

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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3  
4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 March 14, 2018

11 1:15 p.m.

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13  
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: In the  
10 absence of clergy today, I ask that we all bow  
11 our heads in a moment of silent prayer and  
12 reflection as we recall Psalm 34:18: "The Lord  
13 is close to the brokenhearted and saves those  
14 who are crushed in spirit."

15 I ask that we all now bow our heads  
16 in a moment of honor and remembrance to those  
17 who died at Parkland High School and all others  
18 who have suffered the loss of life through  
19 violence. Please bow your heads and continue to  
20 stand in silent remembrance and tribute.

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

23 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
24 reading of the Journal.

25 THE SECRETARY: In Senate,

1 Tuesday, March 13th, the Senate met pursuant to  
2 adjournment. The Journal of Monday, March 12th,  
3 was read and approved. On motion, Senate  
4 adjourned.

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

8 Presentation of petitions.

9 Messages from the Assembly.

10 Messages from the Governor.

11 Reports of standing committees.

12 Reports of select committees.

13 Communications and reports from  
14 state officers.

15 Motions and resolutions.

16 Senator DeFrancisco.

17 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:

18 Mr. President, on page 19 I offer the following  
19 amendments to Calendar 293, Senate Print 5982,  
20 by Senator Jacobs, and ask that said bill retain  
21 its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
23 amendments are received, and the bill shall  
24 retain its place on third reading.

25 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Would you

1 recognize Senator Valesky, please.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
3 Valesky.

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

6 On behalf of Senator Hamilton, I  
7 offer the following amendments to Calendar 578,  
8 Senate Bill 5454A, and ask that said bill retain  
9 its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
11 amendments are received, and the bill shall  
12 retain its place on third reading.

13 SENATOR VALESKY: And also on  
14 behalf of Senator Hamilton, I move that  
15 Bill 7918 be discharged from its respective  
16 committee and be recommitted with instructions  
17 to strike the enacting clause.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: It is so  
19 ordered.

20 Senator DeFrancisco.

21 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: If we can  
22 stand at ease for -- moments.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
24 Senate will stand temporarily at ease.

25 (Whereupon, the Senate stood at

1 ease at 1:19 p.m.)

2 (Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at  
3 1:22 p.m.)

4 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
5 Senate will come to order.

6 Senator DeFrancisco.

7 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, would  
8 you please recognize Senator Stewart-Cousins.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Can I  
10 have some order in the house, please.

11 Senator Stewart-Cousins.

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

14 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Excuse me,  
15 Senator Stewart-Cousins. I apologize, I should  
16 have first called up the resolution.

17 SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Okay.

18 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we please  
19 call up the resolution that's on for  
20 consideration today.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
22 Senate is in order, and the Secretary will read.

23 THE SECRETARY: Resolution Number  
24 4168, by Senator Flanagan, in response to the  
25 2018-2019 Executive Budget submission

1 (Legislative Bills 7500B, 7503B, 7504B, 7505B,  
2 7506A, 7507B, 7508B and 7509B) to be adopted as  
3 legislation expressing the position of the  
4 New York State Senate relating to the 2018-2019  
5 New York State Budget.

6 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Now,  
7 Mr. President, would you please call up Senator  
8 Stewart-Cousins on the resolution.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
10 Stewart-Cousins.

11 SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you  
12 again, Mr. President.

13 So we sit here today just about two  
14 weeks before our budget is due. And I think we  
15 all know that this will be a very long two weeks.  
16 The reality is the State Budget has become more  
17 than a fiscal document, it has become a policy  
18 document. It is the main tool that our state  
19 government uses to advance policies.

20 And this document offers a stark  
21 contrast between the Democrats and the  
22 Republicans. The alternative offered by the  
23 Senate Republicans simply does not tackle the  
24 issues facing our state and really shows in many  
25 ways how out of step with the rest of the state

1     you've become.

2                     Mr. President, as we sit here today,  
3     just hours after students here in this state and  
4     across the nation stood together and said, Enough  
5     is enough -- enough with the mass shootings,  
6     enough of gun violence. They're demanding from  
7     us real solutions. And yet this document does  
8     nothing to address the proliferation of guns and  
9     the growing numbers of mass shootings. I have to  
10    say, frankly, it's mind-boggling and sends the  
11    absolute wrong message.

12                    Yet again, Albany is rocked by  
13    another scandal, and this document does nothing  
14    to address ethics. Yet the majority of people as  
15    we know and all of us agree, the majority of  
16    people in government work, work hard, we do the  
17    right thing. But it really doesn't mean that  
18    this body can sit back and do nothing.

19                    The budget plan also does nothing  
20    about our abysmal voting participation rates.  
21    The resolution fails to properly address the tax  
22    crisis that the Trump administration has created  
23    with their crazy tax scheme. The resolution  
24    fails to adequately fund our schools and once  
25    again favors charter schools over public schools.

1           This plan doesn't include the Child  
2 Victims Act and justice for so many survivors.  
3 Mr. President, let's be clear. A passing mention  
4 is really not enough. We need real action and a  
5 real plan.

6           This plan once again leaves our  
7 Dreamers behind, and it doesn't include the DREAM  
8 Act. The plan doesn't adequately deal with the  
9 growing infrastructure crisis, especially our  
10 crumbling MTA. The plan doesn't deal with the  
11 crisis that's facing NYCHA, doesn't deal with our  
12 shrinking affordable housing market across the  
13 state. The plan doesn't deal with so many  
14 important issues involving women's health and  
15 including finally codifying choice in our State  
16 Constitution.

17           This plan once again continues to  
18 ignore the LGBTQ community and even rejects the  
19 proposal to outlaw the use of gay or trans panic  
20 as defense for murder.

21           This plan does nothing to fix our  
22 criminal justice system. We need to end cash  
23 bail. We need to ensure New Yorkers' rights to a  
24 speedy trial, to halt the unconstitutional and  
25 lengthy incarceration of our citizens while they



1     await justice.

2                   This plan doesn't even recognize  
3     New York's need to do more to protect our  
4     environment and water supply in the face of the  
5     president and his allies' deregulations and  
6     climate change denial.

7                   The stakes for New Yorkers have  
8     never been higher. And the Republicans' budget  
9     plan simply does not address the many needs of  
10    our constituents.

11                  We have the ability to pass a sound  
12    fiscal document and stand up for New Yorkers and  
13    our constituents' rights. I urge all of my  
14    colleagues to appreciate that fact and, over the  
15    coming weeks, work towards that end. Know that  
16    the Senate Democrats will continue to advocate  
17    for our plans to be included in the final State  
18    Budget, because New Yorkers deserve better than  
19    what is being presented and will ultimately, I  
20    assume, pass today.

21                  Thank you, Mr. President.

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Thank  
23    you, Senator Stewart-Cousins.

24                  Senator DeFrancisco.

25                  SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Would you

1 please now call on Senator Klein.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
3 Klein.

4 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you,  
5 Mr. President. Thank you very much.

6 This is certainly, as was said by  
7 Senator Cousins, the start of the budget  
8 marathon. This is our ability in the State  
9 Senate to put forth a one-house budget resolution  
10 which talks about the things that we hope to get  
11 into the final budget. And I think the  
12 resolution before us is sort of a good place to  
13 begin, and it includes a lot of what the  
14 Independent Democratic Conference has advocated  
15 for for the past several months and sometimes the  
16 past several years.

17 First, it recognizes -- finally --  
18 that we owe a debt to the 400,000 residents of  
19 NYCHA. You know, over the years myself and my  
20 colleagues in the IDC have done numerous reports  
21 showing that there's problems with lead and mold  
22 and faulty boilers. Unfortunately, every time we  
23 pass what I think was the real reform that was  
24 needed, an independent monitor, unfortunately, it  
25 never made it into the budget nor it never passed

1 the Assembly.

2 But I think the time to act is now,  
3 because I think what we've seen -- which I think  
4 everyone will agree upon -- that NYCHA is truly  
5 the worst landlord in the City of New York.

6 So in this document it contains a  
7 state independent monitor, which will actually  
8 make sure the money is spent quickly and wisely,  
9 the over \$300 million that we advocated in  
10 previous years and was actually put into the  
11 budget. We also give the City Council, for the  
12 first time, oversight over NYCHA. We open up the  
13 311 program in the City of New York to NYCHA  
14 tenants to make sure they get their complaints  
15 done in an expedited fashion. We also include  
16 design-build language to expedite the repairs for  
17 NYCHA.

18 We also require a bill that was just  
19 passed the other day by Senator Savino to make  
20 sure that individuals who are doing mold  
21 remediation actually are licensed, like everybody  
22 else has to do except if you work for NYCHA.

23 We also make sure that we have a  
24 subway system and a mass transit system in the  
25 City of New York that actually serves commuters.

1 We all know about the Summer of Hell. We have to  
2 make sure that every season afterwards aren't all  
3 seasons of hell.

4 We put forth again a solution where  
5 we make sure that while the state pays 50 percent  
6 of the \$840 million plan to make very needed  
7 repairs, that the city comes up with their fair  
8 share, the other 50 percent. You know, the time  
9 for finger pointing and the back-and-forth has to  
10 end. Because every day we don't do something for  
11 our mass transit system, it's only the commuters  
12 that actually suffer.

13 We also for the first time have our  
14 Home Stability Support program, which I think is  
15 a major step in ending our homeless problem,  
16 especially in the City of New York and some of  
17 our other large cities.

18 You know, in the City of New York  
19 the solution for many, many years has been to  
20 turn hotels and motels into homeless shelters.  
21 Most of them are in horrible condition. Most of  
22 them are paying anywhere from \$400 to \$500 a  
23 night, on average, to house a homeless family --  
24 instead of turning around, taking that money and  
25 putting it towards increasing the voucher

1 allowance.

2           You know, the way we end the  
3 homeless problem is by keeping people in their  
4 homes, making sure they don't get evicted, making  
5 sure they have the rent to pay to live in their  
6 own homes, not in some seedy motel, not in some  
7 homeless shelter that's less than safe. So I  
8 think this program is going to go a long way  
9 towards really helping to alleviate our homeless  
10 problem.

11           We also advance legislation which  
12 I've carried for some time, again, making sure  
13 that anyone who is actually in a homeless shelter  
14 is safe and secure, making sure that dangerous  
15 sexual predators aren't living in family  
16 shelters. You know, every year we put out a list  
17 and every year that list keeps growing. We have  
18 dangerous sexual predators living in homeless  
19 shelters with families, exposed to their kids  
20 each and every day.

21           We all know that we're not doing the  
22 same thing when it comes to our schoolkids,  
23 because we have a 1,000-foot rule: No dangerous  
24 sexual predator can live within a thousand feet  
25 of a school. Well, why is that same individual

1 allowed to live in a homeless shelter?

2 I want to also commend Senator  
3 Flanagan and the Republican Conference because  
4 this is the first time that this house is saying  
5 yes, they will discuss moving forward voter  
6 reform, things like early voting, no-excuse  
7 absentee voting. It also includes language to  
8 start the discussion on criminal justice reform,  
9 such as bail reform, speedy trial requirements,  
10 and automatic discovery.

11 But again, with every document that  
12 has so many positives, there's also things that I  
13 believe are extremely important that we need to  
14 get done. You know, as was said earlier, it's  
15 supposed to be a budget document, but over the  
16 years this budget has become a policy document.  
17 It's okay with me, because I think we got a lot  
18 of great policies over the years like paid family  
19 leave, like a \$15 minimum wage, like marriage  
20 equality.

21 But at the same time, I think moving  
22 forward it becomes even more important this year  
23 that we take care of the 42,000 Dreamers, we make  
24 sure that every woman in the state has a right to  
25 choose what they want to do with their own

1 bodies. And at the same time I think, even  
2 though I think and I believe and I'm very proud  
3 of the fact that I was the sponsor of the SAFE  
4 Act in the State Senate, the toughest gun law in  
5 the nation, which bans assault weapons, bans  
6 high-capacity magazines, makes sure to get guns  
7 out of the hands of the mentally ill -- we still  
8 need to do I think a little more.

9                   And Senator Savino has a bill which  
10 almost is identical to what the Governor proposed  
11 in his budget, which would take weapons out of  
12 the hands of those convicted of domestic  
13 violence.

14                   So again, as I said, we're almost at  
15 the finish line, and I hope we get these other  
16 things done which are so important to all  
17 New Yorkers before we actually go over that  
18 finish line.

19                   Thank you, Mr. President.

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

22                   Senator Young.

23                   SENATOR YOUNG:   Thank you,  
24 Mr. President.

25                   I want to thank all of my

1 colleagues. This is a special day. As you know,  
2 we are passing the Senate's one-house budget  
3 resolution. And our one-house budget is a  
4 responsible spending plan that promotes  
5 affordability, opportunity and security.

6           Crafted with input from both  
7 Republicans and Democrats, it should serve as a  
8 blueprint for creation of a better budget and a  
9 stronger, safer and more prosperous New York  
10 State.

11           We have several categories that we  
12 have focused on, and the first has to do,  
13 Mr. President, with affordability. We reject  
14 every single one of the new taxes and fees  
15 proposed by the Governor, totaling \$1 billion,  
16 including a new tax on Internet purchases and new  
17 DMV fees.

18           New Yorkers already pay more than  
19 enough in taxes. They're in fact drowning in  
20 taxes, in many cases, and they need and deserve  
21 to have tax relief. This Senate budget plan does  
22 that.

23           We decouple the state and federal  
24 tax codes. This is important legislation that  
25 Senator Felder put forward previously that we



1 passed. But we decouple the state and federal  
2 tax codes to prevent New Yorkers from taking a  
3 \$1.5 billion state tax hit as a result of the  
4 recent federal tax changes.

5 We make the property tax cap  
6 permanent to provide certainty for homeowners and  
7 seniors, and also to build on the \$23 billion  
8 that taxpayers have already saved from this  
9 historic reform that was won by Senate  
10 Republicans.

11 Since property taxes are a top  
12 obstacle to affordability, we extend the property  
13 tax rebate check and reject the Governor's cap on  
14 STAR benefits, so that every taxpayer gets all of  
15 the relief that they deserve. And we begin the  
16 process of phasing out property taxes altogether  
17 for seniors, so that they can afford to live in  
18 New York and not have to leave New York.

19 Unlike some in Albany, we recognize  
20 you do not balance the budget by raising taxes,  
21 you do it by controlling spending. And so with  
22 this budget, for the eighth year in a row we  
23 adhere to the self-imposed spending cap to  
24 maintain fiscal discipline and to protect  
25 taxpayers. This has saved taxpayers billions of

1 dollars since 2011. We believe that it's time to  
2 write the spending cap into law so that the state  
3 always lives within its means and never again  
4 spends more than what the taxpayers can afford.

5 We cut taxes for small businesses so  
6 that they can use the savings to grow and create  
7 thousands of jobs for workers. And that's what  
8 every family needs, Mr. President. Every family  
9 needs to have good-paying jobs.

10 We advance a comprehensive  
11 regulatory reform package to cut red tape and  
12 eliminate regulations that are unnecessary and  
13 duplicative and prevent businesses from  
14 succeeding and growing. This package curtails  
15 the overuse of emergency regulations, makes  
16 improvements to job impact assessments of  
17 proposed regulations, establishes a small  
18 business liaison in each state agency, which is  
19 very important, and provides for review of  
20 unfunded mandates on local governments, among  
21 other reforms.

22 We actually end the START-UP NY  
23 program that was created by the Governor, because  
24 it has not worked. And we actually, under our  
25 plan, redirect \$44.5 million in advertising money

1 to initiatives that we know do work. We need a  
2 smarter, more comprehensive economic development  
3 strategy that focuses on lower taxes, lower  
4 energy costs, less regulation and creation of a  
5 more hospitable environment for businesses.

6 We provide record funding for local  
7 schools, an increase of \$1 billion over last  
8 year. And to ensure every child has access to a  
9 first-class education and the opportunity that  
10 comes with that education, we provide more  
11 funding for nonpublic and charter schools.

12 We provide \$35 million to reverse a  
13 proposed cut to Bundy Aid to colleges in the  
14 Executive Budget, so that students can gain  
15 access to financial aid, so that they can have  
16 the dream of being successful and going to  
17 college so that they can be successful in life.

18 We increase capital funding for SUNY  
19 by \$255 million and CUNY by \$55 million, and  
20 advance a five-year capital plan for both so that  
21 they can make new investments for the future.

22 We increase income thresholds to  
23 help more New Yorkers who are struggling with the  
24 high cost of higher education, and we protect  
25 taxpayer dollars from being used to give free

1 college tuition to people who are here illegally.

2 We restore more than \$10 million of  
3 the Governor's proposed agriculture cuts -- very  
4 important to our economy across the state -- and  
5 provide an additional \$5 million to support the  
6 state's number-one industry.

7 We also advance key elements of the  
8 conference's Growing Strong plan to boost  
9 agriculture, protect family farms, and create new  
10 jobs.

11 We also have a lot of measures under  
12 the category of security. For example, we make  
13 new investments to ensure that our schools are as  
14 safe as possible so teachers can teach and  
15 students can learn, starting with a provision to  
16 allow districts to put in place an armed resource  
17 officer, fully aidable, at their option.

