NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 3, 2020

3:39 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR BRIAN A. BENJAMIN, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone present to please rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: In the absence of clergy, let us bow our heads for a moment of silent reflection or prayer.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, March 2, 2020, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, March 1, 2020, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: On page 19, Senator

Carlucci moves to discharge, from the Committee on Transportation, Assembly Bill Number 6163 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 4336, Third Reading Calendar 352.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Substitution so ordered.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 2934.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: All in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 2934, please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The

Resolution Calendar is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: At this time can we recognize Senator Kennedy for an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kennedy for an introduction.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

It's a great honor and privilege of mine here today to rise and recognize many different students from Western New York, occupational therapy students that are here from D'Youville College, from the University at Buffalo, and from Erie Community College, SUNY ECC.

They are part of about 400 students that came down here today as part of the New York Occupational Therapy Association Lobby Day. It is truly a pleasure to see so many of them here.

I want to recognize the leadership of these wonderful institutions. From the University at Buffalo, we have Dr. Jan Tona, who is actually a previous professor of mine. Dr. Kim Persons is here as well, from the University at Buffalo. And Michaella Hayden, the

head of the Occupational Therapy Assistant School at SUNY ECC.

We also have with us, from my own alma mater, D'Youville College, in the class of occupational therapy, Dr. Lynn McGyver and Dr. Theresa Vallone, who also was a professor of mine. For those of you that don't know, I'm an occupational therapist by profession.

And these students are here, many of them for the first time, to see the beautiful institution of Albany, the work that we do here, lending their voices to the conversation and helping to effectuate positive change in a profession they're all studying and learning to make better.

And so with that, Mr. President, I just wanted to take this opportunity to recognize these wonderful student advocates, to give them the honor of the house, and please welcome them with all of the privileges that come with that.

Thank you for making your way all the way to the great State Capitol. Welcome, and we'll see you soon.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: To all of our students and teachers from --

(Scattered applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: To all of our students and teachers from Western New York, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you all of the privileges and courtesies of the house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, at this time can we take up Resolution 2934, by Leader Stewart-Cousins, read that resolution in its entirety, and recognize Senator Salazar to speak on the resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution 2934, by Senator Stewart-Cousins, memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2020 as Women's History Month in the State of New York.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"WHEREAS, In 1903, the Women's Trade Union League of New York was formed to represent working women, later becoming the nucleus for the

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; and

"WHEREAS, In 1917, New York guaranteed women the right to vote in all elections and in the following year the first two women, Ida Sammis and Mary Lilly, were elected to the New York State Legislature and became the first women to then serve in 1919; and

"WHEREAS, In 1955, Bessie Buchanan was the first African-American woman to serve in the New York State Legislature; and

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

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

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

"WHEREAS, In 1978, Olga Mendez

became the first Latina woman to serve in the New York State Legislature; and

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

"WHEREAS, In 2007, Ellen Young was the first Asian-American woman to serve in the New York State Legislature; and

"WHEREAS, In 2009, New Yorker Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic Justice appointed to the United States Supreme Court; and

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

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

women; and

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

"WHEREAS, Elizabeth Blackwell and Belva Lockwood were the first women in the fields of medicine and law; pioneer birth control educator and advocate Margaret Sanger established a research center in New York City; and

"WHEREAS, Emma Goldman founded the Free Speech League which led to the American Civil Liberties Union; humanitarian Eleanor Roosevelt served as United States Delegate to the United Nations; and

"WHEREAS, New Yorker Edith Windsor fought to expand marriage equality in the United States prior to the Marriage Equality Act of New York, which became law in 2011; and

"WHEREAS, Civil rights lawyer and

New York State Senator Constance Baker Motley became the first black woman to sit on the U.S. District Court in New York, and there have been so many more known and unknown women who championed rights and opportunity for all; and

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

"WHEREAS, 50 percent of statewide elected officials are women, and, for the first time, a woman has been elected Attorney General in the State of New York; and

"WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote in the United States; and

"WHEREAS, Today, 67 women serve in the New York State Legislature, making up 32 percent of the seats, holding leadership positions in both houses and bringing the diverse experiences of women into law and public policy;

now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2020 as Women's History Month in the State of New York; and be it further

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Salazar on the resolution.

SENATOR SALAZAR: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today we are celebrating that in 2020 women are far more than merely supportive characters in the success stories of other people's lives. We are recognizing that women are determining our own future and autonomy in our lives, that women are increasingly leading in our communities and in our workplaces, that we're finally occupying roles that have historically excluded us.

The history of the struggle for

gender equity and women's rights reminds us how truly remarkable it is for us to now serve under the exceptional leadership of not only the first woman, but the first black woman to become our Senate Majority Leader.

