you please call on Senator Gianaris.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of Leader Stewart-Cousins, I move that the following bills be discharged from their respective committees and be

recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Bill Numbers 2950 and 6688.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: So ordered.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Now, Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Stewart-Cousins, I hand up the following Democrat Conference committee assignments and ask that such assignments be filed in the Journal.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: So ordered.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I would like to now call an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee for Room 332.

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

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 4:17 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 4:43 p.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The session will come to order.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Do you have the calendar? May I have one?

There's a report at the desk from the Rules Committee. Can we have the report read, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Flanagan, from the Committee on Rules, reports the following bills:

Senate Print 365, by Senator Robach, an act to amend the State Finance Law;

Senate 1207, by Senator Flanagan, an act to amend Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011;

Senate 7275, by Senator Helming, an act to amend the General Municipal Law;

Senate 7276, by Senator Hamilton, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7277, by Senator Akshar, an act to amend the Highway Law;

Senate 7278, by Senator Akshar, an act to amend the Highway Law;

Senate 7279, by Senator Golden, an act to amend the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law;

Senate 7280, by Senator Marcellino, an act to amend the Education Law;

Senate 7281, by Senator Bailey, an act to amend the Correction Law;

Senate 7282, by Senator Alcantara, an act to amend the Social Services Law;

Senate 7283, by Senator Robach, an act to amend the Workers' Compensation Law;

Senate 7284, by Senator Kavanagh, an act to amend the Public Authorities Law;

Senate 7285, by Senator Golden, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7286, by Senator Hamilton, an act to amend the Public Housing Law;

Senate 7287, by Senator Ritchie, an act to amend the Tax Law;

Senate 7288, by Senator Seward, an act to amend the Insurance Law;

Senate 7289, by Senator Croci, an act to amend the Military Law;

Senate 7290, by Senator Hannon, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7291, by Senator Ortt, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7292, by Senator Peralta, an

act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7293, by Senator Alcantara, an act to amend the New York City Charter;

Senate 7294, by Senator Hamilton, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7295, by Senator Alcantara, an act to amend the Public Health Law;

Senate 7296, by Senator Kavanagh, an act to amend the Civil Service Law;

Senate 7297, by Senator LaValle, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law;

Senate 7298, by Senator Carlucci, an act to amend the State Administrative Procedure Act;

Senate 7299, by Senator LaValle, an act to amend the New York State Urban Development Corporation Act;

Senate 7300, by Senator LaValle, an act to repeal;

Senate 7301, by Senator Klein, an act directing;

Senate 7302, by Senator Hamilton, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7303, by Senator Croci, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7304, by Senator Savino, an act to amend the Executive Law;

Senate 7305, by Senator Gallivan, an act to amend the Executive Law;

Senate 7306, by Senator Helming, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law;

Senate 7307, by Senator Golden, an act to amend the General Business Law;

Senate 7308, by Senator Funke, an act to amend the State Technology Law;

Senate 7309, by Senator Alcantara, an act to amend the Economic Development Law;

Senate 7310, by Senator Peralta, an act to amend the General Business Law;

Senate 7311, by Senator Larkin, an act to amend the Education Law;

Senate 7312, by Senator Avella, an act to amend the Social Services Law;

Senate 7313, by Senator Kennedy, an act to amend the Social Services Law;

Senate 7314, by Senator Croci, an act to amend the Civil Service Law;

Senate 7315, by Senator Croci, an act to amend the General Municipal Law;

Senate 7316, by Senator Little, an

act to repeal;

Senate 7317, by Senator Tedisco, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law;

Senate 7318, by Senator Griffo, an act to amend the Public Service Law;

Senate 7319, by Senator Marchione, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7320, by Senator Flanagan, an act to amend the Education Law;

Senate 7321, by Senator Griffo, an act to amend the Public Authorities Law;

Senate 7322, by Senator Alcantara, an act to amend the Mental Hygiene Law;

Senate 7323, by Senator Murphy, an act to amend the Labor Law;

Senate 7324, by Senator Klein, an act to amend the General Business Law;

Senate 7325, by Senator Phillips, an act to amend the Labor Law;

Senate 7326, by Senator Hannon, an act to amend Part E of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7327, by Senator Hannon, an act to amend the General Business Law;

Senate 7328, by Senator Ortt, an act

to amend the Social Services Law;

Senate 7329, by Senator Hannon, an act to amend the Public Health Law;

Senate 7330, by Senator Serrano, an act to amend Chapter 402 of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7331, by Senator Golden, an act to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York;

Senate 7332, by Senator Peralta, an act to amend Chapter 450 of the Laws of 2017;

Senate 7333, by Senator Montgomery, an act to amend the Executive Law;

And Senate 7334, by Senator Funke, an act to amend the Economic Development Law.