18 We create a school services mental  
19 health coordinator program to identify, address  
20 and report issues of mental health before a  
21 situation escalates or a tragedy occurs. To  
22 increase readiness, we require schools to conduct  
23 at least two active shooter drills every year.

24 And we propose the largest-ever  
25 state commitment, \$265 million, to address the

1 heroin and opioid crisis and to get individuals  
2 the treatment that they need and deserve. Senate  
3 Republicans have led on this issue, first  
4 creating a joint Senate task force and then  
5 delivering record funding to support prevention,  
6 expand treatment, and encourage recovery.

7           The spike in the number of overdose  
8 deaths called by fentanyl and its analogs is of  
9 particular concern, and we are advancing a  
10 comprehensive package in the budget to address  
11 this problem and other related issues. As long  
12 as this need is great, our fight will continue.

13           We provide new funds to accelerate  
14 the cleanup and recovery for communities  
15 surrounding Lake Ontario. I know this is very  
16 important to our members, who have led on this  
17 issue. These communities were devastated by last  
18 year's flooding, and we take meaningful steps to  
19 ensure residents and businesses are better  
20 prepared next time. And unfortunately, my  
21 colleagues, I do believe there will be a next  
22 time.

23           The Senate provides \$1.2 million in  
24 additional resources, an increase of \$800,000  
25 over current funding levels, to support

1 initiatives and recommendations of the Senate  
2 Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease. We  
3 have Senator Serino, Senator Amedore, several of  
4 our colleagues who have also led on this very,  
5 very critical issue that has affected so many  
6 people's health across the state.

7           The Senate provides \$10 million in  
8 funding for 21st-century counterterrorism  
9 technology, to secure public areas and air space.  
10 And as part of the Senate budget resolution, we  
11 affirm our strong support for amendments to both  
12 the civil and criminal statutes of limitations to  
13 further protect children from dangerous sexual  
14 predators.

15           And finally, Mr. President, we  
16 include our sweeping sexual harassment  
17 legislation that we just passed this week that  
18 will protect every New Yorker.

19           When it all boils down, we will have  
20 spent a lot of time negotiating, debating,  
21 disagreeing, agreeing as we go through this  
22 process. And while we do that, we need to always  
23 keep at the forefront what this budget is really  
24 about. And this budget is about people. It's  
25 about the people in the state. It's about making

1 people's lives better.

2 And I look forward to working with  
3 all of our colleagues to come to a final budget,  
4 on time, that improves the lives of people and  
5 gives every New Yorker the opportunity to  
6 succeed.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
9 you, Senator Young.

10 Senator Krueger.

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

13 If the sponsor would please yield to  
14 some questions.

15 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
17 Young yields.

18 SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you.

19 In the sponsor's presentation she  
20 stated that the Republican one-house budget  
21 resolution before us reduces or rejects  
22 \$1 billion of the Governor's revenue proposals.  
23 But I'm looking at the financial plan, and it  
24 only shows a reduction of \$511 million. So I'm  
25 wondering where the other half a billion is.

1                   SENATOR YOUNG:   Through you,  
2   Mr. President, we do reject all -- every single  
3   tax and fee increase that was proposed by the  
4   Governor.  There are revenues from, for example,  
5   the conversion of Fidelis to Centene.  Those are  
6   included in there.  So we found other revenues or  
7   kept some of the revenues that were under the  
8   Governor's plan.

9                   SENATOR KRUEGER:   Through you,  
10  Mr. President, if the sponsor would continue to  
11  yield.

12                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
14  sponsor yields.

15                  SENATOR KRUEGER:   So I believe the  
16  Governor's budget projected a billion from the  
17  Fidelis-Centene plan.  How much does your  
18  proposal project?

19                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
20  Mr. President.  Actually, Senator Krueger, that  
21  figure is not correct.  The Governor's proposal  
22  actually had \$750 million included from the  
23  conversion.

24                  SENATOR KRUEGER:   Correct.  You're  
25  right.



1                   SENATOR YOUNG:   We reduced that by  
2     \$250 million. Right now I believe that there are  
3     discussions underway regarding that issue. They  
4     are not concluded yet. So we felt that it would  
5     be prudent to still keep the funding in there but  
6     reduce it by \$250 million.

7                   SENATOR KRUEGER:   Okay. So through  
8     you, Mr. President. You know, there are so many  
9     interesting things to discuss. I will just  
10    highlight, this package shows tax relief of tax  
11    increase rejections of \$511 million, not a  
12    billion. But it's not as interesting as many of  
13    the other issues.

14                  Through you, Mr. President, to  
15    continue. If the sponsor would yield.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
17    sponsor yields.

18                  SENATOR YOUNG:   Yes.

19                  SENATOR KRUEGER:   Thank you.

20                  So just to clarify, the Republicans  
21    have rejected the possible revenue from carried  
22    interest loophole. That's correct?

23                  SENATOR YOUNG:   Through you,  
24    Mr. President. Yes, as I said, we've rejected  
25    every tax and fee increase that was proposed by

1 the Governor.

2 And the reason that we did that is  
3 that we want to give taxpayers real relief. And  
4 we feel raising taxes in New York State will  
5 place a heavier burden on the people of this  
6 state, destroy jobs. We already have had too  
7 many people leave the state because of the heavy  
8 tax burden. We are looking to cut taxes, not  
9 increase taxes, because that's the positive thing  
10 to do.

11 SENATOR KRUEGER: Excuse me,  
12 Mr. President. I was just conferring.

13 You know, I want to thank the  
14 sponsor for her answers, but I would like to  
15 speak on the bill.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
17 Krueger on the bill -- on the resolution.

18 SENATOR KRUEGER: On the  
19 resolution, excuse me.

20 So yes, she made a full presentation  
21 or a presentation of what is in this resolution.  
22 I just want to highlight that from a revenue  
23 perspective, imposing Internet fairness is not a  
24 new tax. It actually is required already under  
25 law that when you buy something on the Internet

1 and you don't pay sales tax at the time of  
2 purchase, you're supposed to pay it when you file  
3 your state taxes. Unfortunately, that's not what  
4 happens. So we have unfairness where  
5 bricks-and-mortar stores have to make sure they  
6 collect and pay their sales tax, and Internet  
7 providers get an unfair advantage.

8               So it would generate revenue we're  
9 supposed to be entitled to in this state, and  
10 actually the federal data shows it could be  
11 billions of dollars, but we just simply don't  
12 collect it. That's not a new tax, it's a fair  
13 and equitable collection of taxes that we don't  
14 yet have.

15              We also -- they reject the changes  
16 to ESCOs, both collection of taxes and actually  
17 keeping the limitations on these energy service  
18 companies that are actually charging us, as  
19 consumers, far more than utilities. And so it's  
20 tragic, in my opinion, that this resolution  
21 rejects the positive changes that have been  
22 proposed to protect consumers from the ESCO  
23 companies around the state that are in fact  
24 draining our bank accounts without our realizing  
25 it when we sign up for them. Sometimes we don't

1 even know we signed up, we just see our energy  
2 bills going up.

3           There are so many things in this  
4 resolution that are bad for New Yorkers. And it  
5 is about the people. I completely agree with  
6 Senator Young when she talked about this budget,  
7 it's about the people.

8           So to highlight, one of the  
9 proposals that has been rejected from the  
10 Governor's budget is the requirement to license  
11 and regulate student loan servicers.

12           For people who don't know, New York  
13 State's student loan debt -- alone, just in  
14 New York -- has more than doubled during the last  
15 decade, growing to \$82 billion, \$82 billion in  
16 student loan debt in our state. And our student  
17 loan servicers, the primary links between lenders  
18 and borrowers, have the power to either help  
19 borrowers remain current on their account or  
20 allow them to default.

21           They also can direct what kind of  
22 loans you get directed to. And the research  
23 shows that they are directing them to the  
24 highest-cost loans instead of the lowest-cost  
25 loans. So they are helping to create an enormous

1 student debt crisis, and they don't have any  
2 obligation to help resolve it or prevent it from  
3 happening in the first place.

4 And finally, finally in the  
5 Governor's budget proposal he has some excellent  
6 language to license and regulate student loan  
7 servicers. We license and regulate mortgages  
8 after we had a mortgage crisis, and yet we don't  
9 recognize we have a student loan debt crisis.  
10 But we're choosing not, in this resolution, to  
11 offer the same protections to our students facing  
12 billions of dollars of debt.

13 We also, just to highlight -- and I  
14 know that some of my colleagues will be speaking  
15 in more depth, so I'll be just highlighting --  
16 that we fail to extend the sunset provision on  
17 the state's MWBE program for five years. So it's  
18 a fascinating question what happens if we do away  
19 with MWBE in the State of New York. And  
20 unfortunately, we make the decision in the  
21 Republican resolution to allow it to sunset.

22 The Republican resolution has also  
23 created new funding streams for charter schools,  
24 but it's not exactly clear what the money will go  
25 for. So there's a line discussing \$150 million

1 more for charter schools to be paid out in April,  
2 May, June of 2018, but there's no detail about  
3 who gets it or why, and what's the justification  
4 for the distribution, or how that decision has  
5 been made.

6           It is also eliminating the limit the  
7 state has had on the number of charter schools in  
8 the State of New York.

9           It also, in this resolution, goes  
10 into quite a bit of detail about trying to  
11 protect our schools from dangerous firearms, but  
12 it almost identically parallels the one-house  
13 bills we debated here the other day where, just  
14 to point out and refresh our memories, none of  
15 the proposal actually reduces the number of guns  
16 that are available to young people, and so it's  
17 seriously questionable how it's going to help us.

18           In energy, which is one of the  
19 crucial issues facing us in the state, both the  
20 cost of energy and the kind of energy and  
21 environmental conservation we have, it rejects  
22 NYSERDA being able to expand renewable energy  
23 options. It actually limits whether the state's  
24 Power Authority can create cleaner, more  
25 renewable sources of energy. And if they -- it's

1 a little confusing, because in one place it says  
2 they can't do it at all and in another place it  
3 says if they do it, they have to do it at a far  
4 lesser cost per kilowatt hour than existing  
5 energy that might be dirty energy.

6 That's not how we address the future  
7 of our energy needs or our environmental needs.  
8 So it actually pushes us backwards on climate  
9 change and our carbon footprint. And I just  
10 don't understand why anyone in the 21st century  
11 would be wanting to go backward on these critical  
12 issues.

13 It also accepts, which I do not  
14 support, the Governor's sweep of RGGI for  
15 \$23 million.

16 And while somebody may or may not  
17 discuss the changes in hunting law, which do seem  
18 a small item in a resolution this large, it  
19 allows you to shoot a bow or to hunt across a  
20 highway. Just think about it. I am hoping that  
21 the language includes you have to aim very high  
22 when shooting across a highway. Just a thought.

23 Good government and ethics. It's  
24 not here. They took it out. You might agree or  
25 disagree with any number of the Governor's

1 proposals -- I know that I have colleagues who  
2 are going to speak about that. But it just takes  
3 it away.

4           It also rejects the \$7 million in  
5 funding to assure that we could have early voting  
6 in this state. Seven million dollars. It  
7 doesn't seem like that much, but it's enough to  
8 ensure that our counties actually can implement  
9 early voting to increase the possibilities of  
10 people being able to vote while it's competing  
11 with their need to work and their childcare and,  
12 in some areas, having incredibly long lines when  
13 you try to vote all at once on one day.

14           In healthcare, it accepts the  
15 discontinuance of the cost-of-living adjustments  
16 for DOH providers. These are the front-line men  
17 and women who do the hardest work in our state,  
18 providing care and services for family planning,  
19 school-based health programs, chronic disease  
20 programs, WIC and maternal and child health  
21 programs. They didn't get COLAs when others did,  
22 we need to ensure that they do, and this would  
23 discontinue that opportunity.

24           It also rejects the extension of  
25 Medicaid prescription drug caps, which are



1     expiring in 2019, which can drive up the cost of  
2     prescriptions for our poorest residents in  
3     New York. That's not good for anyone. When  
4     people can't afford their drugs, they get sicker  
5     and they can be a public health risk to the rest  
6     of us. So I do not understand the decision to  
7     make that kind of rejection from the Governor's  
8     budget proposal.

9             As I believe was mentioned by my  
10    leader, there's a rejection of funding for the  
11    DREAM Act for our college students. It also  
12    rejects important opportunity program funds that  
13    help some of our lowest-income students be our  
14    most successful students in our public  
15    universities. I know I have a colleague who will  
16    be speaking about that.

17            There's a lot to be said about  
18    housing and NYCHA. Let me just say we all are  
19    concerned enormously. The Senate Democrats  
20    proposed a \$500 million infusion into NYCHA. The  
21    Senate Republicans have proposed zero infusion of  
22    money to help NYCHA and NYCHA tenants.

23            They again, as always, reject the  
24    funding for the Tenant Protection Unit. Thank  
25    goodness it continues anyway each year, even

1     though they always reject that.  Gee, it sounds  
2     horrible, "protect tenants."  I heard someone  
3     speak about the importance of ensuring we do  
4     something about preventing people from losing  
5     their homes and becoming homeless.  What a shame  
6     that we also fight against having the staff to do  
7     exactly that in the state's housing agency.

8                     In human services, they reject the  
9     Governor's proposal to provide fair treatment for  
10    rent supplements for people with HIV/AIDS outside  
11    of the City of New York.  We already do the right  
12    thing in the City of New York.  But why, if  
13    you're living with AIDS and are low-income,  
14    should you have to not be provided the same  
15    services and rental assistance outside of the  
16    City of New York?

17                    To continue, there are so many  
18    things that are missing or have been removed from  
19    this resolution that were in the Governor's  
20    budget proposal.

21                    I'm sorry, I'm just -- it rejects  
22    the Governor's proposal for civil asset  
23    forfeiture, which is a fundamental reform we need  
24    in our criminal justice system.

25                    It also rejects the Child Victims

1 Act. Yet again, another year we're not going to  
2 address the needs of victims of sexual and  
3 physical abuse by adults in positions of power.  
4 How many decades will New York State be out of  
5 the norm of protecting our young people from this  
6 kind of abuse? It's just breathtaking to me that  
7 we have again removed this proposal for  
8 consideration.

9 It also does not address -- in fact,  
10 entirely eliminates -- proposals for speedy trial  
11 reform, for bail reform, for discovery reform.  
12 We all like to talk about why we need to do  
13 criminal justice reforms. We all like to talk  
14 about wanting to close Rikers sooner than later.  
15 None of that happens unless you're doing the  
16 kinds of reforms that were cut out of this  
17 resolution.

18 We eliminate geriatric parole.  
19 Elderly people in our prisons who all the  
20 research shows are beyond the age where they will  
21 continue to commit crimes, costing the State of  
22 New York far, far more than the normal prison  
23 costs, but we won't consider geriatric parole.

24 All right, I talked about taxes.  
25 Transportation. Oh. So some of us live in the

1 12-county region that the MTA is responsible for  
2 mass transit in. And those of who live there  
3 have a litany of complaints and problems because  
4 of the inadequacy of the MTA. You would think  
5 there might be some new money or some new  
6 solutions for the MTA within the budget  
7 resolution. One might not like some of the  
8 Governor's proposals -- I don't actually like all  
9 the Governor's proposals -- but you'd think there  
10 would be alternative proposals. There are not.  
11 The Republican resolution simply basically  
12 ignores anything going on in the MTA 12-county  
13 region, which is more than a little disturbing  
14 for the half of the state's population that live  
15 in those counties and need a solution to our mass  
16 transit problems.

17           The Women's Agenda of the Governor.  
18 It's basically rejecting or ignoring any of the  
19 proposals in the Women's Agenda. In fact, it  
20 doesn't even include the sexual harassment  
21 language that was in Senator Young's bill the  
22 other day. And I stood on this floor and  
23 explained why that didn't go far enough, but we  
24 needed to move forward. But we seem to have  
25 dropped out any proposal or language or clarity

1 about what should be done about the very serious  
2 problems with sexual harassment.

3 We seem to have thrown out the  
4 language to expand and protect reproductive  
5 rights for the men and women of this state. I  
6 had a discussion with one of my colleagues  
7 yesterday who assured me, "We're all protecting  
8 women already. There are no problems." Yes, the  
9 problems remain. We're not protecting all women,  
10 thank you so much.

11 But the Governor's proposals that  
12 were rejected in this resolution take a step in  
13 the right direction, even if I would like it to  
14 go further. But apparently, if I were to vote  
15 for this resolution, I would be saying that I'm  
16 rejecting any changes for women in our state in  
17 policy, and that's completely unacceptable.

18 You know, I'm going to now give many  
19 of my colleagues an opportunity to highlight and  
20 reinforce issues that they are particularly  
21 concerned about. And then, with Mr. President's  
22 permission, if there is still time left at the  
23 end, I will continue.

24 Thank you, Mr. President.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank

1 you, Senator Krueger. And we will keep that in  
2 mind, based on the time allocations.

3 Senator Kaminsky.

4 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Thank you.

5 Will the resolution sponsor yield  
6 for some questions?

7 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
8 Young?

9 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
11 Young yields.

12 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Through you,  
13 Mr. President, can the Senator please tell us  
14 what ethics reforms, if any, are in the  
15 resolution?