We celebrate that our gender no longer forbids us from entering the halls of power. And yet we cannot ignore that these halls are often still hostile toward women in other ways. Only 31 percent, less than one-third, of the members of this legislative body are women. And of course that's impressively high compared to the even lower representation of women within most state legislatures across the country.

This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the constitutional right to vote. But we know that the struggle for women's voting rights remained incomplete as long as African-American women and indigenous women in many states were still subjected to racially biased barriers that prevented them, even then, from freely exercising the right to vote until the 1960s.

And even while Women's History Month

is an opportunity to celebrate the progress that we've made together, it also provokes us to assess the historical and intersectional moment that we live in. Gender discrimination and threats to reproductive health and women's rights across the country only underscore the urgency of our fight here in New York.

In New York we can be proud that our state's gender pay ratio is the second highest of all 50 states, a mark of progress toward economic justice for women that has not come effortlessly, but rather is only because of strong equal pay laws and a mass movement of women -- along with those who stand in solidarity with women -- demanding the compensation and the roles that we deserve.

In the victories of our long history of struggling against gender discrimination, our first task was to demand recognition of our humanity. Our next task was to demand that we could fully participate in society. And our present task continues to be that we empower women to lead.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:

Senator Montgomery on the resolution.

SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to just thank our leader, who happens to be -- I guess to be the number-one woman in the State of New York who's made history for us most recently, our Majority Leader, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, for once again introducing this resolution to memorialize our Governor to establish this month as the Women's History Month in the State of New York.

I invite all of my colleagues to stop downstairs just before you enter the LOB and take a look at all of the women who are members of this Legislature this year. And I would say to you we're all making history in one way or another. And we were asked as women to identify the woman who to us represented something in our lives. And you will note that the woman that I recognized as my own personal person who has made history, who has inspired me, who has meant so much to so many people in America, is Harriet Tubman.

And the one word that I came up with to describe Harriet Tubman and how I feel about

her, is that she was a warrior. And you should know that now when I say that women, especially when we're engaged in something where we have to -- we have to make a stronger statement than our lipstick would indicate, is that we are Harrieting.

I have changed Harriet from a name to a verb, because I believe she represents the height of what women have contributed to America, and that is she has led people in a way and she has given her life and she has risked her life on behalf of others. That's what we do. That's what women represent to America, especially to New York.

And so today I want to thank -- again, I say to our leader Senator Harriet --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Senator Stewart-Cousins, who is Harrieting a lot because it takes a Harriet, a Harriet woman, to manage all of us in terms of being our leader. And she does that very well, admirably.

So I thank her for introducing this resolution, for making us aware of the importance -- our importance. We matter as

women. We matter as elected officials. And certainly we matter as citizens in our state. And I thank her for making sure that all of us take a moment and that the Governor establishes that this is the month that we will continue to honor ourselves as women in New York.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Little on the resolution.

SENATOR LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to take a moment to talk about two North Country women that I think are important in the women's movement.

One you've all seen a picture of before. Her name is Inez Mulholland, and she is on the white horse, all dressed in white, that rode the marches and led the marches into New York City and into Washington.

She is a New York City woman whose family had a summer home in Lewis, Essex County, and that is where she's buried. She died at the age of 30, still advocating for women's right to vote -- never did see the actual vote take place. But certainly a very brave and bold young women.

The second one is very important to all of us, whether you know it or not, and she also is a North Country woman, Rhoda Fox Graves. She was born in the Town of Fowler, which is in St. Lawrence County, which Senator Ritchie and Senator Griffo and I represent; I have a small part of it.

But when she was born, her mother died in childbirth. And what was very common then is she was taken to a neighbor's home, and that family started to raise her. And at the age of two, they adopted her, and she became Rhoda Fox. Her married name is Graves.

But this woman became very active as a Republican woman, acting in committees in the temperance movement and things in the North Country.

And when we had the right to vote in New York State in 1917, we had 12 women then ran for the Assembly. Two were elected. They only served one-year terms and were not reelected. Two more got elected, they did not serve more than the one-year term either.

Rhoda Fox Graves was elected in 1924, and she was elected to the Assembly. And

she was the first woman -- as we all know how important this is -- to be reelected. So that was her claim there. But she served for eight years in the Assembly. In 1932 she ran for the Senate. She did not win. But in 1934, she ran again and she won. And she was the first woman in this body, in the New York State Senate.

She was the first to chair a committee, as she chaired the Agriculture Committee. She served for 14 years in the New York State Senate. And one of her big pieces of legislation that she sponsored -- and you might not think it was very important, but at the time it was -- said that women should be on a jury. Because women were automatically not thought of to be on a jury because they had so many responsibilities {air quotes} at home.