All bills reported direct to third reading.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Thank you. I move to accept the report of the Rules Committee.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Opposed,

nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The report is accepted.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Thank you. We're going to take up a few of the bills. I'm going to read off the numbers, and then we'll do it in order of number. Calendar Number 4, 15, 16, 21, 25, 29, 39, 44, 48 and 51.

So could we please call up Calendar Number 4.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 4, by Senator Hamilton, Senate Print 7276, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 15, by Senator Ritchie, Senate Print 7287, an act to amend the Tax Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 16, by Senator Seward, Senate Print 7288, an act to amend the Insurance Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as Chapter 490 of the Laws of 2017.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the

roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 21, by Senator Alcantara, Senate Print 7293, an act to amend the New York City Charter.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 25, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 7297, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 29, by Senator Klein, Senate Print 7301, an act directing.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 39, by Senator Larkin, Senate Print 7311, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the

last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 44, by Senator Little, Senate Print 7316, an act to repeal.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Sanders.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm trying to see if I understand

this one correctly. We are a nation where property has generated the largest middle class in the U.S. This bill as it -- this law that we have now says that a person can save $5,000 a year to buy a home. We're getting hit with federal taxes that are going to change our whole buying. Why are we attacking the middle class? Why are we saying that we are not going to support people buying a home in America?

What do we need to study? Do we need to study that the middle class buys homes? Do we need to study that? Do we need to study that saves is a good idea so that you can purchase a home? Do we need to study that parents can help their children and save money and buy a home?

Why on this planet would we go with this? We voted for it last year. Now we're saying, Wait a minute, it was a good thing last year for the middle class, but it's not good this year for the middle class.

Absolutely no. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Sanders will be recorded in the negative.

Senator Kaminsky.

SENATOR KAMINSKY: Thank you.

When we listen to -- Mr. President, when we listened to the comments of the three leaders before, we all talked about a crushing tax burden that our citizens of this state face, certainly only exacerbated by a new federal tax bill that will take away precious deductions from individuals, which is really taking money from their pockets.

I talk to senior citizens in my district who are petrified about not having the income to make those additional payments, who are afraid of not being able to sell their homes, into which all their life savings are poured into, as well as young people who are worried they're going to have to move out of New York.

Last year we passed a wonderful program that I was proud to have voted for that would have allowed individuals to make tax-deductible payments in support of a new home, in tax-deductible accounts up to $5,000. It is a mistake to repeal that here today. In fact, it is the last thing that we should be doing when the citizens of our state are trying to take up

any desperate measures they can in light of the new federal tax bill that is headed right for them.

We saw thousands of Long Islanders line up to pay their bills early in light of the fact that those deductions are going away. Here was a $5,000 deduction for new homeowners. We should not be repealing it. We should be standing up for this program. We should be having more such programs.

I vote in the negative. We ought to be doing more for our middle class.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Kaminsky to be recorded in the negative.

Senator Brooks to explain his vote.

SENATOR BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President.

As we know, there have been many significant changes made in our tax laws as a result of the federal Tax and Jobs Act of 2017. Homeownership in New York State has been an objective of many of our residents, one that has been very difficult for some to attain. These new changes will make it difficult for some of

our homeowners to retain their home with the change in the deductibility of these expenses.

The legislation we passed last year was an aid to let some of those who don't have a home today save for the funds needed to purchase this home. This act, coupled with the federal tax act, makes it difficult if not impossible for many of those in this state who do not own a home today to get into a home.

I am voting no on this legislation.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Brooks to be recorded in the negative.

Senator Kennedy. Nope, Senator Kennedy? Senator Bailey.

SENATOR KENNEDY: I'll say a few words.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KENNEDY: Although I was not planning on it, Mr. President. Mr. President, I am never --

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Do not feel compelled, Senator Kennedy.

Senator Kennedy to explain his vote.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Sure, I'd love to

explain my vote.

This bill, I think, in the spirit of what we passed last year and was signed into law by the Governor, unfortunately goes backwards. This is something that helps middle-class families, helps middle-class New Yorkers, sets a precedent.

And quite frankly, as my colleagues have mentioned, in listening to the leaders and the opening statements, what we're seeing coming out of Washington and the increased tax burden that is going to be felt across this state, something that both sides of the aisle agree with and have recognized to give relief to new homeowners middle-class families -- it's not only the right thing to do, but it's the right time to do it. And to roll that backwards I think is unfortunately misguided.

So I am voting no on this bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Kennedy to be recorded in the negative.

Senator Bailey.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President. I will be brief.

In a day and era where we talk about bipartisanship being lost, this great piece of legislation last year was passed in a nearly unanimous, I believe, bipartisan fashion, and it really did -- it was aimed to assist the middle class. And if you come to many of our districts, our home districts, one of the major issues that is facing our constituents, from a rental perspective as well as a buying perspective, is housing.