16 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
17 Mr. President, I'd like to read the section that  
18 deals with good government and ethics reform.

19 Under the Article VII proposal, the  
20 Senate will consider modifications of the  
21 Executive Article VII entitled "Good Government  
22 and Ethics Reform." The Senate and the Assembly  
23 have already acted to amend the constitution to  
24 strip corrupt public officials convicted of  
25 felonies of their pensions. Voters approved this

1 measure in November, and the Legislature will  
2 have to act to pass a law to make this complete.

3 In addition, the Senate and the  
4 Assembly have already acted to require any member  
5 of the Legislature earning more than \$5,000 in  
6 income through outside employment to submit a  
7 written request for an advisory opinion to the  
8 Legislative Ethics Commission to ensure the  
9 employment is consistent with the Public Officers  
10 Law.

11 The Senate remains opposed to  
12 taxpayer-funded campaigns and does not believe  
13 that a full-time professional legislature best  
14 represents this state. Taxpayers in this state  
15 already are overburdened, and we know that  
16 taxpayers do not want to pay for politicians'  
17 campaigns. The Senate is open to discussing  
18 proposals that increase access to voting while  
19 ensuring proper compliance with the Election Law.

20 The Senate believes any voter reform  
21 proposal must include adequate funding for  
22 counties.

23 Further, the Senate denies the  
24 Executive proposal to subject the Legislature and  
25 the Legislative Ethics Commission to the same

1 Freedom of Information Law provisions to which  
2 the executive agencies are subject. The  
3 legislative process is inherently open to the  
4 public for input, scrutiny and review, and that's  
5 how it should be.

6 In contrast, the public is made  
7 aware of many executive agency activities only  
8 after they occur. As such, for purposes of the  
9 Freedom of Information Law, these branches are  
10 treated differently. This differentiation is one  
11 that is recognized at the federal level as well.

12 In addition, with respect to the  
13 Legislative Ethics Commission, confidentiality  
14 encourages individuals to proactively seek ethics  
15 guidance. Any ethics reform requires balanced  
16 and measured actions to ensure that New Yorkers  
17 are best served by their public officials.

18 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Will the sponsor  
19 continue to yield?

20 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
22 sponsor yields.

23 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Through you,  
24 Mr. President. Other than laws that have already  
25 been enacted, are there any measures in this



1 resolution that provide ethics reform and  
2 specific ethics strictures to members of the  
3 Legislature.

4 SENATOR YOUNG: As I just read to  
5 you, Senator, we do say that we will be  
6 discussing those for the final budget.

7 SENATOR KAMINSKY: And will the  
8 sponsor continue to yield?

9 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
11 sponsor yields.

12 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Is there any  
13 reason why they're not contained in this  
14 document?

15 SENATOR YOUNG: Because I think  
16 that there are various opinions between the two  
17 houses and the Governor, so we'll be discussing  
18 those as we go through the process.

19 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Will the sponsor  
20 continue to yield?

21 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
23 sponsor yields.

24 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Am I correct  
25 that the sponsor started serving in this body in

1 2005?

2 SENATOR YOUNG: That's correct.

3 Actually, on May 10, 2005, to be exact.

4 SENATOR KAMINSKY: And will the  
5 sponsor continue to yield?

6 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
8 sponsor yields.

9 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Is the sponsor  
10 aware that since that time, 13 Senate colleagues  
11 have been either convicted by a jury or pleaded  
12 guilty after being indicted?

13 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes, Mr. President,  
14 I am painfully aware of that. And that's why  
15 this body has taken very strong action. I  
16 believe that stripping corrupt politicians of  
17 their pensions will be a deterrent.

18 But we actually have several pages  
19 of reforms that we have made since 2005, Senator.  
20 And if you would like to see those later today, I  
21 would be actually very willing to discuss those  
22 with you.

23 But we have passed measure after  
24 measure after measure on ethics reform, and I  
25 believe that's why these corrupt politicians are

1 getting caught, because we have taken action in  
2 the Senate to address this issue, and we will  
3 continue to have discussions about what the best  
4 next steps are as far as addressing corruption.

5 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Will the sponsor  
6 continue to yield?

7 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
9 sponsor yields.

10 SENATOR KAMINSKY: It's the  
11 Senator's contention that Senate reforms are  
12 leading to increased convictions of elected  
13 officials? Am I understanding that correctly?

14 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes, I believe that  
15 we have made several reforms over the years to  
16 address this issue. And like I said, we are open  
17 to further reforms as we go along. And I look  
18 forward to actually passing the law to make sure  
19 that people are actually stripped of their  
20 pensions if they are convicted of corruption.

21 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Will the sponsor  
22 continue to yield?

23 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
25 sponsor yields.

1                   SENATOR KAMINSKY:    Is there  
2                   anything in the current resolution that would  
3                   require political advertisers on social media to  
4                   have to disclose who paid for such advertising?

5                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
6                   Mr. President, I believe that's one of the items  
7                   that is being discussed at the leaders' table.

8                   SENATOR KAMINSKY:   Will the sponsor  
9                   continue to yield?

10                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

11                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
12                  sponsor yields.

13                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:    Is there a  
14                  reason why the Senate one-house resolution is not  
15                  in favor of such a reform?

16                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Basically I read to  
17                  you what we cover, and we do say in our  
18                  resolution that there are several outstanding  
19                  items that will be discussed as we move toward a  
20                  final budget.

21                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:   Will the sponsor  
22                  continue to yield?

23                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
25                  sponsor yields.

1                   SENATOR KAMINSKY:    Can the sponsor  
2   tell us why there are pages and pages of  
3   specifics in the resolution about everything from  
4   specific items for OTB to specific health  
5   centers, but ethics reform or reform of social  
6   media is not specifically laid out in this  
7   document?

8                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
9   Mr. President.  Actually, you know, on our side  
10  of the aisle we believe that the budget should be  
11  focused on fiscal issues.  We need to have a  
12  budget that reflects all of the fiscal needs of  
13  New Yorkers.  A lot of the policy issues we think  
14  that the Governor included in his budget proposal  
15  can be addressed separately.

16                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:   Will the sponsor  
17  continue to yield?

18                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
20  sponsor yields.

21                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:   Does the Senator  
22  or the conference she represents understand  
23  the -- or believe in the benefit to having more  
24  transparency in political ads so that voters  
25  could know where the information comes from

1     that's being put into their Facebook feed?

2                   SENATOR YOUNG:     Through you,  
3     Mr. President.  As I said, these are outstanding  
4     issues.  They will be discussed as we move  
5     forward.  We do not feel, however, that those are  
6     budgetary issues.

7                   SENATOR KAMINSKY:   Will the sponsor  
8     continue to yield?

9                   SENATOR YOUNG:     Yes.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
11     sponsor yields.

12                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:   Can the sponsor  
13     please explain what the appropriation for a  
14     million dollars for the OTB broadcast system is  
15     for?

16                  SENATOR YOUNG:     Through you,  
17     Mr. President, I do have the answer for Senator  
18     Kaminsky.

19                  And basically, that allocation  
20     allows the OTBs to upgrade their equipment.  
21     Several of the OTBs do not have the proper  
22     equipment, especially in broadcasting, to be  
23     state-of-the-art.  And as you know, that's a  
24     revenue source for New York State in the budget  
25     process, and a lot of the gaming revenue actually

1 goes toward funding education. So that's what  
2 that allocation would be used for.

3 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Will the sponsor  
4 continue to yield?

5 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
7 Senator yields.

8 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Is the sponsor  
9 aware of any reforms to our electoral process,  
10 such as early voting, that might be contained in  
11 the resolution?

12 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
13 Mr. President, I already read you the section on  
14 that, that we are open to discussions on that  
15 particular issue.

16 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Will the sponsor  
17 continue to yield?

18 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
20 sponsor yields.

21 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Is the sponsor  
22 aware of the national change in tax policy that  
23 limits New Yorkers' ability to deduct state and  
24 local taxes?

25 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,

1 Mr. President. Yes, we are. And that's why we  
2 passed Senator Felder's critical bill earlier  
3 this year that decouples the federal from the  
4 state taxes. And that will save taxpayers in the  
5 state \$1.5 billion.

6 In addition, I believe that we will  
7 be discussing several other proposals as we move  
8 forward.

9 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Will the sponsor  
10 continue to yield?

11 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
13 sponsor yields.

14 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Is it the  
15 sponsor's understanding that despite decoupling,  
16 that the federal change to SALT will still raise  
17 millions of New Yorkers' taxes.

18 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
19 Mr. President. As I said, these are issues that  
20 are outstanding. They are going to be  
21 negotiated. And so I look forward to the  
22 discussion.

23 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Will the sponsor  
24 continue to yield?

25 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.



1                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
2   sponsor yields.

3                   SENATOR KAMINSKY:    Through you,  
4   Mr. President.  So the sponsor and I are in --  
5   can I say fairly the sponsor and I are in  
6   agreement that something else has to be done to  
7   ensure, beyond what's in this resolution, to  
8   ensure that New Yorkers' taxes aren't going up in  
9   light of the SALT change?

10                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
11   Mr. President, I don't think that's a question.

12                  And by the way, we are debating what  
13   actually is in the resolution.

14                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:    Will the sponsor  
15   continue to yield?

16                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
18   sponsor yields.

19                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:    Okay.  Is the  
20   sponsor aware of a provision in the resolution  
21   that lowers the age for crossbow hunting?

22                  SENATOR YOUNG:    I'm sorry, would  
23   you repeat that?  I didn't hear it.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Please  
25   repeat.

1                   SENATOR KAMINSKY:   Is the sponsor  
2 aware of a provision in the budget that lowers  
3 the age for crossbow hunting?

4                   SENATOR YOUNG:   Through you,  
5 Mr. President, yes.   Lowers the age.

6                   SENATOR KAMINSKY:   And would the  
7 sponsor agree with me that that is a policy  
8 provision that has no fiscal impact, such as a  
9 number of the ethics or electoral reforms I spoke  
10 about earlier?

11                  SENATOR YOUNG:   Through you,  
12 Mr. President.   Yes, there is a fiscal impact,  
13 because the state collects license fees.

14                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:   Will the sponsor  
15 continue to yield?

16                  SENATOR YOUNG:   Yes.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
18 sponsor yields.

19                  SENATOR KAMINSKY:   In the  
20 Governor's budget he allocated \$7 million for  
21 early voting, which would obviously deal with a  
22 lot of the impact on local boards of elections.  
23 Is there a reason why in this resolution that  
24 \$7 million was struck?

25                  SENATOR YOUNG:   Through you,

1 Mr. President --

2 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Stricken, I  
3 should say. Excuse me.

4 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
5 Mr. President, yes. A lot of our county Boards  
6 of Elections, county legislators across the  
7 state, especially in upstate New York, have deep  
8 concerns about another unfunded mandate. And  
9 there's concerns about whether that \$7 million,  
10 even if we decided to do early voting, would be  
11 enough money.

12 So this actually warrants further  
13 discussion. This state has put too many unfunded  
14 mandates on local governments. That's why people  
15 are drowning in property taxes. This conference  
16 and our side of the aisle has taken leadership  
17 actions to address the property tax situation.  
18 And so we have the property tax cap, we have the  
19 STAR program. We have been working to reduce  
20 costs on local government because those costs are  
21 passed along to taxpayers.

22 One of the number-one reasons people  
23 have left this state is because of the heavy  
24 property tax burden. My colleague brings up some  
25 of the federal tax actions and whether or not

1     that will affect taxpayers. We need to make sure  
2     that we are doing the right thing on behalf of  
3     property taxpayers and taxpayers across this  
4     state.

5                 SENATOR KAMINSKY:     On the bill,  
6     Mr. President. Excuse me, on the resolution.

7                 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:     Senator  
8     Kaminsky on the resolution.

9                 SENATOR KAMINSKY:     Thank you.

10                As I read through this document, I'm  
11     troubled by the games and obfuscations that it  
12     represents and the reform that the Long Islanders  
13     I represent are calling for.

14                You know, if you live down where I  
15     am in Long Island, you recently had your senate  
16     senator, your county executive, your speaker of  
17     the Assembly all indicted. And I can go on and  
18     on with a much larger list. And when you look at  
19     a recent Pew poll from May of 2017, 18 percent of  
20     Americans trust their government. And we in this  
21     body are doing nothing to address that.

22                We talk about what we did last year  
23     and what we did the years before that, but we've  
24     got a lot to do. There aren't even any ideas  
25     proposed in this.

1                   And we also know that our electoral  
2 process has far too little participation. But we  
3 have to call it what it is. Some people benefit  
4 from that, and some don't. And so this document  
5 says nothing about that except for cutting early  
6 voting. And the argument made for cutting it is  
7 that it doesn't have enough money. So instead of  
8 adding to it, like is done with so many other  
9 provisions, it's cut. Which doesn't make a lot  
10 of sense.

11                   We have to do more along these  
12 measures. People want to know that when they're  
13 on their Facebook feed and someone sends an ad  
14 there, they want to know who paid for it so they  
15 can evaluate it. There's no reason not to  
16 support that.

17                   And importantly, when we move on to  
18 the tax question, it's essential that we get it  
19 right in this budget. The Long Islanders I  
20 represent are at their breaking point. They're  
21 paying up to \$300-plus to take a railroad that  
22 hasn't been working, their property taxes are  
23 sky-high, people want to move out of the state,  
24 and the federal government's response to New York  
25 is drop {clapping hands} dead.

1                   And it's up to us in this body to  
2                   push back on that as hard as we can. And the  
3                   answer we get in this budget is it's up for  
4                   discussion. We have to do better than that.

5                   And in the next few weeks, I hope we  
6                   come back with a better answer. I want to  
7                   support that. I want to be able to say to the  
8                   Long Islanders I represent that our Senate stood  
9                   up for them and was able to make it more  
10                  affordable to live on Long Island and throughout  
11                  the state than put forth any political document.

12                  We've got a lot to do. But the Long  
13                  Islanders I represent, when they have been voting  
14                  of late, talk about affordability and they talk  
15                  about corruption. And unfortunately, on this  
16                  resolution I feel it falls short in both.

17                  I look forward to working on both  
18                  sides of the aisle with everyone in the next few  
19                  weeks to try to make it better.

20                  Thank you, Mr. President.

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:     Senator  
22                  Bailey.

23                  SENATOR BAILEY:     Thank you,  
24                  Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield for a  
25                  couple of questions?

1                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes, Mr. President.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
3 sponsor yields.

4                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Before I begin,  
5 though, I just want to clarify something that was  
6 just said by my colleague Senator Kaminsky.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Without  
8 objection.

9                   Senator Young.

10                  SENATOR YOUNG:    We are focused --  
11 we are focused on tax relief in our proposal, as  
12 you know. As far as the changes to the federal  
13 program and the impact, we passed Senator  
14 Felder's bill. We don't know right now whether  
15 the federal government would accept some of the  
16 Governor's proposals. And I think the worst  
17 thing that could happen would be that we pass  
18 something and then the federal government --  
19 people take advantage of it, and then the federal  
20 government pulls the rug on it.

21                  So we need to be very deliberative  
22 and careful about what we are doing, because we  
23 don't want, at the end of the day, to have people  
24 impacted in a negative way by this.

25                  So thank you.

1 Senator Bailey.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
3 Bailey.

4 SENATOR BAILEY: Through you,  
5 Mr. President, is the sponsor aware of the My  
6 Brother's Keeper initiative in the State of  
7 New York?

8 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
9 Mr. President, yes, I am aware of it.

10 SENATOR BAILEY: Will the sponsor  
11 continue to yield?

12 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
13 sponsor yields.

14 SENATOR BAILEY: Through you,  
15 Mr. President. Can the sponsor explain why  
16 \$18 million, the entire appropriation, was cut  
17 from My Brother's Keeper in the Senate one-house  
18 resolution?

19 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
20 Mr. President, we actually increase Foundation  
21 Aid. So those costs could be covered through  
22 Foundation Aid.

23 SENATOR BAILEY: Will the sponsor  
24 continue to yield?

25 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.



1           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
2   sponsor yields.

3           SENATOR BAILEY:    Is the sponsor  
4   aware of lagging graduation rates in black and  
5   Latino communities which the My Brother's Keeper  
6   initiative is designed to influence?

7           SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
8   Mr. President.  Basically, through Foundation  
9   Aid -- that aid is very flexible.  And we want to  
10   invest in education.  That's the why we increased  
11   the Governor's numbers by a billion dollars.  And  
12   so that funding would be able to be used for such  
13   a program, such an endeavor.

14          SENATOR BAILEY:    Will the sponsor  
15   continue to yield?

16          SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

17          ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
18   sponsor yields.

19          SENATOR BAILEY:    Would it be  
20   accurate to say that the -- in this resolution  
21   that initiatives for housing and tenants are  
22   included?

23          SENATOR YOUNG:    I'm sorry?

24          SENATOR BAILEY:    Would it be  
25   accurate to state that in this resolution that

1     there are initiatives that include housing  
2     initiatives for tenants?

3                 SENATOR YOUNG:     So there are  
4     initiatives for tenants.   So for example, there's  
5     the TRIE program, the Tenant Rent Increase  
6     Exemption, based on the very popular SCRIE  
7     program for senior citizens, and also the DRIE  
8     for disabled citizens.