So this allowed women to serve on a jury. And if you were on a trial as a female, I'm sure you wanted to look over at the jury box and see some peers there too. So that was one of her biggest accomplishments.

She served for 14 years. And we always hear about father-son inheriting or being elected to the same seat. This was a mother

Senator whose son, Paul, became the next Senator and succeeded her.

So a North Country woman that we're very proud of, and I just wanted to make sure everybody knew she was the first woman Senator here.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank the sponsors of the resolution and our leader for giving us the opportunity to speak and say something of the greatness of women.

And every man born of a woman needs to be able to take a moment and say, This is a great thing. Not simply because women are great, but they've come a great distance to get there. They have come an amazing distance. Society has held them back, but they have pushed their way forward regardless.

It's like a tide, and you cannot -- you can't stop the tide. You can stand in front of it, you can get wet, you can do all kinds of

stuff, but you're not going to stop the tide. Your better bet is to go with the tide, is to understand that the tide usually leads to a good place, that it is a fantastic thing. And if we could all just get in line with it, we'd get to a good place.

It is true that women are making considerably less than men in just about every category. It's also true that this does not aid men. Any man who seems to feel that there's something positive from that, you've missed the boat. Tide, boat. You've missed it.

And under those conditions, my friends, it doesn't aid the family, it doesn't aid anyone. We need to just stand up -- men need to stand up and say this foolishness of women not being paid the same amount needs to be stopped. Women can do just about everything that men can do, if not better.

And under those conditions, men have a role in the liberation of women, and that role is side by side. That role is to join in and make sure that every roadblock that exists is knocked down.

I want to say that -- and to just

state and thank all women -- women hold up half the sky. If the sky hasn't fallen down on our society, it's because, I would argue, women have held up a little bit more than their fair share.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, I was at a rally earlier today and I had -- I mentioned a Tupac lyric, but I'm going to mention another one. You know, since we all came from a woman, got our name from a woman and our game from a woman -- you know, the rest of it is kind of explicit. But I just wonder why we continue to take and not appreciate our women and our society as for what they are, and that's incredible.

You know, my biggest pride in this world is being a Girl Dad. Right? That's a common hashtag. But, you know, before the hashtag came out, I'm a Girl Dad, right? And I want my daughters to be able to understand that there is no limit, there is no ceiling on the amazing great things that they can do, and that's

in no other -- like, that cannot be embodied any better than our leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins. And I thank her for this resolution.

And Senator Salazar, thank you for leading off this resolution with your words. They were incredible.

But there are few things that we can talk about -- Senator Sanders touched on the equal pay for equal work. But I want to talk about -- Senator Montgomery mentioned Harrieting. Well, I'm going to use a new name, a noun to a verb, Velmanetting.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: Velmanetting. What is Velmanetting? That means to be the longest-serving woman in the chamber. That means to lead fiercely in the face of adversity. That means to mentor and to care and to teach. That's what Velmanetting is.

So, Senator Montgomery, rarely -- I am loath, I am loath really to ever disagree with you about anything, because I know better. I was taught by my mama very well. But I will disagree with you in saying that that's not the only word that we should be creating as part of our Senate

lexicon.

And Stenographer, let's just make sure we get Velmanetting into the permanent history and the records of the State Senate, and that we define it as, as W.E.B. Du Bois said, you know, there is no force equaled to a woman determined to rise.

And Senator Velmanette Montgomery, you have embodied that for so many years, and we have sessions worth of tributes to give to you.

And Tupac also said, There's no way I can pay you back, but the plan is to show you that I understand and you are appreciated.

I think that regardless of party, regardless of political ideology, affiliation, votes, there is not a person in this chamber now that has ever served in this chamber that could say a negative word about you and what you care about the people of the State of New York.

So we're going to start to Velmanette this, all right?

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: You know, we're going to -- you've got to start Velmanetting.

But I'll leave you with this. Thank

you for being an inspiration. And I thank all of my colleagues in this chamber for being incredible advocates for their communities, incredible warriors, incredible mothers, incredible friends, showing that, you know, that if not for you, there would be no us.

And I think there's no better way to leave that, Mr. President. I proudly vote aye on this resolution. I think it's an incredible job. And I thank all of the women in this august body.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Myrie on the resolution.

SENATOR MYRIE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank my colleagues who have already spoken so eloquently on this resolution.

I want to join Senator Bailey in honoring an icon in women's history that we have in our very midst right now, and we'd be remiss if we didn't adequately recognize the trailblazer that is Senator Velmanette Montgomery. She was elected in 1985. And in 1985 I was zero years old.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR MYRIE: And so to be able to serve with her in this chamber, to be able to be under her stewardship, her leadership, her mentorship, has really been the honor of my life.