So why we would do something which is essentially so regressive towards people who need housing the most is beyond me, and I just vote in the negative on this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Bailey to be recorded in the negative.

Senator Gianaris to close.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I don't want to be too redundant in what my colleagues are saying, but this vote is shocking to many of us because -- I just want to be clear for everyone in this chamber what this bill does.

At a time when New York, we all can agree, is facing the brunt of the federal tax changes, you are voting to repeal an up to $10,000 deduction for first-time homeowners. So when we sit here and we make all these glorious speeches to start the session about how we care about the middle class and we want to reduce the cost of living, we want to help them reduce their tax burden, you are right now voting to repeal an up to $10,000 tax deduction for first-time homeowners in New York State. Congratulations.

I'll be voting no.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Gianaris will be recorded in the negative.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: You know, I understand the opposition to this bill, but I just want to remind everyone that buying a house and giving a tax credit of $5,000 may be a wonderful benefit, as many of the no votes have said. However, maintaining the house by paying our high taxes and the cost of holding a home in the State of New York is much more significant.

So I'm just calling on people that when we start voting for additional stuff from

the budget and additional benefits that's going to cost that same homeowner that they're lamenting on right now, we use a little fiscal restraint and think of them at that time as well.

I vote aye. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator DeFrancisco will be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Little to explain her vote.

SENATOR LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. President.

And to all my colleagues here, I agree with you. We had hoped to have this bill passed; it was passed by both houses. The department and administration had concerns about the implementation of the bill and the cost of the bill. And there were two choices, a veto or a study.

So we agreed to a study for a chapter amendment to look at how we would implement the bill. There are issues in the 529 college program that we had modeled this at that make it very easy to make a contribution to the 529, and it doesn't have to stay there very long and then you can go ahead and get that deduction.

So we're looking at it. At first they talked about a one-year study. We got the administration to agree to a six-month study, which we will have to have in June. And we will stay on top of that, because I think this bill -- I was a former realtor. And really right now with what the federal government is doing with our property taxes not being totally deductible, I think we're going to have a problem with homeownership.

So this would help people for their first-time home purchase, to have a savings account, tax-deductible up to $100,000. We're just looking at how to implement it better. And we didn't have some of the issues that the administration was concerned about in the bill.

So I'm not giving up on it. I think it is a good idea. I think it's very necessary. And hopefully we'll work with the study -- we got them to agree to a six-month study, not a one-year study, and we'll be back next session with a bill that I believe we can all pass and institute as soon as possible.

So thank you very much. I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator

Little to be recorded in the affirmative.

May we please have another show of hands for all those in the negative on this. Thank you.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 44, those recorded in the negative are Senators Addabbo, Alcantara, Amedore, Avella, Bailey, Benjamin, Brooks, Carlucci, Comrie, Dilan, Gianaris, Hamilton, Hoylman, Kaminsky, Kavanagh, Kennedy, Krueger, Montgomery, Parker, Peralta, Persaud, Phillips, Rivera, Sanders, Serrano, Stavisky and Stewart-Cousins.

Ayes, 34. Nays, 27.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 48, by Senator Flanagan, Senate Print 7320, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Stavisky to explain her vote.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I just think this is a terrific idea, the B.S., the Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in 10 years.

I just hope that the State Education Department is able to handle the licensure, because there have been problems in the past where in some cases -- not all, but in a few cases -- licensure was delayed, in one case that I know of beyond a year.

So with that caveat, Mr. President, I vote aye.

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

Announce the result.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 51, by Senator Murphy, Senate Print 7323, an act to amend the Labor Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: The bill is passed.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, a point of information. Senator LaValle currently has SUNY Chancellor Johnson in his office, that's Room 806 of the LOB, for a meet and greet. Any Senator that's interested in meeting and greeting, that's where the meeting will be, Room 806 of the LOB.

Secondly, Senator Hamilton has a brief introduction of guests, and then we will be adjourning.

Senator Hamilton.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: Senator Hamilton.

SENATOR HAMILTON: Thank you, Senator DeFrancisco.

I just want to say to my district, to my Asian brothers and sisters, ni hao, ni hao ma, and thank you for coming here today. These are all small business owners coming from Sunset Park. They're in Albany today to see us in the Senate.

And also to a young man who is extraordinary, that's Michael -- where is Michael at -- who is going to Harvard University. Stand up, Michael. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

SENATOR HAMILTON: Xie xie, and thank you for coming.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: To all of our guests in the gallery, we thank you for honoring this chamber with your presence today, and we wish you all the privileges and courtesies of the house.

Senator DeFrancisco.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: There is no further business before the desk.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: That being the case, I move to adjourn until Tuesday, January 9, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT CROCI: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, January 9th, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 5:05 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)