9                 And basically what it does, it  
10    provides relief to people who earn \$50,000 a year  
11    or less who are paying a very large share of  
12    their income toward rent.   And we believe that  
13    that's the way we should go.   We should truly  
14    help people who are struggling who don't have the  
15    financial resources to pay their rent.   That's  
16    why we felt very strongly we would put the TRIE  
17    program in this bill to help tenants.

18                SENATOR BAILEY:   Will the sponsor  
19    continue to yield?

20                SENATOR YOUNG:     Yes.

21                ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
22    sponsor yields.

23                SENATOR BAILEY:   Through you,  
24    Mr. President.   So if we are looking to ensure  
25    that tenants are a focus, why are we cutting the

1 for the Tenant Protection Unit?

2 SENATOR YOUNG: So through you,  
3 Mr. President, actually one of the issues that  
4 I'm concerned about has to do with the Office of  
5 Rent Administration. And right now there are a  
6 lot of tenant-driven complaints that have gone to  
7 the Office of Rent Administration. And those are  
8 actual problems, those are problems that exist  
9 now. Tenants have raised a red flag about  
10 certain conditions in their dwellings.

11 And as a result, the Office of Rent  
12 Administration is backlogged. It is backlogged  
13 on addressing those concerns. I feel that they  
14 should focus on addressing actual concerns first.

15 SENATOR BAILEY: Will the sponsor  
16 continue to yield, Mr. President?

17 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
19 sponsor yields.

20 SENATOR BAILEY: Through you,  
21 Mr. President. It was mentioned in the text of  
22 the resolution that the Majority Conference is  
23 willing to negotiate around speedy trial, bail  
24 reform, and discovery. Can the sponsor explain  
25 why a counterproposal was not introduced if you

1 are willing to negotiate?

2 SENATOR YOUNG: Well, through you,  
3 Mr. President, we want to look at all options  
4 that are on the table.

5 I think it's a lot like the Raise  
6 the Age issue, where we negotiated it last year  
7 and I believe that we came up with a good  
8 product. But there's some questions, open  
9 questions. We have been actually approached by  
10 district attorneys from across the state who have  
11 issues. So we want to work together and actually  
12 hear the voices of everybody who is impacted and  
13 come up with a final result.

14 SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you.

15 On the resolution, Mr. President.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
17 Bailey on the resolution.

18 SENATOR BAILEY: I thank the  
19 sponsor for yielding to these questions. And as  
20 was mentioned previously by many of our  
21 colleagues, we will have a long and protracted --  
22 hopefully not too protracted -- two weeks here in  
23 Albany while we hash out the budgets and do the  
24 work for the people we represent on both sides of  
25 the aisle.

1                   As you know, Mr. President, I'm a  
2                   huge proponent of music, and this reminds me of a  
3                   1993 song by Tupac Shakur, "Keep Ya Head Up,"  
4                   where he said "We got money for war, but can't  
5                   feed the poor." And quite literally, if you look  
6                   in this resolution, you have \$200 million for  
7                   expenses that can be used in case of a war, but  
8                   we cut Breakfast After the Bell, Mr. President.

9                   My Brother's Keeper initiatives, we  
10                  were the first state in the entire nation to take  
11                  President Obama's challenge on for My Brother's  
12                  Keeper. And while I understand the sponsor's  
13                  information about the Foundation Aid, My  
14                  Brother's Keeper is essential to ensuring that  
15                  black and brown children have just as large a  
16                  chance of success.

17                 The Tenant Protection Unit is vital  
18                 in the City of New York. It is vital. It keeps  
19                 people in their homes, and it penalizes bad  
20                 landlords. This is something that we need to  
21                 fund.

22                 Many of my colleagues are going to  
23                 speak about NYCHA, so I will speak briefly on it.  
24                 I understand that public housing is intended to  
25                 protect those of us who have the least. And if

1     basic shelter is something that we need and that  
2     we require, we have to actually put the money  
3     into the budget, as opposed to simply just saying  
4     that we're going to do something about it. It's  
5     a step, but it's not all the way where we need to  
6     be.

7                     And concerning criminal justice  
8     reform, it's about fairness, Mr. President. We  
9     are not looking to have defense-bar-laden work  
10    product, nor do we want a prosecutorial-heavy  
11    work product. We want criminal justice to be  
12    fair in the State of New York. And speedy trial,  
13    bail and discovery have to be in this budget.

14                    You know, Mr. President, I -- this  
15    is my second budget in my first term, and I look  
16    at it as a work in progress. And I'm confident  
17    that we will continue to work together. But as  
18    currently constructed, this is insufficient. And  
19    to go back to what Tupac would say, he said that  
20    "there ain't no hope for the future." But I  
21    believe there is hope. And I hope that we can  
22    work across the aisle on this one.

23                    Thank you, Mr. President.

24                    ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:     Senator  
25    Kavanaugh.

1                   SENATOR KAVANAGH:    Thank you,  
2   Mr. President.   Would the sponsor yield for a  
3   question?

4                   SENATOR YOUNG:     Sure.   And --

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
6   sponsor yields.

7                   SENATOR YOUNG:     Mr. President,  
8   before we begin, I just want to address something  
9   that my colleague Senator Bailey said.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Without  
11   objection.

12                  Senator Young.

13                  SENATOR YOUNG:     He's somebody who I  
14   respect very much.   But I just want to let you  
15   know that with the Governor's proposal on the  
16   criminal justice pieces, there's a lot of  
17   divergent opinion out there.   And even advocates  
18   who want to have bail reform, speedy trial,  
19   discovery, came in today to express their  
20   concerns over the Governor's proposal.

21                  So I just want to let you know that.  
22   I think there has to be more discussion to come  
23   up with a final product.

24                  Yes, Senator Kavanagh.

25                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Senator

1 Kavanagh.

2 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Through you,  
3 Mr. President. Am I correct that this resolution  
4 includes many provisions that are intended to  
5 address gun violence in our state?

6 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
7 Mr. President. We actually are very willing to  
8 discuss gun violence. We do have a lot of school  
9 safety issues, and -- but that topic is one of  
10 those topics that I think as we go along through  
11 the process, the leaders will be talking about it  
12 at the table, and so we'll have more to come.

13 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Will the sponsor  
14 yield for another question, Mr. President?

15 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
17 Senator yields.

18 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Through you,  
19 Mr. President, am I mistaken that the package of  
20 bills that were presented in this chamber by the  
21 majority very recently as a package of bills to  
22 address gun violence are largely incorporated  
23 into the documents we're reviewing today?

24 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
25 Mr. President, I'd like to clarify something.



1 We're focused on school safety. And I think  
2 that's very important. We have seen failures  
3 that occurred in Florida. We have several  
4 measures that I think are common-sense, good  
5 measures to address safety.

6 And I want to tell you, we have been  
7 talking to our school districts, our  
8 superintendents, our school boards, our teachers  
9 from across the state. They also are very  
10 concerned about school safety. And we have  
11 resoundingly heard from our own districts, people  
12 in our own districts, that they strongly support  
13 the school safety measures that we have passed  
14 and that we are advocating for in the budget.

15 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President,  
16 I'm new in this chamber, but if the sponsor would  
17 yield for additional questions.

18 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
20 sponsor yields.

21 SENATOR KAVANAGH: I forgot to ask  
22 that --

23 SENATOR YOUNG: I won't hold it  
24 against you that you're new.

25 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President, I

1 would just note I'm new to this chamber, and this  
2 chamber has a lot more restrictions on the amount  
3 of time one may spend asking questions than  
4 another chamber I've served in. If I would -- I  
5 would just appreciate it if I could sort of get  
6 direct answers to the questions.

7                   Is the -- is there a bill in this  
8 package that was part of the majority package  
9 that purports to be a school safety and gun  
10 violence prevention that includes addressing  
11 situations in which people fire a gun, not just  
12 in a school but in a business or near a church or  
13 near a gathering of 25 or more people?

14                   SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
15 Mr. President, yes. And that actually is a very  
16 good bill that I sponsor, Senator Murphy  
17 sponsors.

18                   And basically what it would do is  
19 classify mass shootings as domestic terrorism.  
20 And there actually exists a federally authorized  
21 agency set up that was set up after 9/11 that  
22 deals with terrorism, foreign terrorism  
23 especially, in general. It actually requires  
24 coordination by federal law enforcement  
25 officials, the FBI, the CIA, state troopers,

1 state law enforcement, and also local law  
2 enforcement.

3 One of the big failures that we have  
4 seen in other instances is the fact that law  
5 enforcement was not communicating about a threat.  
6 And we feel very strongly that a lot of these  
7 issues could be resolved if law enforcement  
8 worked together.

9 What happened in Florida was that  
10 that perpetrator had been reported to the FBI, to  
11 the local officials, to social services. The  
12 school district banned him from coming in the  
13 school. And yet nobody did anything to avoid the  
14 situation.

15 And I do want to tell you too that  
16 we fund several mental health programs through  
17 this initiative. And I think that mental health  
18 is one of those big issues in this state. And I  
19 have said this over and over again, we need to do  
20 more for mental health. I brought it up in the  
21 hearing when the commissioner came in. We need  
22 to do more for mental health services because  
23 that is truly an underaddressed need in this  
24 state.

25 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President,

1 if I could just comment momentarily on the bill.  
2 We debated the particular provision that the  
3 sponsor is speaking of last week. And I would  
4 just note that the bill does not characterize  
5 mass shooting as terrorism, it characterizes any  
6 unlawful discharge of a firearm even if there's  
7 no intent to harm any person as an act of  
8 terrorism.

9 The reason I raise this --

10 SENATOR YOUNG: Because I would  
11 think --

12 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
13 Young --

14 SENATOR YOUNG: -- I would think  
15 any kind of incident --

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
17 Young --

18 SENATOR YOUNG: -- would have to be  
19 investigated. I can't believe that my colleague  
20 doesn't want it investigated.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
22 Kavanagh on the resolution?

23 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Again, on the  
24 bill.

25 The reason I raised this is that it

1 is clear that the majority, in crafting this  
2 resolution today, believes that it is appropriate  
3 subject of discussion to address the scourge of  
4 gun violence we've seen around the country, and  
5 they have many proposals that they've put into  
6 this bill, some of which are worthy of  
7 consideration and many of which colleagues on my  
8 side of the aisle voted for just a week ago.

9 My question is -- and if the sponsor  
10 would yield for a question.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Does the  
12 sponsor yield?

13 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
15 Young yields.

16 SENATOR KAVANAGH: My question is,  
17 is the sponsor aware that the Governor put a  
18 proposal in the Executive Budget specifically to  
19 remove firearms from people who have been  
20 convicted of domestic violence?

21 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
22 Mr. President, that is one of the very important  
23 issues that we plan on negotiating and discussing  
24 at the leaders' table.

25 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President,

1 can I -- if the sponsor would yield for another  
2 question.

3 SENATOR YOUNG: Sure.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
5 sponsor yields.

6 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President,  
7 we have been -- to the sponsor, we've been  
8 speaking about these issues for many years, we  
9 have many proposals. There are laws that have  
10 been on the books for many years that are  
11 intended explicitly to prevent people from having  
12 guns who are likely to harm themselves or others.

13 If the majority believes that the  
14 budget is an appropriate document in which to  
15 address gun violence, why are there no provisions  
16 in the majority's proposal that are intended to  
17 remove guns from the hands of people likely to  
18 harm themselves or others?

19 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
20 Mr. President, I would love to address that  
21 particular issue that you're raising. Because  
22 Kendra's Law is a very strong law that we  
23 actually passed in 1999 to get mental health  
24 treatment to people who are a danger to  
25 themselves or others.

1                   And we have worked on this side of  
2     the aisle to make Kendra's Law permanent, to  
3     actually improve it, and unfortunately there are  
4     members on your side of the aisle who vote  
5     against it and the Assembly, which you previously  
6     served in, actually has blocked many of the  
7     reforms and enhancements to Kendra's Law.

8                   Currently right now under state law,  
9     if somebody was receiving mental health  
10    treatment, mental health professionals can make a  
11    judgment recommendation about a person's  
12    firearms. So that already exists in New York  
13    State law.

14                  SENATOR KAVANAGH:    Mr. President,  
15    would the sponsor yield for another question?

16                  SENATOR YOUNG:     Yes.

17                  SENATOR KAVANAGH:    Is the sponsor's  
18    intent by reviewing current law to assert that  
19    there are no additional laws necessary to remove  
20    guns from the hands of people who might cause  
21    harm to themselves or others?

22                  SENATOR YOUNG:     Through you,  
23    Mr. President. Yes, I believe that through  
24    Kendra's Law there are many measures that we  
25    could pass to address the issue.

1                   And on top of it, as I previously  
2                   stated, we will be discussing these issues at the  
3                   leaders' table.

4                   SENATOR KAVANAGH:   Mr. President,  
5                   if the sponsor would yield for another question.

6                   SENATOR KLEIN:     Sure.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
8                   sponsor yields.

9                   SENATOR KAVANAGH:   Through you,  
10                  Mr. President, is there anything in Kendra's Law  
11                  that causes someone to surrender firearms?

12                  SENATOR YOUNG:     Through you,  
13                  Mr. President, Kendra's Law actually requires  
14                  someone -- you can go through a court process,  
15                  which due process is always a very important  
16                  component under our justice system and our  
17                  freedom in America. But there's a due process  
18                  proceeding that occurs under Kendra's Law to  
19                  determine whether someone is a danger to  
20                  themselves or others.

21                  And if it is determined that they  
22                  are a danger, they can get assisted outpatient  
23                  treatment. If they do not comply, then they can  
24                  be involuntarily committed after 72 hours. So  
25                  there are provisions in Kendra's Law that would



1 address this.

2                   And as I said, we need to do more  
3 for mental health. And I would love to have a  
4 discussion with you about making improvements to  
5 Kendra's Law, because they are there. I spoke  
6 with one of the main advocates, D.J. Jaffe, who  
7 is an expert in these issues, and he is saying to  
8 me the legislation that I sponsored in Kendra's  
9 Law is very important, because he sees this every  
10 single day and he believes that we should make  
11 positive changes to make that law even stronger.

12                   SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President,  
13 on the bill. Again --

14                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
15 Kavanagh on the resolution.

16                   SENATOR KAVANAGH: There are  
17 basically no laws in place that would address  
18 situations like we saw in Florida if they were to  
19 occur in New York.

20                   And again, we have proposals that  
21 are supported by members on both sides of the  
22 aisle. And I hope that if the sponsor and others  
23 on the other side of the aisle are willing to --  
24 if this is one of the topics they're willing to  
25 have continued discussion on, I would hope that

1 those discussions can include bills that are  
2 intended to ensure that people who commit  
3 domestic violence, people who can be adjudicated  
4 to be a danger to themselves or others, cannot be  
5 armed.

6 Because all the school safety in the  
7 world is not going to meaningfully reduce the  
8 rates of gun deaths in this state without laws  
9 that will permit families and law enforcement and  
10 others from disarming people who are genuinely  
11 dangerous.

12 Would the sponsor yield for a few  
13 other questions on other topics?

14 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes, Mr. President.  
15 And also, through you, I do want to clarify  
16 something my colleague just said.

17 He said there's nothing in here that  
18 would address what happened in Florida. I  
19 strongly disagree. This proposal has 18 parts  
20 that deal specifically with those tragic events  
21 that occurred in Florida, so that we can avoid  
22 the same thing happening in New York State. So  
23 what you said, Senator, with all due respect, was  
24 not correct.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator

1 Kavanagh.

2 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President, I  
3 guess just to respond, there will be a transcript  
4 of this conversation, and the sponsor  
5 mischaracterized what I said.

6 I said that there was nothing in  
7 this budget that would allow someone like the  
8 person who perpetrated the violence in Parkland,  
9 Florida, to have their guns removed. And  
10 although there are several provisions, some of  
11 which are worthy to address school security, we  
12 will not tackle the unique problem of gun  
13 violence, which is unique to America, unless we  
14 get serious about ensuring that very dangerous  
15 people who can be adjudicated to be dangerous or  
16 have convictions of crimes that prove them to be  
17 dangerous, are not able to arm themselves with  
18 guns like the weapon that the shooter in  
19 Parkland, Florida, had or the many other weapons  
20 that are available in our state and many other  
21 states.

22 If I may, the sponsor had previously  
23 yielded to question. If I may ask the question  
24 now.

25 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator  
2   Young yields.

3                   SENATOR KAVANAGH:    Thank you,  
4   Senator Young.

5                   I just want to go back briefly to  
6   something that Senator Kaminsky touched on.  
7   We've been discussing for many years in this  
8   state early voting. There are bills on both  
9   sides of the aisle. There's a proposal by the  
10   Governor on that. There's a proposal by a member  
11   of the majority to implement early voting around  
12   the state.

13                  Why is it in this budget, if we all  
14   recognize that early voting costs money, and if  
15   the Assembly is willing to put up some money for  
16   that, why is that not something that the majority  
17   in this resolution has a proposal on?

18                  SENATOR YOUNG:    So through you,  
19   Mr. President, if the Senator actually looked  
20   into the Governor's proposal, what it does is it  
21   raids Aid to Localities from local governments.  
22   So it takes that money away from them to fund  
23   this. And I don't think that's the right  
24   direction to take.