So when we talk about women's history, we have to talk about women's present, and that is what Velmanette Montgomery is. She is the pinnacle of what a public servant is supposed to be. And so I just don't think of her as a State Senator that is a woman, I think I and everyone in this chamber will aspire to be a fraction of the State Senator that she has been for the State of New York over these past 35 years.

And so I am just so grateful to you, Senator Montgomery. I am grateful to what you represent, to the history that you've made and that you continue to make, and I proudly vote aye on this resolution as we honor Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Ramos on the resolution.

SENATOR RAMOS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Every time that we walk past our chamber, we walk past that painting from the 1800s that hangs just outside this room, which is of the State Senate I think around the 1800s. And this room looks very different today. Not just because there are so many more women legislators, but so many more people of color too.

And while I'm very appreciative of this resolution and us recognizing Women's History Month and everything that we have had to accomplish over the past hundreds of years, the truth is that we're just getting started.

And I think that here in New York, because we take great pride in leading our country and in thinking through critical issues, I want to say that more than recognizing those historical figures who have gone above and beyond, we should recognize the women who toil in the workplace every day, behind a sewing machine, taking care of our babies, cleaning our houses, answering phones.

We talk about equal pay in terms of women's pay only being 77 cents to the man's dollar, but we know that that's not true for

black women, we know that that's not true for Latinas, for women who look like me who barely get to rub two quarters together.

And so to me, when we are able to address issues as granting rights to farmworkers, farmworker women, who are often sexually harassed on the field, when we talk about transgender women who are profiled by the police, it is our duty here now, when we're recognizing Women's History Month, that we accept our responsibility in continuing to create history and fighting for every single woman, no matter who they are or what they look like.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Krueger on the resolution.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

So this is my 18th year in the Senate, so I guess it's my 18th Women's History Month. And I just rise to smile and to say yes, we have much further to go, but how far we've come in 18 years.

I remember one year standing up and saying, I don't accept that this is the day we

treat women with respect in the Senate, because it implies we aren't worthy of it the other 364 days a year.

And I remember the day someone stood up and talked about how much it helped the Senate when a woman joined and she put flowers on her desk every day, and what a difference that made. And I suspect there's no one in this chamber today who would think that's the difference between having men or women or diversity in the Senate.

And I have watched as younger women have moved into the Senate, as women of color have moved into the Senate, as our own great leader, who perhaps is the epitome of exactly who we want to see as a leader in the New York State Senate, regardless of party -- and realize that we're all part of women's history. And some of us are more or less comfortable with the changes we are living through in our lives, and there is far more to do and far further to go.

But I am thrilled to hear my colleagues standing and talking about the role of women in our history and in our future, and their colleagues, in a context that actually makes

sense in the world that we live in.

So I just wanted to stand and thank my leader for carrying this resolution again this year and for all my colleagues who have spoken on it today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Akshar on the resolution.

SENATOR AKSHAR: Mr. President, thank you.

I listened to Senator Bailey, I was incredibly attentive when he was talking. I too, probably not to the same degree as you, but have been Velmanetted a time or two in my short tenure here while being in the lounge.

But I can't help think, for all of us here today, that we really are incredibly lucky, whether we're in our first session, our 16th session -- you've been Velmanetted many times, I've been Bettied many times.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR AKSHAR: We are incredibly lucky to have two women like Senator Montgomery and Senator Little that have been leaders and trailblazers -- not only for the women in our

respective conferences in this particular house, and other elected officials, but for all of us. All of us.

So it's a great resolution, but I just wanted to -- on your heels, talking about being Velmanetted -- let the house know that I of course have been Bettied a time or two in my tenure, and we are all incredibly lucky.

Mr. President, I vote aye on the resolution.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Opposed?

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: At the request of Leader Stewart-Cousins, that resolution is open for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you

choose not to be a cosponsor of the resolution, please notify the desk.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: At this time let us take up the reading of the calendar, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 52, Senate Print 1146A, by Senator Carlucci, an act to amend the Town Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 52, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Akshar, Amedore, Borrello, Griffo, Helming, Jacobs, Jordan, Ortt, O'Mara,

Ranzenhofer, Ritchie, Robach, Seward and Tedisco. Also Senator Lanza. Also Senator Serino.

Ayes, 46. Nays, 16.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 145, Senate Print 4504A, by Senator Parker, an act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 145, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Funke, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Jacobs, Jordan, LaValle, O'Mara, Ortt, Ranzenhofer, Serino and Tedisco.

Ayes, 49. Nays, 13.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 350, Senate Print 1632A, by Senator Skoufis, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 352, Assembly Print Number 6163, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Mosley, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call

the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Carlucci to explain his vote.

SENATOR CARLUCCI: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation.

Unfortunately, each year, around 40,000 Americans are killed in an automobile accident, half of which are not wearing seat belts. We know now that if you're not wearing a seat belt in a vehicle and you experience a crash, you're eight times more likely to be killed or injured.

Back in 1984, New York State was the first state in the nation to require people to wear a seat belt in the front seat. Since that time, over 30 states have now adopted back-seat seat belt laws. Let's not be the last state. Let's require everyone, no matter where you're sitting in the vehicle, to wear your seat belt.

In doing that, we'll be congruent with our laws and our actions and what we say. And we've seen other states that have these laws

on the books; they have more people wearing their seat belts.

The simple fact is you're not any safer in the back seat. So we have to make that message loud and clear by passing this legislation, which has already passed in the Assembly, getting it on the Governor's desk and signed into law -- we're going to send that message loud and clear that you have to wear your seat belt wherever you are. It's 2020. We thought we were done with this debate, but we have to change the paradigm.

And with the increase in ridesharing, we have more and more people riding in the back seat of vehicles. And the simple fact is that not only are you a jeopardy to yourself if you're not wearing a seat belt, but you become a major problem to the occupant in front of you. In fact, you're two times more likely to kill the occupant in front of you even if they're wearing a seat belt.

So let's pass this legislation, let's do the right thing. And in doing so, we will save lives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Carlucci to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Kennedy to explain his vote.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank the bill's sponsor, Senator Carlucci, for bringing this important bill to the floor. I also want to thank our leadership, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, for bringing this as well.

This is an important bill that will save lives here in the State of New York and continue the precedent of protecting the public and ensuring that all individuals in a vehicle are protected, are safe.

We are prioritizing safety today. This bill will go a long way to not only protecting the occupants in a -- from serious injury but also from death. And as the bill's sponsor has already mentioned, there have been thousands of deaths and serious injuries that have been preventable across this state and across this country, but the laws have not kept up with society, at least not here in the State of New York.

So today they are. Today we are passing this bill that will ensure that all occupants will not only be protected in the event of a crash or an accident, but also keep those around them in the vehicle from being hurt, as when that crash happens, that individual becomes a projectile in the vehicle.

So I again thank the bill's sponsor and leadership. And with that, Mr. President, I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kennedy to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Metzger to explain her vote.

SENATOR METZGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

So a constituent of mine who teaches drivers' safety brought this fact to my attention last year, that back-seat passengers didn't have to wear a seat belt if they were 16 or over. Which -- you know, it was deeply ingrained by my father that you wear a seat belt in the car, and that's it. And it's shocking, it's actually really shocking to me that to this day, this has been the case.

So I really want to thank the

sponsor, Senator Carlucci, for introducing this bill. It is going to save thousands and thousands of lives. And I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Metzger to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 352, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Akshar, Funke, Gallivan, Griffo, Jacobs, Little, Ortt and Ritchie.

Ayes, 54. Nays, 8.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 357, Senate Print 6229, by Senator May, an act to amend the Transportation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator

May to explain her vote.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I want to thank the chair of the Transportation Committee, Senator Kennedy, and the leadership for bringing this bill to the floor.

So transportation -- public transportation is supposed to connect people from where they are to where they want to go. But in upstate New York, in rural New York, a lot of public transportation is organized by county or even smaller jurisdictions. And so if you need to get to a doctor's appointment or a grocery store that's across county lines, you can forget about using public transportation.

So this will coordinate among the different systems and make it more possible for people to actually use public transportation.

But even more importantly, one thing we've found is that the Medicaid system has started paying people to use -- or enabling people to use taxis to get where they go, and that has sapped away clientele from public transportation and made it even harder to

maintain public transportation systems in our rural areas.

So this bill is aimed to both coordinate and enable better usage of our public transportation systems.

So thank you for helping me bring this bill forward, and I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator May to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 440, Senate Print 2936, by Senator Kaminsky, an act to amend the Town Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 444, Senate Print 5895, by Senator Gaughran, an act to amend the General Municipal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 467, Senate Print 3652, by Senator Biaggi, an act to amend the Domestic Relations Law and the Executive Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 6. This

act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: In relation to Calendar Number 467, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Akshar, Borrello, Flanagan, Funke, Griffo, Helming, Jacobs, Jordan, O'Mara, Ortt, Ranzenhofer, Tedisco. Also Senator Robach.

Ayes, 49. Nays, 13.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 491, Senate Print 1549A, by Senator Kennedy, an act to amend the Highway Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 491, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Akshar, Amedore, Borrello, Boyle, Flanagan, Funke, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Jacobs, Jordan, Lanza, Little, O'Mara, Ortt, Ranzenhofer, Ritchie, Robach, Serino, Seward and Tedisco.