25                  SENATOR KAVANAGH:    Mr. President, a

1 question on another subject.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
3 sponsor yields.

4 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Thank you.

5 Does the resolution include language  
6 authorizing the City of New York to utilize  
7 design-build for the reconstruction of the  
8 Brooklyn-Queens Expressway?

9 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes. Through you,  
10 Mr. President, the answer is yes.

11 SENATOR KAVANAGH: If the sponsor  
12 would yield for an additional question.

13 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
15 sponsor will yield.

16 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Is the sponsor  
17 aware that that provision, which would have no  
18 cost to the state, would save the taxpayers at  
19 least \$100 million and speed up a critical  
20 transportation project that will affect the  
21 entire metropolitan region of New York by two  
22 full years?

23 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
24 Mr. President, yes. The city expects that that  
25 measure that we include in our proposal would

1 save about \$100 million.

2 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President,  
3 another question, if the sponsor would yield.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
5 sponsor yields.

6 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

7 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Can the sponsor  
8 explain why the majority's language for that very  
9 sensible cost-free proposal that will prevent  
10 traffic from being snarled in the New York City  
11 area and save \$100 million with no cost to the  
12 state, why approval of that in the Senate  
13 resolution is conditioned on approving a separate  
14 proposal that may be worthy about ensuring that  
15 cops -- that is, a police officer in every single  
16 school in New York City?

17 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
18 Mr. President, we believe that both proposals are  
19 very important, so we will be negotiating those  
20 as we move forward.

21 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Mr. President,  
22 if the sponsor would yield for another question.

23 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
25 sponsor yields.

1                   SENATOR KAVANAGH:   Is it the intent  
2 of the majority to reject BQE design-build? The  
3 language seems to be written in such a way that  
4 you can't accept one without the other, it's  
5 conditioned on a deal to put a police officer in  
6 every single school.

7                   Is this an example of the majority,  
8 if they don't get their way on a certain policy  
9 issue, however legitimate, suggesting that  
10 perhaps it's time for traffic problems in  
11 Brooklyn, to borrow a phrase from New Jersey?

12                  SENATOR YOUNG:   Through you,  
13 Mr. President. No.

14                  SENATOR KAVANAGH:   So,  
15 Mr. President, I have just one more question on  
16 this topic.

17                  SENATOR YOUNG:   Yes.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
19 sponsor will yield.

20                  SENATOR KAVANAGH:   Is it the  
21 sponsor's assertion that it is not the intent of  
22 the majority to condition design-build for the  
23 BQE on an unrelated proposal related to police  
24 officers in schools?

25                  SENATOR YOUNG:   Through you,

1 Mr. President. They are both, as I previously  
2 stated, they're both very important issues and we  
3 will be discussing them as we move forward.

4 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Again,  
5 Mr. President, just once more, if I can get an  
6 answer to this question. Is it the intent -- if  
7 the sponsor would yield.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
9 sponsor yields.

10 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

11 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Is it the intent  
12 of the majority to condition the BQE design-build  
13 proposal on a separate, unrelated, perhaps worthy  
14 proposal that we have additional police officers  
15 in schools, or is it the intent of the majority  
16 to support BQE design-build on its own merits?

17 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
18 Mr. President, I have answered that question  
19 several times, and so I stand by my previous  
20 answers.

21 SENATOR KAVANAGH: Okay. Thank  
22 you, Mr. President. Thank you to the sponsor.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
24 Hoylman.

25 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Thank you,



1 Mr. President. Would the sponsor yield for some  
2 questions?

3 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

4 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Thank you.

5 Through you, Mr. President, what is  
6 the cost of the resolution to the taxpayers of  
7 New York?

8 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
9 Mr. President, I have those figures right here.  
10 Let me find them. Excuse me, Senator, I found  
11 it.

12 So our budget is a fiscally  
13 responsible one that actually -- state operations  
14 fund spending, which excludes capital increases,  
15 by 1.8 percent, from \$98.1 billion to  
16 \$99.9 billion, an increase of \$1.8 billion from  
17 the fiscal year 2018. Which is approximately  
18 \$51 million less than the spending increase of  
19 \$1.85 billion, or 1.9 percent, that was proposed  
20 by the Executive.

21 So All Funds spending increases from  
22 \$164.4 billion to \$168.5 billion, an increase of  
23 \$4 billion over 2018.

24 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Would the sponsor  
25 continue to yield?

1                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

2                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:   And how much  
3 revenue are you raising to pay for your budget?  
4 Through you, Mr. President.

5                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
6 Mr. President. We had a good discussion on this  
7 earlier, but we are not including any tax  
8 increases in our plan.

9                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:   Would the sponsor  
10 continue to yield?

11                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

12                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
13 sponsor yields.

14                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:   Through you,  
15 Mr. President. Could the sponsor describe to me  
16 the majority's proposal on addressing the issue  
17 of child sexual abuse in Part P of the  
18 resolution? The public protection portion.

19                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
20 Mr. President. That again is going to be  
21 discussed at the leaders' table. We are open to  
22 discussions about that particular issue. So we  
23 look forward to continuing to work on that.

24                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:   Will the sponsor  
25 continue to yield?

1                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
3 sponsor yields.

4                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:    Is the sponsor  
5 aware that there has been proposals for the  
6 better part of a decade on reforming New York's  
7 outdated laws on child sexual abuse, which rank  
8 New York among the worst states, the most  
9 punitive states, in terms of allowing the  
10 survivors of child school abuse to file claims  
11 either in civil or criminal court?

12                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

13                  SENATOR HOYLMAN:    Would the sponsor  
14 continue to yield?

15                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
17 sponsor yields.

18                  SENATOR HOYLMAN:    Is the sponsor  
19 aware that approximately 40,000 young people  
20 under the age of 18 are sexually abused in the  
21 State of New York annually?

22                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
23 Mr. President, what we should stick to are what  
24 actually is before us in this resolution.  So if  
25 you could ask questions about that, that would be

1 appreciated.

2 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Will the sponsor  
3 continue to yield?

4 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
6 sponsor yields.

7 SENATOR HOYLMAN: In the resolution  
8 preceding this document, you state that "The  
9 Senate will consider modifications to the Child  
10 Victims Act. The Senate believes that  
11 prospective reforms to the criminal and civil  
12 statute of limitations would help prevent child  
13 sexual abuse in the future."

14 Am I correct to understand that the  
15 majority resolution is opposed to a lookback  
16 window to allow current survivors to  
17 retroactively file claims in civil court?

18 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
19 Mr. President, it is mentioned in our proposal  
20 because there will be discussions at the leaders'  
21 table about that issue.

22 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Will the sponsor  
23 continue to yield?

24 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The

1 sponsor yields.

2 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Does the sponsor  
3 understand -- does the sponsor fully realize the  
4 cost to the State of New York for crimes of child  
5 sexual abuse, as much as \$250 million to the  
6 Medicaid budget?

7 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
8 Mr. President. We all agree that child  
9 victimization is a very serious and important  
10 issue, and we look forward to the discussions at  
11 the leaders' table.

12 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Would the sponsor  
13 continue to yield?

14 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
16 Hoylman, are you asking questions or -- you were  
17 seeming to comment on the resolution.

18 SENATOR HOYLMAN: I'm asking  
19 questions.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: So could  
21 you pose a question.

22 SENATOR YOUNG: Great to have him  
23 pose, Mr. President, as a question.

24 SENATOR HOYLMAN: I guess my very  
25 blunt question is, Why don't we have a proposal

1 before us today on the serious issue of child  
2 sexual abuse, which the sponsor has acknowledged  
3 to be one in which we have had not just months of  
4 discussions, but years?

5 SENATOR YOUNG: Again through you,  
6 Mr. President, that seems more like a statement  
7 than a question.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
9 Hoylman.

10 SENATOR YOUNG: As I said, this  
11 issue will be discussed at the leaders' table,  
12 and we look forward to those discussions.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
14 Hoylman.

15 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Will the sponsor  
16 continue to yield?

17 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
19 sponsor yields.

20 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Through you,  
21 Mr. President, could the sponsor explain to me  
22 why the Executive proposal to remove a reform of  
23 our law that would close a loophole that allows  
24 individuals to use the so-called gay and trans  
25 panic defense isn't in the resolution?

1                   SENATOR YOUNG:    So through you,  
2   Mr. President, that actually was included in the  
3   Governor's 30-day amendments. And all of those  
4   issues will be brought forward during the  
5   leaders' discussions.

6                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:    Would the sponsor  
7   continue to yield?

8                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
10   sponsor yields.

11                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:    Does the sponsor  
12   know that this defense is used by individuals who  
13   attack another in court to seek the acquittal  
14   based on the sexual orientation or gender  
15   identity of the victim?

16                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
17   Mr. President. As I stated previously, that  
18   these issues will be discussed at the leaders'  
19   table.

20                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:    Will the sponsor  
21   continue to yield?

22                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

23                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
24   sponsor yields.

25                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:    Would the sponsor

1 explain to me why the conference's resolution  
2 removes the Executive's proposals relating to  
3 congestion pricing in New York City?

4 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
5 Mr. President, I think that's a very complex  
6 issue and -- so we need to continue to have  
7 discussions about it, because it is something  
8 that will affect a lot of people, obviously. But  
9 the leaders will be talking about that issue too.

10 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Will the sponsor  
11 continue to yield?

12 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
14 sponsor yields.

15 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Would the sponsor  
16 tell me, if she may, how much money is dedicated  
17 to the MTA in this resolution?

18 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
19 Mr. President. There's over \$5 billion dedicated  
20 to the MTA, and that includes operating aid and  
21 capital.

22 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Will the sponsor  
23 continue to yield?

24 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The



1 sponsor yields.

2 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Could the sponsor  
3 tell me how much money is committed to the  
4 New York City Housing Authority in this  
5 resolution?

6 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
7 Mr. President. This budget actually brings  
8 forward and continues a commitment that we made  
9 of \$300 million for NYCHA. And that allocation  
10 that was previously agreed upon by the Assembly,  
11 by the Senate and by the Governor extends over  
12 five years.

13 SENATOR HOYLMAN: Will the sponsor  
14 continue to yield?

15 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
17 sponsor yields.

18 SENATOR HOYLMAN: So let's be  
19 clear, there is no new money dedicated to the  
20 New York City Housing Authority in the resolution  
21 before the Senate.

22 SENATOR YOUNG: So through you,  
23 Mr. President, actually last year we committed  
24 \$200 million every year for the next five years.  
25 So there's -- I'm sorry. For the next five

1 years. So that money is included in this budget.

2 SENATOR HOYLMAN: On the bill,  
3 Mr. President.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
5 Hoylman on the resolution.

6 SENATOR HOYLMAN: I thank the  
7 sponsor for her answers to my questions.

8 I find this budget resolution  
9 incredibly perplexing, mostly because many of the  
10 big issues are being -- are to be discussed later  
11 at the leaders' table. Well, what about us?  
12 What about every member who's here? What about  
13 our districts? What about NYCHA? What about  
14 LGBT folks? What about survivors of child sexual  
15 abuse?

16 It's not enough, Mr. President, to  
17 say that we'll be discussing that later. That  
18 makes me think that my constituents are a  
19 bargaining chip. And my constituents are not a  
20 bargaining chip for the Senate majority. We need  
21 to know now what the commitment is on the part of  
22 the majority for important issues affecting the  
23 everyday lives of New Yorkers, whether it's  
24 criminal justice, whether it's infrastructure,  
25 whether it's public housing.

1                   And I'm sorry, but this is a fake  
2 budget. This is a budget that is going to be  
3 discussed in some smoke-filled room without input  
4 from the members of this body.

5                   So I'm very disappointed that we are  
6 giving a pass to crucial issues like gun reform  
7 when today, today, millions of students across  
8 this country walked out, young people who seem to  
9 have more courage than us, to address head-on the  
10 issues of gun violence.

11                  I'm very disappointed that this  
12 resolution doesn't contain an issue that  
13 advocates have been championing for over a  
14 decade, to seek justice in the area of child  
15 sexual abuse. We had advocates today who last  
16 night pulled up the Senate resolution and saw the  
17 language -- where it should have been "Child  
18 Victims Act," it said "intentionally deleted."

19                  It's not good enough, Mr. President,  
20 that we are putting these issues off to the  
21 leaders' table. So I'll be voting strenuously  
22 no. Thank you.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator  
24 Sanders.

25                  SENATOR SANDERS:    Thank you,

1 Mr. President. Good to see you up there. You're  
2 holding out?

3 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Doing  
4 well, Senator Sanders. Thank you for your  
5 concern.

6 SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, sir.  
7 Will the sponsor yield for several  
8 questions?

9 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
11 sponsor yields.

12 SENATOR SANDERS: Good to see you.

13 SENATOR YOUNG: Good to see you  
14 too.

15 SENATOR SANDERS: Is the sponsor  
16 aware that Article 15A, the MWBE provision, will  
17 expire on the 31st of December of this year?

18 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
19 Mr. President. Actually I'm going to reference  
20 Part Q of the resolution. And it says: The  
21 Senate is firmly committed to reforms related to  
22 minority and women's business development that  
23 will reduce barriers to the program, create  
24 meaningful opportunities for businesses, and  
25 enhance the business climate of the state.

1                   "The Senate will thoroughly examine  
2     the Executive proposal to extend for five years  
3     the provisions of the law relating to minority  
4     and women's business development and consider  
5     modifications relating to the certification  
6     process and requirements, the personal net worth  
7     requirement, the availability of certified  
8     businesses in our state, enhancements in  
9     mentoring, agency reporting and other issues, to  
10    ensure its effectiveness.

11                  So right now, we want to discuss the  
12    program because there are concerns about whether  
13    it's as effective as it needs to be. And there  
14    may be changes that we need to make to it so that  
15    more people, number one, can access the  
16    program -- and I will tell you from personal  
17    experience, it can take a business up to  
18    two years to get certified by the state. I  
19    believe that that is far too long a time period  
20    to wait.

21                  And so there are several changes  
22    that I believe need to be made to the program so  
23    that, number one, more people can access it and,  
24    number two, it doesn't hurt local people from  
25    getting jobs.

1                   SENATOR SANDERS:    Through you,  
2   Mr. President.  I also read that --

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator  
4   Sanders, do you want to continue to ask questions  
5   or speak on the resolution?

6                   SENATOR SANDERS:    Oh, no, no, no.  
7   I want to ask the sponsor a question.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    So the  
9   sponsor does yield.

10                   And I'm going to continue to ask for  
11   some quiet in the house, please, so that members  
12   can hear each other during exchange.

13                   Senator Sanders.

14                   SENATOR SANDERS:    I read that same  
15   passage.  And while I agree with you on some of  
16   the positions, I first wanted to know, are you  
17   aware that this is going to sunset on the 31st of  
18   this year?

19                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
20   Mr. President, yes.  And that's why we put that  
21   language in there, because we think it's a very  
22   important issue to resolve.

23                   SENATOR SANDERS:    Will the sponsor  
24   yield for a question?

25                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
2   sponsor yields.

3                   SENATOR SANDERS:    Through you,  
4   Mr. President.  Is the sponsor aware of the  
5   Supreme Court Croson decision which explicitly  
6   allows and disallows different provisions,  
7   different things that we can do and cannot do and  
8   the times that we can do it?

9                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
10   Mr. President, I'm not sure what that has to do  
11   with our budget resolution before us.

12                  SENATOR SANDERS:    Will the sponsor  
13   yield for a question?

14                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

15                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
16   sponsor yields.

17                  SENATOR SANDERS:    To get to my  
18   question, if the Supreme Court says that we can't  
19   do something in a certain time, it does not  
20   matter what our decision does, we've missed our  
21   window.  We have to start all over again.

22                  So my question is, by not  
23   authorizing this, are you aware that you are in  
24   effect eliminating the program?

25                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,

1 Mr. President, I strongly disagree with my  
2 colleague. We are not in any shape or form  
3 saying that we would eliminate the program. What  
4 we want to do is improve the program so that it  
5 can be more effective.

6 We are aware that it sunsets in  
7 2018. But I'll remind my colleagues, this is a  
8 resolution that actually kicks off intense  
9 negotiations between both houses and the  
10 Governor. So this is on the list of things that  
11 will be discussed, because that's how the process  
12 works.

13 SENATOR SANDERS: Will the sponsor  
14 yield for a question?

15 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
17 sponsor yields.

18 SENATOR SANDERS: Earlier I heard a  
19 motto I believe that you -- that the majority  
20 came up with: Affordability, opportunity -- and  
21 I did not get the last part. What was the last  
22 part of that?

23 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
24 Mr. President. Senator, security.

25 SENATOR SANDERS: Security.



1                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

2                   SENATOR SANDERS:   Thank you.

3                   Will the sponsor yield for a  
4 question?

5                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
7 sponsor yields.

8                   SENATOR SANDERS:   Does  
9 affordability, opportunity, and security include  
10 the women and minorities of this state?

11                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
12 Mr. President, I believe that it does.  And  
13 that's why we included this language in our  
14 proposal, so that we can strengthen the existing  
15 MWBE program and actually make it more workable  
16 across the state.

17                   SENATOR SANDERS:   On the  
18 resolution, Mr. President.

19                   Thank you.  Thank you.  First  
20 I want to thank the sponsor.

21                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Senator  
22 Sanders on the resolution.

23                   SENATOR SANDERS:   Mr. President,  
24 Langston Hughes, one of our great poets, spoke  
25 and said that America has to be America for

1 everyone. I would suggest that by deleting 15A  
2 or threatening this, we are in effect saying that  
3 America, or at least New York State, will not be  
4 New York State for everyone.

5 That MWBE is not affirmative action,  
6 as worthy as affirmative action may be. While  
7 affirmative action speaks and says how a group  
8 has been held back and therefore should be moved  
9 ahead, MWBE merely says that we will have an open  
10 playing field, an even playing field for  
11 everyone. And it puts that in effect by law.

12 By us not saying that we uphold that  
13 American tradition of an even playing field, we  
14 are in effect saying that we're not going to have  
15 America be America for everyone.

16 The best that we can say about that,  
17 I would argue, is that we are prepared to kick  
18 the can down the road. That we're saying that we  
19 legislators, having been brought together by the  
20 great people of New York State, are not prepared  
21 to legislate. We are not prepared to get out  
22 there and do the business of the people. We are  
23 not prepared.

24 We are prepared to say we're going  
25 to send this to some smoke-filled back room where

1     only God knows who's in there, since we're not  
2     represented in it. We don't know what's going  
3     on, and we don't know -- we legislators don't  
4     even know how the sausage will be made on this  
5     issue.

6                     So I'm really perturbed by that.  
7     But I'm not just perturbed by that one. And  
8     kicking the can down the road is not what the  
9     people of my district sent me up here to do.  
10    They said, Grapple with the tough issues of the  
11    day. It may be hard, you'll have to work with  
12    people across the aisle. They said get out there  
13    and come home with something real.

14                    They did not tell me to come home  
15    saying, Well, I left it for three guys somewhere  
16    else to make the decision. They did not send me  
17    here saying that I sat by while American values  
18    were threatened. I didn't come here for that.  
19    Nor did I come here to -- for the issue of NYCHA,  
20    where we on one hand give a lot of words of what  
21    we need to do with NYCHA, but we're cutting lead  
22    protection. My God, do we really hear ourselves?  
23    We're cutting lead protection out of the budget,  
24    mold remediation.

25                    We're not putting our money where

1 our mouths are. We're saying we said that it's  
2 going to take at least \$500 million of new money,  
3 not the same old repurposed money that year after  
4 year we say, Okay, it was for that then, it's for  
5 this now -- and we never see it. And from my  
6 part of town, that's a shell game. You put your  
7 something here and you move it here, and the next  
8 thing you know, you always have it and you never  
9 get it. Everybody on my block knows that you  
10 never go near those cards when that shell game is  
11 being played.

12 And this is a shell game. We need  
13 \$500 million of new money to really impact on the  
14 people that we say that we're going to do about  
15 it. No money for the SNUG program in Queens.  
16 Now, the SNUG program is a very effective  
17 antiviolence program. I agree that Brooklyn  
18 needs it. I agree that all kinds of places need  
19 it. We need it in Queens too. We've got  
20 violence.

21 Come on. Geriatric parole. This is  
22 a no-brainer. When a guy is too old to do any  
23 crime and the only way that we're keeping him in  
24 jail is -- he's costing the people of our great  
25 state way more than it's worth. When a person is

1 infirm or too old, then my God, let him out so at  
2 least my taxpayers can save some money.

3 Women's Agenda -- why are we arguing  
4 this in the 21st century? We should have already  
5 agreed to this long ago and gone on with it.

6 And the same is true with ethics.  
7 This week we've had another wake-up call. How  
8 many wake-up calls do we need before we wake up  
9 to the call?

10 My colleagues will speak on other  
11 issues, so I will leave it at that. But my  
12 friends, there comes a time when it takes a  
13 certain amount of courage to be a legislator.  
14 I'm hoping that that time is now. I'm hoping  
15 that good people on both sides of the aisle will  
16 get out there and say, Well, you know what,  
17 there's a certain logic that's missing and we're  
18 not going to do this. We're not going to do the  
19 old business of kicking the can down the road and  
20 let some three guys figure this somewhere.

21 That we all get together and say,  
22 You know what? Women can decide things too. And  
23 all of us in this room can decide things too.  
24 That's what we were sent here for.

25 Thank you very much, Mr. President.

1 I do want to thank the sponsor for yielding to  
2 those questions. Thank you, Mr. President.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
4 Benjamin.

5 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Through you,  
6 Mr. President, will the sponsor yield for a few  
7 questions?

8 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
10 sponsor yields.

11 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Let's start with  
12 design-build. In the resolution, I see that  
13 there's design-build for the BQE. Do you specify  
14 design-build for NYCHA in this resolution?

15 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
16 Mr. President. Actually, as I had stated  
17 previously, we did make a significant commitment  
18 to NYCHA.

19 However, I have to say I am shocked  
20 and appalled by the fact that the person leading  
21 NYCHA is still there. She should have been fired  
22 long ago. Number one, for incompetence and  
23 mismanagement and, number two, for --

24 (Reaction from members.)

25 SENATOR YOUNG: -- for forging --

1           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Order in  
2     the house, please.  The Senator has the floor.

3           SENATOR YOUNG:   -- federal  
4     documents on lead exposure for children who live  
5     in those buildings.

6           SENATOR BENJAMIN:   Through you,  
7     Mr. President, I'm not sure I heard an answer to  
8     my question.

9           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Senator  
10    Young, do you yield?

11          SENATOR YOUNG:   Yes.

12          ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Senator  
13    Benjamin, you may pose your question.

14          SENATOR BENJAMIN:   So let me  
15    re-pose my question, because I think there was a  
16    different answer that you gave.  That I don't  
17    agree with, but let's move on.

18                 Does this resolution provide to  
19    NYCHA design-build authority?  I think that's the  
20    question.

21          SENATOR YOUNG:   Okay.  Through you,  
22    Mr. President, that's one of the items that I  
23    believe will be discussed moving forward.  As I  
24    stated previously, this really just kicks off the  
25    discussion by passing this resolution.  And the

1 different houses, the two houses will be talking  
2 on it, and also the Governor.

3 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Will the sponsor  
4 continue to yield?

5 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
7 sponsor yields.

8 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Through you,  
9 Mr. President, why was the BQE authorized for  
10 design-build and NYCHA isn't? Why wasn't that  
11 also put into -- for the negotiation and the  
12 conversations later?

13 SENATOR YOUNG: Okay, through you,  
14 Mr. President, it may be helpful to the Senator  
15 if I read the part about the New York City  
16 Housing Authority.

17 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Sure.

18 SENATOR YOUNG: Excuse me, I'm  
19 losing my voice.

20 The Senate understands that the  
21 New York City Housing Authority is in crisis.  
22 Tenants are faced with issues of long wait times  
23 to repair lead, mold, roofs and boilers. The  
24 Senate is open to discussing methods to reduce  
25 these long wait times, including but not limited



1 to expanding the use of alternative project  
2 delivery methods for the New York City Housing  
3 Authority for independently monitored  
4 project-specific purposes, which may include the  
5 remediation and abatement of lead and mold as  
6 well as projects related to the repair,  
7 construction or installation of roofs and  
8 boilers.

9 So we are looking forward to having  
10 those further discussions.

11 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Okay.

12 SENATOR YOUNG: So that's included  
13 in there.

14 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Okay. Will the  
15 sponsor continue to yield, Mr. President?

16 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
18 sponsor yields.

19 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Okay. So tied  
20 to that piece about the BQE, there was  
21 authorization for placement of NYPD officers in  
22 every school in New York City. Does the sponsor  
23 believe that there's a school officer -- I'm  
24 sorry, an NYPD officer needed in every single  
25 school in New York City?

1                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
2   Mr. President.  This is optional, I believe.

3                   SENATOR BENJAMIN:   Was it?  Oh.

4                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Okay.  Through you,  
5   Mr. President, I stand corrected.  Actually, it  
6   would allow for a police officer to be stationed  
7   in every New York City school.

8                   SENATOR BENJAMIN:   Through you,  
9   Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to  
10  yield?

11                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
12  sponsor yields.

13                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

14                  SENATOR BENJAMIN:   Maybe I read  
15  this wrong, but it says it requires placement of  
16  NYPD officers at every school.

17                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
18  Mr. President.  Yes, it does in New York City,  
19  correct.

20                  SENATOR BENJAMIN:   Okay.  Okay.  
21  Will the sponsor continue to yield?

22                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
24  sponsor yields.

25                  SENATOR YOUNG:    You know what would

1 be helpful to me, Senator? Could you tell me  
2 what page you're on?

3 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Oh, sure. I'm  
4 on page 56.

5 SENATOR YOUNG: Okay, thank you.

6 SENATOR BENJAMIN: So the sponsor  
7 yields.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
9 sponsor yields.

10 SENATOR BENJAMIN: So if an NYPD  
11 officer is required in every school in New York  
12 City, can the sponsor let us know what would be  
13 the cost for this proposal?

14 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
15 Mr. President, there already are school safety  
16 officers at every school. So basically what this  
17 does, it just changes the school safety officer  
18 into a police officer. So the costs would be not  
19 that much to make this change.

20 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Okay, thank you  
21 for that. All right.

22 Will the sponsor continue to yield?

23 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
25 sponsor yields.

1                   SENATOR BENJAMIN:    Okay.  Moving on  
2   to a question here -- I see -- and this is on  
3   page 23, I believe, that you're asking for the  
4   City Council to oversee activities of NYCHA and  
5   also asking for an office of an independent  
6   monitor to oversee NYCHA.

7                   Can you explain -- can the sponsor  
8   explain what would be the difference in those  
9   two -- between those two overseeing roles,  
10   between the City Council and this office of an  
11   independent monitor?

12                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
13   Mr. President.  The way that this proposal would  
14   work is that the City Council would have  
15   oversight over NYCHA.  The state would have a  
16   monitor who would also be involved.

17                  I think there's a lot of concern,  
18   frankly across the state, about the conditions at  
19   NYCHA.  And something needs to change, because  
20   what's happening now just is not working.  And we  
21   do believe there needs to be more oversight over  
22   what's happening at NYCHA.  {inaudible} --  
23   question.

24                  SENATOR BENJAMIN:    Sure.

25                  Can I make a statement?  I don't

1 know how to -- how does that work, I just say  
2 something? On the -- I'm sorry, on the -- so on  
3 the resolution.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
5 Benjamin on the resolution.

6 SENATOR BENJAMIN: As it relates to  
7 NYCHA, I do agree that there are a number of  
8 concerns and issues that need to be addressed. I  
9 do believe that there are multiple factors at  
10 play. I agree with the spirit of oversight. I  
11 think the issue is that we are talking about  
12 providing oversight without providing the  
13 appropriate resources for the majority of the  
14 capital needs that are required at NYCHA. We're  
15 talking about somewhere around \$20 billion of  
16 capital improvements.

17 The sponsor was not able to explain  
18 to me why design-build for NYCHA is not included  
19 in this resolution, while mentioning the fact  
20 that there are things that need to be changed.  
21 One of the things that needs to change is that  
22 NYCHA needs the ability to quickly address some  
23 of the issues, and so I'm surprised that that's  
24 not in the resolution.

25 Will the sponsor continue to yield,

1 Mr. President?

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
3 Young, do you yield for questions?

4 SENATOR YOUNG: Sure.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
6 Benjamin.

7 SENATOR BENJAMIN: So I see on  
8 page 20 that there's \$4.5 million cut from the  
9 Tenant Protection Unit. Is that correct?

10 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

11 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Through you,  
12 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to  
13 yield?

14 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
16 sponsor yields.

17 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Thank you.

18 Does the sponsor believe that  
19 protecting tenants is an important priority of  
20 the State of New York?

21 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
22 Mr. President, yes.

23 And so just so the Senator knows --  
24 I know he's new to the Senate. But in the past  
25 we have proposed language that would clearly

1 outline what the TPU would be authorized to do,  
2 and the Governor unfortunately has rejected the  
3 language. And so thus we continue to reject the  
4 funding.

5 SENATOR BENJAMIN: So through you,  
6 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to  
7 yield?

8 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
10 sponsor yields.

11 SENATOR BENJAMIN: I see. So if  
12 the Governor had proposed the language that the  
13 majority was comfortable with as it relates to  
14 TPU, the sponsor would be in favor of the funds  
15 for TPU?

16 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
17 Mr. President. Yes, we would consider it.

18 SENATOR BENJAMIN: You'd consider  
19 it, okay. Thank you.

20 Next question. On the DREAM Act --  
21 turn to page 19, if we may. The language as I  
22 see it here -- sorry, excuse me. Give me a  
23 second. Oh. The Senate -- I just want to read  
24 this real quick. The Senate rejects the  
25 Governor's proposal to allow undocumented

1 students' eligibility to receive Tuition  
2 Assistance Program funding. This rejection of  
3 the DREAM Act results in a \$27 million decrease  
4 in the total TAP appropriation.

5 The question is, is the sponsor in  
6 favor or against the DREAM Act?

7 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
8 Mr. President. What we hear from our  
9 constituents from across the state is that they  
10 have very deep concerns about American  
11 citizens -- their children, their family  
12 members -- being able to afford college.

13 And so basically they -- because  
14 they have these concerns, giving their  
15 hard-earned tax dollars to people who are here  
16 illegally, they seem to be overwhelmingly against  
17 that. So there are issues that are related to  
18 that.

19 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Through you,  
20 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to  
21 yield?

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
23 sponsor yields.

24 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

25 SENATOR BENJAMIN: So was that a --



1 was that stating that because some of the  
2 taxpayers are concerned with this, as a result  
3 the majority is against the DREAM Act?

4 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
5 Mr. President. As I stated, the people who we  
6 represent have deep concerns about the DREAM Act.

7 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Through you,  
8 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to  
9 yield?

10 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
12 sponsor yields.

13 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Does the sponsor  
14 believe that undocumented students have the right  
15 to be educated in the State of New York?

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
17 Benjamin, could you direct questions directly to  
18 items within the resolution, as opposed to the  
19 sponsor's opinions?

20 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Oh, I'm sorry.  
21 I will rephrase that.

22 Based on page 19, the DREAM Act  
23 language, would the -- the undocumented students  
24 that are on page 19, as they're referred, does  
25 the sponsor believe that they have rights to an

1 education in the State of New York?

2 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
3 Mr. President, we are discussing the DREAM Act  
4 and whether we accept or reject the Governor's  
5 proposal. And so the Senate rejects it.

6 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Through you,  
7 Mr. President. So if the -- so if we reject the  
8 money for the students to go to school, then that  
9 means we reject them getting educated in the  
10 State of New York, is that correct?

11 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
12 Mr. President. I would like to point out that  
13 several years ago there was a law that was passed  
14 that provides in-state tuition to undocumented  
15 people. That exists. But what we're talking  
16 about are people's hard-earned tax dollars going  
17 to fund people who are here illegally for a  
18 college education.

19 And people have concerns about that,  
20 because in many cases these same taxpayers can't  
21 afford to send their own children to college.  
22 And we believe that this is an issue of fairness.

23 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Fairness, okay.

24 Through you, Mr. President, will the  
25 sponsor continue to yield?

1                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    The  
3 sponsor yields.

4                   SENATOR BENJAMIN:    Moving on to  
5 criminal justice reform.  I'm glad that the  
6 sponsor mentioned fairness, because I'd like to  
7 start on that -- with that with a question.  In  
8 the language -- let me see here.  I want to make  
9 sure on I'm on the right page.

10                  On page 41, the Senate majority  
11 states that they're open to negotiation on speedy  
12 trial, bail, and automatic discovery reform, and  
13 this is a matter of a fair criminal justice  
14 system.  And you don't want to sacrifice public  
15 safety.

16                  So my question is, does the sponsor  
17 believe it's fair that about 65 or so percent of  
18 those in Rikers Island right now are awaiting  
19 trial and have not yet been convicted of a crime?

20                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
21 Mr. President.  The Senator may have missed my  
22 previous comments, but we have concerns from both  
23 sides of the issue on these criminal justice  
24 reforms that the Governor put in his Executive  
25 proposal.

1                   And as I stated, people who are for  
2 bail reform, speedy trial, discovery, all those  
3 issues, came in today to see the Senate majority  
4 to express their concerns about the Governor's  
5 language.

6                   So we are working to hear from all  
7 stakeholders in this so that we can resolve the  
8 concerns. There are concerns on the side that  
9 are against these particular proposals, but the  
10 people who actually support the ideas in concept  
11 also have concerns about what the Governor  
12 included in the budget.

13                  SENATOR BENJAMIN: Through you,  
14 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to  
15 yield?

16                  SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
18 sponsor yields.

19                  SENATOR BENJAMIN: Does the  
20 majority have an opinion or position on speedy  
21 trial, bail and automatic discovery reform?

22                  SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
23 Mr. President. So we had a good discussion  
24 earlier, I believe with Senator Bailey. But we  
25 talked about the fact that last year we had the

1 Raise the Age proposal and there was a lot of  
2 intensive work that was done on that through  
3 negotiations. And I believe at the end of the  
4 day we came up with a good product.