Ayes, 41. Nays, 21.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 492, Senate Print 1643, by Senator Brooks, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The

bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 494, Senate Print 2773, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the Public Authorities Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside for the day.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill will be laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 495, Senate Print 3450B, by Senator Stavisky, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the first of April.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 495, voting in the negative: Senator Akshar.

Ayes, 61. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The

bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 496, Senate Print 3557, by Senator Kennedy, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 496, voting in the negative: Senator Akshar.

Ayes, 61. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 500, Senate Print 6094A, by Senator Kennedy, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law and the Transportation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read

the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 7. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kennedy to explain his vote.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President.

First of all, I want to thank the Transportation Committee for helping to move this bill through, as well as Leader Stewart-Cousins for bringing this bill to the floor.

This bill before us seeks to address an important object: To ensure the safety of highway workers here in the State of New York. Every day the lives of highway workers are put in danger, whether that be because of reckless drivers, those who fail to obey traffic control in a work area, those who fail to slow down in speed zones -- the list goes on and on and on, unfortunately.

These workers dedicate their lives

to making our roads safer, and in doing so often they're putting their own lives at risk. That is not right, and enough is enough. By creating a new fine structure for those who violate the law, New York is sending a clear message: Slow down or pay up, pay the consequences.

These fines, which can range from $500 to $5,000, depending on the offense, are designed to ensure that those who endanger the lives of highway workers are held accountable.

Furthermore, the bill mandates that 60 percent of the fees collected from these fines be paid to the new Work Zone Safety Fund, which will be used to provide work zone safety enforcement, zone markings and radar speed devices, and police monitoring of these work zones.

The state will also be responsible for conducting public outreach campaigns about work zone safety to ensure that drivers are properly slowing down and yielding to highway workers, and that they understand the consequences if they fail to follow the law.

Let us be very clear. No appointment or obligation is so pressing that it

justifies jeopardizing the lives of others. Ultimately this legislation is centering around creating stronger safety standards and protecting those who are simply out there doing their job to the betterment of the State of New York.

I firmly believe that this legislation is going to help prevent future tragedies, which is why I am asking all of our colleagues to join in voting aye.

With that, Mr. President, I do so myself. Thank you so much.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kennedy to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of today's calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, there is a privileged resolution at the desk. Please take up that resolution, read its title, and recognize Senator Mayer to speak on the resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: There

is a privileged resolution at the desk.

There is a substitution at the desk. The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senators Mayer and Stavisky move to substitute Assembly Concurrent Resolution Number 818, by Assemblymembers Benedetto and Glick, and substitute it for the identical Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 2943.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Assembly Resolution 818, Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly providing for the election of six Regents of the University of the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Mayer on the resolution.

SENATOR MAYER: Thank you, Mr. President.

It's my honor, as the chair of the Senate Education Committee, to speak in support of this resolution that renames a number of current members of the Board of Regents for

another five-year term, and names a new Regent, Dr. Frances Wills, to the Board of Regents.

I do think it's important that we actually read the names of these individuals. They're going to serve in one of the most important roles in our state as members of the Board of Regents, which has the extraordinary responsibility of setting education policy from early childhood to post-college for students throughout the state.

This is a volunteer position, and yet it is a very demanding one and one that is important to students, parents, taxpayers and in fact all the citizens of the state.

So after a process of interviewing and considering reappointments, we are today resolving that Dr. Kathleen Cashin, of the County of Kings, be reelected Regent; that Beverly Ouderkirk, of the County of St. Lawrence, be reelected Regent; that Dr. Catherine Fisher Collins, of the County of Erie, be reelected; that Roger Tilles, of the County of Nassau, be reelected; and that Lester W. Young, Jr., of the County of Queens, be reelected, each for a five-year term.

We also are electing Dr. Frances Wills, who's joining us here in the chamber today, from the County of Westchester, to be elected Regent of the University of the State of New York from the 9th Judicial District, for a term of five years.

I'd like to speak briefly about one of the ones we are naming for another term, Dr. Lester Young. We were very saddened and in fact distressed by the death of the Regent that represented our district, Judith Johnson, earlier in 2019. She was a powerful figure. She represented an extraordinary commitment to equity and to ensuring that every child, every child in the state had the opportunity to succeed through public schools.

She had her passion and her heart. She also had intelligence, drive, a tremendous amount of resilience, and the ability to be a productive leader in fighting for every child. When she passed away, our remarkable Chancellor, Betty Rosa, asked Dr. Lester Young to sort of step into her footsteps until we named a new Regent.

And I can say that last week,

Dr. Young spoke at a Black History Month celebration for the Yonkers Public Schools in a most passionate and meaningful way, and he showed us what a Regent can do by exerting leadership, by talking about principles, by relating to the people in our community, and by pushing our state in a positive direction to assure justice and equity for every student.