5 And so because so many of the  
6 advocates on both sides of the issue have  
7 concerns, I believe that we should have similar  
8 discussions about the Governor's proposal because  
9 nobody supports it right now among the advocacy  
10 groups.

11 SENATOR BENJAMIN: Thank you.

12 On the bill -- I mean on the  
13 resolution.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
15 Benjamin on the resolution.

16 SENATOR BENJAMIN: I do appreciate  
17 the Senator's responses to my questions.

18 I have some serious concerns as it  
19 relates to NYCHA, as it relates to criminal  
20 justice reform, as it relates to education and  
21 other issues. I believe that as a state, when we  
22 talk about fairness, we should make sure that  
23 we're considering everyone and not just talking  
24 about fairness for a few. It is important that  
25 we be open-minded and make sure that we try to

1 hear all points of view.

2 And I do thank this body for hearing  
3 me, and I will not be in support of this  
4 resolution. Thank you.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
6 Montgomery.

7 SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you,  
8 Mr. President. I will just speak on the  
9 resolution.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
11 Montgomery on the resolution.

12 SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Briefly.  
13 Thank you.

14 As some of -- I've heard very often  
15 people refer to especially elected officials,  
16 that we speak out of both sides of our mouths.  
17 So I'm looking at this budget resolution, and it  
18 seems to be speaking out of both sides, if you  
19 will, and in many ways contradicting itself  
20 within the budget document.

21 And I just wanted to point out a  
22 couple of instances of that that I see readily  
23 and very, very troubling. It is what our  
24 statement -- what this document says to what we  
25 think about young people in our state,

1 opportunities for young people especially, and  
2 moreover, how we're willing to spend on some  
3 things but not the young people that we represent  
4 and we hope to be our future.

5           For instance, there is -- I'm  
6 looking at -- under the -- on page 5, I believe  
7 it's for education. There is a proposal that we  
8 should have the commissioner create certain  
9 programs, curriculum for certain programs,  
10 support certain programs. This would be the  
11 Commissioner of Education. For instance, we  
12 address -- the document says the commissioner  
13 should create a youth violence pilot program. So  
14 fine. The commissioner should create a  
15 prevention of child sexual exploitation program.  
16 Okay. The commissioner should create a peace  
17 conflict resolution pilot program.

18           So we direct the commissioner to  
19 create all of these programs, but then in the  
20 next paragraph or the next section we say we  
21 limit the Board of Regents' power. Now, it's as  
22 if we don't understand that the Board of Regents  
23 and the commissioner work together, so many of  
24 the proposals for education policy in our state  
25 actually come out of the Board of Regents and the

1 commissioner, working together, to propose that  
2 we do certain things.

3 But now our document says, this  
4 resolution -- not mine, it's yours. Our  
5 resolution says, Oh, let's make sure that  
6 anything that the Regents -- and I gather we  
7 understand, certainly we should understand that  
8 when we say Regents, we mean the state education  
9 commissioner -- that any decision, any rule,  
10 regulation, amendment, anything that they do,  
11 that has to go through the Office of the Budget.

12 Okay. If that's the case, then you  
13 know I'm interpreting this as you saying even  
14 though you've laid out all of these things that  
15 you want them to do, you don't really want them  
16 to do it. Because you know when it goes through  
17 the budget, that's like the dead zone for  
18 everything.

19 So the other thing that I'm looking  
20 at is while we complain about all of the  
21 different things that are wrong with -- as it  
22 relates to achievement of young people in our  
23 state, we have a resolution which agrees to -- so  
24 we all know that we can -- the Governor can  
25 propose, and we can have a discussion, and I'm



1 happy to do that. But this says we agree to  
2 \$31.1 million in cuts to programs, higher  
3 education opportunity programs in our state.  
4 That means that that's much less funding for  
5 young people.

6           And we also propose that programs  
7 like the Early College Program, which is not  
8 higher ed, but it connects secondary with higher  
9 education -- extremely important, has worked very  
10 well across the state in all of the school  
11 districts, including schools in districts like  
12 mine -- My Brother's Keeper, we propose -- you're  
13 saying let's not fund that at all, let's just cut  
14 out all of the funds for that.

15           So that's why I say this is a total  
16 contradiction. It's very sad. I feel very bad  
17 about it.

18           And then let me just finally say one  
19 other area of contradiction that is very  
20 troubling, and that is you want a youth violence  
21 pilot program. Okay, fine. You want to study --  
22 you want to study some more youth programs. I  
23 don't see the funding for it, but I see the study  
24 for it. So that's fine.

25           But you say, Oh, by the way, let's

1 cut \$40 million out of the City of New York for  
2 the Close to Home program. Isn't that supposed  
3 to be what we did in relationship to Raise the  
4 Age? Yes. But so let's not fund that anymore,  
5 or let's let them go off on their own, raise the  
6 money as best they can. Forget about them.

7 So we don't want to fund the Close  
8 to Home? That is a working program that deals  
9 with the whole issue of youth violence.

10 So as I said, very disappointing,  
11 contradictions all over the place. We say we  
12 care about young people, but we certainly are not  
13 willing to put in the resources and even support  
14 what we already have and what we know that works.

15 So, Mr. President, I'll be voting no  
16 on this resolution. Thank you.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
18 Stavisky.

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

21 As far as higher education goes, I  
22 think there's some really good parts but also  
23 some parts where we need a little more  
24 clarification. So if the sponsor would yield.

25 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

1           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    Senator,  
2   do you yield?  The Senator yields.

3           Senator Stavisky.

4           SENATOR STAVISKY:   On page 7 of the  
5   budget resolution, you talk about your support  
6   for the ASAP program.  It's the last paragraph  
7   under "Article VII proposal."  You indicate that  
8   it's an important component in achieving success,  
9   et cetera, and you say the Senate supports the  
10  expansion of the program.

11           And yet I don't see it in the list  
12  of items to be restored from the Governor's -- to  
13  the Executive Budget proposal.

14           SENATOR YOUNG:    Okay.  So through  
15  you, Mr. President, so we have language in  
16  there -- you're right, that recognizes the ASAP  
17  program is an important component in achieving  
18  success.  And so by acknowledging that, we  
19  would -- you know, what we're saying is that we  
20  support that particular program.

21           SENATOR STAVISKY:   If the Senator  
22  would continue to yield.

23           SENATOR YOUNG:    Sure.

24           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
25  Senator yields.

1           SENATOR STAVISKY:   Then why is --

2           SENATOR YOUNG:   Through you, just  
3   to finish the second half of that answer, that  
4   program has been largely funded by the city, by  
5   New York City.

6           SENATOR STAVISKY:   If the Senator  
7   would continue to yield, there's a \$2.5 million  
8   cut in the ASAP program in the Governor's  
9   Executive Budget, and yet it's not restored in  
10   your budget resolution.

11          SENATOR YOUNG:   So through you,  
12   Mr. President, there is a \$2.5 million cut to the  
13   program. And that is a program that the Assembly  
14   has been very interested in, so they restored  
15   that funding last year and we expect that they  
16   will do the same, they will try to do the same in  
17   these budget negotiations that are upcoming.

18          SENATOR STAVISKY:   Would the  
19   Senator continue to yield?

20          SENATOR YOUNG:   Yes.

21          ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
22   Senator yields.

23          SENATOR STAVISKY:   The ASAP program  
24   is a remarkable program. It's in the community  
25   colleges at CUNY. And the New York Times, for

1 example, a number of years ago wrote about how  
2 successful it was.

3           How it works is because of the fact  
4 that the students, the college students, receive  
5 special guidance from counselors. They receive a  
6 MetroCard -- many of them can't even afford that.  
7 They receive a MetroCard. They receive -- their  
8 attendance is monitored. They receive this  
9 intense counseling, and it works.

10           And I ask why the other programs  
11 have not been restored. There's a whole litany  
12 of programs, the opportunity programs. Why have  
13 you not included the restoration of the other  
14 programs or even commented on them the way you  
15 did on ASAP?

16           SENATOR YOUNG: So through you,  
17 Mr. President, there are programs that the  
18 Governor cut, unfortunately, that the Senate  
19 actually supports. And so that's why every year  
20 the Assembly wants to restore those programs and  
21 have those under their part of the budget. We  
22 have programs that we restore as a Senate. And  
23 we've always supported, in the final product,  
24 those particular programs.

25           So the Assembly feels very strongly

1     that they would like to be the ones that fund  
2     those projects and those programs at the table.  
3     And -- but we support them also.

4                 SENATOR STAVISKY:    Thank you.   If  
5     the sponsor would continue to yield.

6                 SENATOR YOUNG:     Sure.

7                 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
8     sponsor yields.

9                 SENATOR STAVISKY:    The second area  
10    I'd like to discuss is on page 56 and 57 of your  
11    budget resolution.  It deals with maintenance of  
12    effort.

13                As you know, both houses passed a  
14    maintenance of effort bill.  The Governor vetoed  
15    it, saying it really belongs as part of the  
16    budget, and I happen to agree.  And yet  
17    unfortunately you have a -- it's Part U of  
18    Article VII.  This is on the top of page 57.

19                And it says:  The Senate advances  
20    language amending the maintenance of effort  
21    provisions to expand state obligations to SUNY  
22    and CUNY.

23                Would you expand upon that and tell  
24    us exactly what you have in mind?

25                SENATOR YOUNG:    Thank you, Senator,

1 for that question.

2 So in our proposal what we would do  
3 is put in \$64 million for operating and then  
4 restore \$78 million to the hospitals.

5 SENATOR STAVISKY: If the Senator  
6 will continue to yield.

7 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
9 Senator yields.

10 SENATOR STAVISKY: The maintenance  
11 of effort was used to cover some of the costs  
12 that are not really anticipated in parts of the  
13 budget negotiations. Part of it is for property  
14 rentals, contract obligations, things that have  
15 already been negotiated in their contracts. How  
16 is this going to be resolved?

17 SENATOR YOUNG: So through you,  
18 Mr. President. As you know, we voted for that  
19 bill in this house too, so it's of great concern  
20 to us. And frankly it was disappointing that  
21 that particular initiative was vetoed by the  
22 Governor.

23 So if there are funding sources that  
24 we can discuss moving forward so we can continue  
25 to help our campuses across the state, we're

1 hoping that we can come up with some solutions.

2 SENATOR STAVISKY: And yet you have  
3 not included it in your budget resolution, the  
4 amounts.

5 SENATOR YOUNG: So again, we're  
6 hoping that we can come up with some solutions in  
7 those areas.

8 SENATOR STAVISKY: All right. If  
9 the Senator would continue to yield.

10 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
12 sponsor yields.

13 SENATOR STAVISKY: Continuing to  
14 Part P, it says: The Senate advances language  
15 repealing a statute that would implement a new  
16 chargeback methodology.

17 SENATOR YOUNG: So through you,  
18 Mr. President, this is actually the chargebacks  
19 that go back to the counties, county governments.  
20 And so some counties have concerns with it, so I  
21 think that it warrants further discussion.

22 SENATOR STAVISKY: If the Senator  
23 would continue to yield.

24 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The



1 sponsor yields.

2 SENATOR STAVISKY: A number of the  
3 counties at the upstate SUNY institutions have  
4 complained about the chargeback. How is this  
5 going to affect the other colleges, such as the  
6 Fashion Institute of Technology, which is  
7 technically a community college and would be  
8 affected by this program?

9 SENATOR YOUNG: So through you,  
10 Mr. President, actually FIT and those  
11 institutions would be treated the same. It  
12 doesn't change anything.

13 SENATOR STAVISKY: Doesn't change  
14 the --

15 SENATOR YOUNG: Right. Right.

16 SENATOR STAVISKY: Because I know  
17 we passed the legislation a number of years ago.

18 SENATOR YOUNG: Right.

19 SENATOR STAVISKY: On another  
20 subject, if the Senator would yield.

21 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
23 sponsor yields.

24 SENATOR STAVISKY: On page 37, Part  
25 W.

1                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Yes.

2                   SENATOR STAVISKY:   You say the  
3   Senate advances language allowing for a  
4   restructuring of the Higher Education Services  
5   Corporation board.  How would you restructure the  
6   board?

7                   SENATOR YOUNG:    Thank you.  Through  
8   you, Mr. President.  The way we would restructure  
9   it, we would allow the Senate and the Assembly to  
10   appoint members to that board.

11                  SENATOR STAVISKY:   And what is the  
12   current method?

13                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Through you,  
14   Mr. President.  So it's my understanding it's all  
15   political appointees.

16                  SENATOR STAVISKY:   Let me rephrase  
17   the question.  The Governor appoints the members  
18   of the board --

19                  SENATOR YOUNG:    Right.  So we felt  
20   very strongly that the Legislature, a coequal  
21   branch of government, should have input too.  And  
22   so we would propose that the Senate would appoint  
23   a member and the Assembly would have the same  
24   opportunity.

25                  SENATOR STAVISKY:   And if the

1 Senator would continue to yield.

2 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes.

3 SENATOR STAVISKY: When was the  
4 last time the board met?

5 SENATOR YOUNG: Through you,  
6 Mr. President, I think it was May of last year;  
7 but I'm not sure that that's in the budget  
8 resolution.

9 SENATOR STAVISKY: No, I'm sure  
10 it's not.

11 SENATOR YOUNG: Right.

12 SENATOR STAVISKY: But that's my  
13 point, that --

14 SENATOR YOUNG: Yes. Okay.

15 SENATOR STAVISKY: -- if the  
16 Senator would continue --

17 SENATOR YOUNG: Gotcha.

18 SENATOR STAVISKY: The point,  
19 Mr. Chairman, is that the board hasn't met.

20 SENATOR YOUNG: Right. And so I  
21 think, you know, if they haven't met -- I think  
22 there needs to be more accountability in the  
23 system, more transparency. And I feel that our  
24 proposal would be able to address some of the  
25 concerns that we share.

1           SENATOR STAVISKY:    If the Senator  
2 would continue to yield.

3           SENATOR YOUNG:     Yes.

4           SENATOR STAVISKY:   There are many  
5 important issues before the HESC board, such as  
6 part-time TAP. From what I understand, that has  
7 not been -- it's been allocated, but it hasn't  
8 been implemented. How do you propose to resolve  
9 this?

10          SENATOR YOUNG:     Well, through you,  
11 Mr. President, I think if we have representation  
12 on the board, those questions may be raised  
13 through the process.

14          SENATOR STAVISKY:   Thank you. And  
15 thank you for your responses.

16                 On the bill.

17          ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   Senator  
18 Stavisky on the resolution.

19          SENATOR STAVISKY:   I'm sorry, the  
20 resolution.

21                 The fact that so many opportunity  
22 programs were cut is really doing a disservice,  
23 and it's providing education for those who can  
24 afford it. And that's not really the purpose of  
25 public higher education. So we all agree that --

1 or at least this side of the aisle agrees that we  
2 must restore those opportunity programs.

3           Secondly, we believe that there are  
4 certain other additions, they've been outlined  
5 by -- in our announcement. But we believe that  
6 -- obviously we support the Bundy Aid  
7 restitution, because the \$35 million is a  
8 terrible cut. It doesn't -- it's really a  
9 pass-through where the beneficiaries are the  
10 students. Most of that \$35 million goes for  
11 scholarships.

12           We support increasing TAP. We  
13 support your proposal to increase the base aid  
14 for the community colleges. We support,  
15 certainly, the student loan forgiveness program.  
16 That is an extremely important issue.

17           The increase in capital spending for  
18 SUNY and CUNY, we agree with the majority on that  
19 issue. The restoration of the childcare for the  
20 community colleges, extremely important. And we  
21 agree with you that that money should be  
22 restored. And lastly, we do support the  
23 expansion of the STEM programs to the nonpublic  
24 colleges.

25           But we balance the good and the bad.

1 And take a look -- unfortunately, I mean, the  
2 lady up there in the stained glass window,  
3 balancing, standing on the scales. It's not an  
4 even scale. And it's balanced, unfortunately,  
5 the wrong way, and I intend to vote no on the  
6 resolution.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
9 you, Senator Stavisky.

10 Senator Krueger, there's a -- on the  
11 allocation, still an additional five minutes, and  
12 we will recognize you.

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

15 I rise to round up at the end. Oh,  
16 I'm sorry, you -- one moment, Mr. President.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
18 Krueger, do you yield to Senator Rivera?

19 SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes,  
20 Mr. President, I yield to Senator Rivera.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
22 Rivera.

23 SENATOR KRUEGER: Leave me one  
24 minute, Senator Rivera.

25 SENATOR RIVERA: Thank you,

1 Mr. President, I will do just that. Through you,  
2 Mr. President, I will leave Senator Krueger one  
3 minute.

4 I'm not going to ask questions, so  
5 I'll speak on the resolution.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
7 Rivera on the resolution.

8 SENATOR RIVERA: I will not ask  
9 questions, one, because many of my colleagues  
10 have asked the questions already. And second,  
11 because I have noticed that many of the responses  
12 have been quite crafty and have kind of ignored  
13 the fact that when my colleagues point out that  
14 things are not on the resolution, they are  
15 pointed out maybe they are, but maybe we'll talk  
16 about them later. One of my colleagues mentioned  
17 the phrase "kicking the can down the road."  
18 Certainly that is accurate.