It was a very powerful speech, and he's been a powerful figure. And I do want to acknowledge his leadership.

With that, let me mention that we are today voting on and electing Dr. Frances Wills to be elected Regent for the 9th Judicial District.

Again, Senator Stavisky and I and our colleagues participated in a rigorous interview process, and we're proud to select Dr. Wills to be our Regent for our district.

Dr. Wills has a distinguished history. She served as Superintendent of Schools in Putnam Valley and retired in 2019; Superintendent of Schools of the Briarcliff Manor Schools in Westchester; Superintendent of Schools of Maine School Administrative District No. 34.

She has a long history of being a very successful superintendent who was able to bring teachers, parents and all other stakeholders together on behalf of the greater school community.

She created a positive and productive environment for teaching and learning. And in fact, she brought the head of the teachers' union to her interview in support of her application.

She increased student opportunities through an inclusive and successful science research program. And she increased student achievement in every school, including a rural school in Maine that faced challenges of poor students who needed their school to be the path forward.

Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and I had a very productive meeting with Dr. Wills this week in which we had a frank conversation about the fact that our Senate Majority and Minority wants to be sure that our Regent will be responsive to each of our districts and understanding of our commitment to equity for every student, regardless of where they live.

In return, she wrote us a lovely letter, and I want to read a sentence: "I am eager to join the Board of Regents in support of the educational enterprise in New York State. More than ever, our voices are needed to advocate on behalf of those who are less able to access the avenues of success, and to empower all students in their life path."

I'm very pleased to be part of the process of electing her to the Board of Regents. I'm confident she will serve with distinction, with responsiveness, with commitment to the principles that Judith Johnson began for us, and will be part of a robust Board of Regents under the leadership of Betty Rosa.

So it's with those comments, Mr. President, that I speak on behalf of this resolution. And after we are finished, I hope we will recognize Dr. Wills for her presence here today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Stavisky on the resolution.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I'm delighted to cosponsor the resolution, as chair of the Higher Education Committee, with Senator Mayer.

I've said it many times, but the Regents have a long tradition of history in the State of New York. In fact, it's the longest-serving body directing education policy in the country.

And in fact, we talk about the laws that we have passed; the Regents were created according to Chapter 51 of the Laws of 1784, and we have continued that tradition for many years since.

And interestingly, in 1786, two years after the Regents were created, there was a bill introduced in the Assembly sponsored by an Assemblyman who was a Regent, changing the makeup. And that Assemblymember was Alexander Hamilton.

So you have a long history to work with, but I know that the Regents are going to continue the work that was started in 1784.

And I do want to congratulate the Regents, the people who are being reappointed. Senator Mayer mentioned Dr. Young. He is a

resident of my county, the county which I represent. And I must say I was so impressed with him five years ago when he first filled a vacancy from Adelaide Sanford, if my memory is correct.

But he set the bar very high for the interviews that first session that we interviewed. And I am so happy that he has agreed to continue his service as a Regent, because he exemplifies, I think, education in New York State. Because he started as a teacher and then he rose through the ranks as a supervisor, a superintendent. He was I believe a deputy commissioner of education at one time.

And this is true of the other people who are being reappointed as well; they all have extraordinary backgrounds. And I thank them for their service, and I congratulate the new Regent, Dr. Wills. And I'm sure that you will continue the tradition that was started by Alexander Hamilton.

So I thank you all very much, and wish all of the Regents well.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Leader

Andrea Stewart-Cousins on the resolution.

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

I rise also to commend all of our Regents who are being reappointed. I also echo the comments of Senator Mayer and Senator Stavisky as it relates to Dr. Young, who has been exemplary in his example.

I also want to mention Dr. Cashin and Dr. Catherine Fisher Collins, who I know personally, all of whom have really worked with all of the other Regents to create the body that we envision it to be here in New York. And so I'm really, really happy to add to that auspicious group, which also includes Beverly Ouderkirk and Roger Tilles.

I want to welcome our own Dr. Frances Wills. She and I have known each other for quite some time, having had an opportunity to represent Briarcliff for a short time and being involved in a lot of the different programs that happen in Westchester County.

Dr. Wills has really impressed us as being someone who will be able to step in with a perspective that really engenders what education

is all about -- not only excellence, not only knowledge, but a real understanding of how to bring people in, to meet them where they are, and to accentuate the positive that people need in order to succeed in life.

She's talked about every aspect, whether it was rural or suburban. Certainly the focus that Judith Johnson had on equity is something that is very important to Dr. Wills, and we talked about it and some of the ways that she's found to bring people along and to cultivate an atmosphere of inclusivity.

We are paying such close attention to the Regents. I think many years ago it was something that people didn't quite understand in terms of what the Regents meant to the quality of education that was actually offered our kids. And it was right around -- we talked about right around Common Core where everyone started focusing on who's in charge, who's making these policies, and what are these Regents doing.

And now those of us who are so committed to public education are very, very clear about the caliber of person we want and need to direct our policies here in New York

State.

And I'm happy that we all agree that Dr. Wills is certainly someone who will continue to bring us to be the absolute best. And, you know, as she works towards that, this body will be supporting you and all of your colleagues as you do what we know is so important to all of us here in New York.

So I want to congratulate Dr. Wills. Thank you, Senator Mayer and Senator Stavisky, for your leadership in this. And we look forward to continue working with you.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Serino on the resolution.

SENATOR SERINO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to today to speak about Dr. Fran Wills. I've known Dr. Fran Wills and worked with her for a few years now, and I'm so happy to be here for her election as Regent to the 9th District.

When Dr. Wills' name came up, our office received numerous phone calls from people who wanted to see her in this role -- people who

complimented her ability to listen and to lead, something that I saw firsthand when we worked on a major project in my district, the Pudding Street Overpass, which we're all familiar with, coming up the Taconic Parkway, a project that will directly improve safety for our children.

And this is just a small line in Dr. Wills' resume that sums up her work. "Dr. Wills created networks to increase student voice, parent partnerships, faculty investments in growth, and the belief that all students can learn."

I wish her all the best as she works to build on this legacy as she takes on this new role, working to empower students across the state.

Thank you, Dr. Wills, and congratulations.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to applaud all of the Regents who are being appointed and reappointed. I'm sure all are fantastic people.

I want to pay special attention to two who I have had the pleasure of working with; of course, Lester Young and Kathy Cashin. Both are outstanding.

Lester has been -- Mr. Young has been around and has -- as was stated earlier, has come up through the ranks.

Kathy Cashin I have actually had the pleasure -- when I was a school board president, she was my superintendent, so I worked hand in hand with her to see how we can raise the grades of the different people. And I can attest that she is one of the hardest workers that I know and extremely passionate on this issue of education. This is not just a job, this is not even a career, this is -- for her, this is life.

So I again applaud all of the Regents and bring special recognition to those two.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator LaValle on the resolution.

SENATOR LaVALLE: Mr. President, I rise to speak on the resolution and in particular about Roger Tilles, Regent Roger Tilles, who

represents the 10th Judicial District.

In my mind, he should be a model for all our Regents. He is a full-time Regent, he is able to do that. And he interacts with school districts, visits school districts, and he knows what's going on in the 10th Judicial District.

So he is a reelection, I guess this is his third election to the -- being a member of the Board of Regents. And I don't think we realize -- some of us do -- the depth and the range that the Regents have within our education system and professions and beyond. So I heartily endorse the reelection of Regent Roger Tilles.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Montgomery on the resolution.

SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to just say very briefly that I am especially proud to be able to vote once again for the reelection, I suppose, of Dr. Lester Young in particular. I served with him when he was superintendent of Community School District 13 in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings.

And I know that some of my

colleagues claim him as a Queens person, but I must say that he has done a major contribution to not just Queens, but certainly to Kings, to Brooklyn, to the young people in particular in the Borough of Brooklyn, especially in the district that I represent.

He was an innovator when he was superintendent of Community School District 13. And he was a mentor to the other professionals that he was supervisor of. He worked with parents and was able to help parents understand and become part and participants in their children's education. He's worked with elected officials in helping us to understand those things that we can do that would make a difference for children in our districts and in our state.

He was responsible for developing the My Brother's Keeper program, which is statewide and has been very successful in helping young people to improve their possibilities as students. And so I am really indebted to him for what he represents for children in this state.

And I want to also thank and represent a special recognition of Dr. Kathy

Cashin, who has also been there. I am so impressed that we now have a Regents, a Board of Regents that are involved, that work with us, that make us know who they are and who want to reach out to make sure that we're working with them, and they with us, in making it a better place, a better educational system, more successful for our young people.

So I thank them. And I especially want to just say to Dr. Young and Dr. Cashin, we appreciate you and you are Brooklyn.

Thank you.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The question is on the resolution. The Secretary will call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Assembly Concurrent Resolution 818, those Senators recorded in the negative are Senators Akshar, Amedore, Borrello, Boyle, Flanagan, Funke, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming,

Jacobs, Jordan, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Ranzenhofer, Robach, Seward and Tedisco.

Ayes, 44. Nays, 18.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The resolution is adopted.

Dr. Frances G. Wills, congrats on your election to the Board of Regents. Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, let me remind my colleagues that at the conclusion of session there will be a Majority conference in the Majority Conference Room. And with that, is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: There will be a Majority conference in the Majority Conference Room.

There is no further business at the desk.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 4th, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 4th, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 4:50 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)