19 There's so many issues that are  
20 either not met, that are not talked about in this  
21 resolution, or I think we're going in the wrong  
22 direction. Whether it is My Brother's Keeper,  
23 \$18 million that is not in the resolution.  
24 Whether it is the fact that we're not doing  
25 anything on protecting young people or any other

1 New Yorkers from guns, we're just talking about  
2 school safety in ways -- that's where that  
3 "crafty" word comes in again.

4           We talked about design-build, but  
5 attached to it was this idea that we would put  
6 more police officers in schools, and we talked  
7 before, a couple of days ago, about how putting  
8 more people with guns in schools is not a good  
9 idea. Not even the police officers want to do  
10 that themselves.

11           Whether it's the fact that there's  
12 no ethics reform in here, the fact that there is  
13 no early voting in here. As a matter of fact,  
14 there was a conversation about there not being  
15 money for early voting. I believe that we all  
16 would want people to be more civically engaged.  
17 Changing the laws to actually make it easier so  
18 people can vote would be a good way to do it.

19           And as far as covering the expenses,  
20 I would suggest that perhaps that \$1.2 million  
21 for the task force on tick-borne illnesses, or  
22 the \$5 million for the task force on opioid  
23 addiction, to which none of our members in the  
24 Democratic Conference belong -- so that's  
25 \$6.2 million for two Senate task forces. That's



1 a lot of money that you folks are using. And  
2 it's not that I don't think these issues are  
3 important, but certainly we should perhaps be  
4 included. And I don't know how much paper you  
5 can print for \$6.2 million.

6 But in any event, there's no DREAM  
7 Act in this resolution. There are changes in --  
8 there are some changes in NYCHA but no real  
9 commitment to putting real money into NYCHA, not  
10 actually helping NYCHA along. And making sure  
11 that that money is lockboxed so that it's going  
12 to actual capital improvements that will address  
13 the concerns that we're talking about -- like  
14 mold, for example.

15 There's no rental subsidies for  
16 people living with AIDS outside of the City of  
17 New York. When we're talking about the fact that  
18 this is a communicable disease that people that  
19 are on public assistance -- we provide that  
20 assistance to people living in the City of  
21 New York. That does not happen outside of the  
22 city. The Governor proposed that that would be  
23 the case, and you folks took it out.

24 There is no Child Victims Act, as  
25 was pointed out by one of my conference

1 colleagues.

2 Anything related to criminal justice  
3 reform, whether it's speedy trial or bail reform  
4 or discovery reform, geriatric parole. Gay and  
5 trans panic, we haven't even talked about that,  
6 the fact that the original proposal included that  
7 so it would not be available as a defense, and  
8 you folks took it out.

9 Whether we're talking about -- when  
10 we're talking about bail reform, there was  
11 actually a change that would expand charitable  
12 bail, which is a bill that I passed proudly a few  
13 years ago in the Senate. And as opposed to that,  
14 we're actually going in the opposite direction as  
15 refers to bail reform.

16 Whether we're talking about all the  
17 higher education opportunity programs that were  
18 not included.

19 Or the prison contraband screening.  
20 There's actually a bill we just passed this  
21 morning in the Crime Victims, Crime and  
22 Corrections Committee which addresses prison  
23 contraband but does nothing to change the way  
24 that the current process works for employees, so  
25 staff members are not going to be checked in any

1 particular way. So if there's any contraband  
2 coming that way, it's still going to come.

3 And I know that you mean by that  
4 that I've got -- that she's got a minute left. I  
5 will just finish by saying that it's unfortunate  
6 that this is what we're -- what we've been --  
7 what we have to do, right, this kicking the can  
8 down the road, which you -- apparently the  
9 Republican Conference believes is the way to  
10 actually deal with these issues.

11 So this resolution either goes in  
12 the wrong direction or takes some issues that we  
13 should be talking about and instead says, Oh,  
14 we'll talk about it someday. I believe,  
15 Mr. President, that this is a resolution that  
16 does not really address the issues of this state,  
17 and I will be voting in the negative.

18 Thank you, Mr. President.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator  
20 Krueger for the closing minute.

21 SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you.

22 Well, I think that my colleague  
23 covered a lot of the points. I guess what we've  
24 heard here today is it's not soup yet. This is a  
25 resolution where so many of the questions are

1 referred to be discussed at another time. So  
2 many of the things that are critical for the  
3 people of New York are actually pulled out of the  
4 budget rather than new alternative proposals  
5 submitted.

6 On design-build, which you've heard  
7 quite a bit about, the City of New York would  
8 save billions of dollars getting the work we want  
9 them to do done if we allowed them to do  
10 design-build. But instead, just one item in  
11 design-build is tied into putting police in our  
12 schools, which the city reports, as they listen  
13 here, would cost them a billion dollars a year.

14 I know my public schools and my  
15 private schools have both told me they do not  
16 want police officers in their buildings, thank  
17 you very much.

18 We can and we must do better. We  
19 have failed MTA. We are actually coming up with  
20 proposals to demand more of NYCHA without  
21 providing the money. We are tying the hands of  
22 our largest local government and taking and  
23 requiring that they spend more money than we  
24 think they need to, because we're playing  
25 politics and games.

1                   I guess the good news is this isn't  
2 really a budget proposal. As Senator Young  
3 explained, much of it is just thrown down the  
4 line to be discussed. So good, we can continue  
5 discussion. But I see no reason why anyone on  
6 either side of the aisle should actually vote for  
7 this today.

8                   Again, it's not soup yet,  
9 Mr. President. I vote no.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
11 you, Senator Krueger.

12                  In accordance with the comments from  
13 leaders, we will now have an opportunity to also  
14 hear from the Senate Majority Leader.

15                  SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Who will be  
16 here less than momentarily.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: We have  
18 previously heard from Senator Klein and Senator  
19 Stewart-Cousins, and now we will hear from Senate  
20 Majority Leader Senator John Flanagan.

21                  SENATOR FLANAGAN: Thank you,  
22 Mr. President.

23                  I'm sorry for arriving at the last  
24 moment. I know we've had a busy day, a busy  
25 couple of weeks. And when Senator Klein and

1 Senator Stewart-Cousins were speaking, I happened  
2 to be down at the Times Union Center in an  
3 intimate gathering of about 8,000 1199 members  
4 and nurses here advocating and lobbying for  
5 healthcare, which is obviously a critical part of  
6 our budget.

7 I did have a chance to listen to a  
8 number of the comments that were made by my  
9 colleagues. I want to say thank you to everybody  
10 for their diligence, for just the respectful  
11 nature of the way the discussions took place  
12 today. I think they had a much longer discussion  
13 in the Assembly, for a variety of reasons.

14 But I want to focus on a couple of  
15 basic things, and I want to start by thanking  
16 frankly all the members, but the respective  
17 members of the Finance Committees. And I heard  
18 comments about policy, I heard comments about  
19 fiscal policy and about appropriations in the  
20 budgetary process. I look at this in a sort of  
21 bifurcated way.

22 There's no reason at any given time  
23 that we can't engage in substantive policy  
24 discussions, but I really do feel that the  
25 New York State budget should be far more

1 reflective of simple basic things, like how are  
2 we paying for transportation for Medicaid  
3 patients? How are we making sure that senior  
4 citizens get enhanced exemptions that cost money  
5 either to local government or the State of  
6 New York? How are we making sure that children  
7 have appropriate access not only to elementary  
8 and secondary education, but rather to higher  
9 education -- which is really an underpinning of  
10 what we've advocated from the get-go this year,  
11 and that is affordability, opportunity, and  
12 security. And I'll repeat: Affordability,  
13 opportunity, and security.

14 Now, I digress for a moment. To  
15 Senator Krueger, to Senator Young, to both of my  
16 colleagues in particular, let's not overlook the  
17 fact of the deliberative nature of what we've  
18 been doing since the onset. And I'm being, you  
19 know, Captain Obvious with some of this. But the  
20 Governor comes out and comes up with his State of  
21 the State, there's a brief hiatus, then we have  
22 the introduction of the budget. And it's been a  
23 little bit unconventional in terms of how it's  
24 been presented. Sometimes we're here, sometimes  
25 we're there. But the documents ultimately get

1 out there.

2           So the Governor comes out with his  
3 budget. And as we move into that process, we  
4 start the budget hearing process. Now, nobody  
5 knows better than the two colleagues I just  
6 referenced, who have the patience of saints.  
7 Because we had at least 12 different hearings  
8 spanning over I think at least three weeks. And  
9 there was a hiatus because of the weather, so our  
10 last hearing was in the last week of February.

11           Now, why do I say this and frankly,  
12 why do I belabor this point? We have an  
13 exhaustive process for issues that are budgetary  
14 in nature. If Senator Krueger wants to engage in  
15 a discussion with Senator Young about economic  
16 development money we spend on advertising, how  
17 we're providing tax incentives or tax credits no  
18 what the area of the state, that's good. That's  
19 good. That's the way it's supposed to be.

20           But I also think we have to focus on  
21 what is our primary responsibility right now.  
22 Right now, today, many people feel like this is  
23 the true start of the budget process. I don't  
24 agree. I think we've been going at this for  
25 quite a while, and the product you see here



1 today, there are some who laud it, some who  
2 critique it, but everyone can read it and  
3 understand it. And the same process is taking  
4 place across the way in the New York State  
5 Assembly.

6 Now, not only have our colleagues  
7 engaged in these discussions, but so has the  
8 public. You know, with the advent of technology  
9 and the ever-changing nature of technology --  
10 remember when people used to write letters?  
11 people used to hand-write letters. And people  
12 used to type on a typewriter. And you would  
13 expect that you would respond in kind. Now,  
14 today, some issue can come up affecting any one  
15 of us, you can have 5,000 emails within the space  
16 of an hour.

17 So to suggest in some way, shape or  
18 form that we don't have public input I think is  
19 just inaccurate. So I'm confident that we have a  
20 lot of input, not only from the public, not only  
21 from our constituents, not only from our  
22 not-for-profits, our for-profits, people in the  
23 public sector and the private sector, but I  
24 believe in the faith of the men and women that  
25 work in this chamber.

1           Everyone comes at it from a  
2 different angle. I was watching on TV, I saw  
3 Senator Montgomery, I saw Senator Comrie, Senator  
4 Stavisky, Senator Bailey, Senator Benjamin, a  
5 number of our colleagues getting up and talking  
6 about their priorities. Which I think is a  
7 reflection of their philosophy and what they  
8 believe to be the needs of their district.

9           So again, we're going back to  
10 affordability, opportunity, and security. And  
11 some of these things are actually quite simple.  
12 We believe in the taxpayer. I don't care if it's  
13 federal government policy, state policy, county,  
14 town or village -- whenever we ask people for a  
15 fee or a license fee or something like that, or a  
16 tax, it's all the same person who pays.

17           So we have to -- whether it's  
18 160 billion or 170 billion, we'd better start  
19 thinking about the taxpayer. That's why we don't  
20 raise taxes. I repeat, we don't raise taxes.  
21 People in the State of New York pay too much  
22 money already. We have the highest tax burden in  
23 the country, even though we've made some strides.

24           So we want to make sure that we're  
25 having people move in and not move out. And it's

1 a multifaceted approach. In economic  
2 development, we need to review every single  
3 program that we have. We need to take a harder,  
4 closer look at every dollar that we spend. We  
5 need to do simple things like change the  
6 regulatory structure -- Senator Jacobs knows  
7 this -- in the State of New York to make it  
8 easier to do business.

9                   And opportunity, I think of  
10 opportunity in the context of everybody. Kids:  
11 After-school programs, art, music, theater.  
12 Adults: Gainful employment, whether you're a  
13 teenager or someone who's a millennial, someone  
14 who's middle-aged or maybe in the latter part of  
15 your career. That opportunity should transcend  
16 everything and apply to everybody.

17                   So again, affordability, opportunity  
18 and security. And I'm going to put this in  
19 context and I'm going to share my personal  
20 opinion. There's nobody in this chamber -- no  
21 matter where you live, no matter who you  
22 represent, everybody cares about people.  
23 Sometimes we come at it from different angles,  
24 but when you talk about security, I don't need to  
25 sit and talk to Joe Addabbo and ask him, Joe, do

1 you think we should take care of kids in school?

2 Yeah, everybody believes that.

3           We have a robust package that we  
4 think right now addresses some very acute needs  
5 in our schools. I just got out of a meeting with  
6 people talking about technology, how you can do  
7 more things at schools -- and everyone is exposed  
8 to this, the changing nature of this. Two or  
9 three weeks ago, now -- there were a thousand  
10 companies out there before, now there's 1500  
11 companies out there looking to help out. And  
12 frankly, some of them are looking to make a buck,  
13 but they're looking to help out with public  
14 safety and security.

15           So when I hear the comments, Well,  
16 this policy is not in there, this policy is not  
17 in there -- you know, we have, as I said, a  
18 deliberative process. But when the Governor  
19 comes in and puts a lot of policy proposals, we  
20 do actually believe that there should be a  
21 differentiation. And I personally believe that,  
22 and I've been here for a long time. These are  
23 thorny, delicate, substantive issues that require  
24 some more extended discussion.

25           Now, imagine -- I know it's not

1 going to happen, but imagine if we just finished  
2 the budget and left. If we did it the way the  
3 Governor wanted, that's probably what we could  
4 do. Because the way the Governor crafted his  
5 budget proposal, there really is no necessary  
6 function for the Senate or the Assembly. Let us  
7 figure it out, let DOB do it, let the agency  
8 heads do it.

9                   We don't believe that should be the  
10 case. We don't want to cede our authority, we  
11 don't want to usurp the role of the Executive.  
12 So when we talk about issues involving the things  
13 that were discussed here today, I don't mind  
14 taking time. I don't mind taking time. Because  
15 if we're going to do these things, gosh darn it,  
16 we need to do them right. We don't have any real  
17 room for error, particularly on things like  
18 security.

19                   So I'll close where I started.  
20 Thank you to everybody. Maybe the wrong phrase  
21 is let the games begin. Maybe we've been  
22 involved in the games already.

23                   (Laughter.)

24                   SENATOR FLANAGAN: But, you know,  
25 look. In reference to the people that I serve

1 with, and that is individually and collectively  
2 as a conference, but everybody here -- ladies and  
3 gentlemen, there is no reason in the world that  
4 we cannot have an on-time budget. There's no  
5 reason in the world that we shouldn't have an  
6 on-time budget. And every time I talk about  
7 this, I say the same thing. We don't deserve  
8 accolades, we don't deserve, Oh, hey, you guys  
9 did a great job, you passed a budget on time.  
10 That's the law. That's the law. Parker's  
11 smiling over there; he knows what I mean.

12 But that's a function of helping  
13 local governments, not-for-profits, taxpayers to  
14 know what our blueprint is. And we can do that  
15 by March 29th. There's no reason we can't do  
16 that. Is it going to be pretty along the way? I  
17 don't think so. I don't think so. It's going to  
18 be a little rough. I'm looking at Dave Valesky;  
19 he's going to be pushing and, you know, looking  
20 for things in Syracuse and his area, as is  
21 everybody in this room.

22 So I am confident that we can do  
23 this, but we're going to go at it from a  
24 different angle. We're going to talk about jobs.  
25 We're going to talk about jobs. I don't know

1 about you, but I looked and I read and I  
2 listened, whether it was verbally or in writing,  
3 there wasn't a lot of discussion about jobs  
4 except for what's coming out of this conference.

5           So if we're going to have that  
6 affordability, we're going to have that  
7 opportunity, and by extension we're going to have  
8 that security, whether it's for your adult member  
9 or family member who happens to be in a nursing  
10 home, or your kid who's on a college campus or  
11 your young child who's in a preschool program or  
12 something like that, or a childcare program,  
13 that's all encompassing.

14           Senator DeFrancisco, he doesn't even  
15 have to look at me. It is 4 o'clock. We're  
16 done. We're done. I thank everybody.  
17 Mr. President, let's get the work of the people  
18 of the great State of New York done in a timely  
19 fashion, and that means doing our work in earnest  
20 so we can finish and be proud on March 29th.

21           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
22 you. Thank you, Senator Flanagan. It may not be  
23 let the games begin, but it is March madness.

24           (Laughter.)

25           SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Is there any

1 further business --

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Yes,  
3 there is, Senator DeFrancisco.

4 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: There is?  
5 Well, what might that be?

6 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: I'm going  
7 to ask the Secretary to call the roll on the  
8 resolution.

9 (The Secretary called the roll.)

10 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Announce  
11 the results.

12 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 32. Nays,  
13 29.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
15 resolution is adopted.

16 Senator DeFrancisco, that completes  
17 the business before the desk.

18 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Well, now is  
19 there any further business at the desk?

20 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is  
21 nothing additionally before the desk.

22 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Well, in that  
23 case, I'll move to adjourn until tomorrow,  
24 Thursday, March 15th, at 11:00 a.m.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The



1 Senate stands adjourned until Thursday,  
2 March 15th, the Ides of March, at 11:00 a.m.  
3 (Whereupon, at 4:02 p.m., the Senate  
4 adjourned.)  
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