

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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3  
4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 March 9, 2021

11 3:12 p.m.

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13  
14 REGULAR SESSION

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18 SENATOR JAMAAL T. BAILEY, Acting President

19 ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

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

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

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

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

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: In the  
9 absence of clergy, let us bow our heads in a  
10 moment of silent reflection or prayer.

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

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
14 reading of the Journal.

15 THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday,  
16 March 8, 2021, the Senate met pursuant to  
17 adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, March 7,  
18 2021, was read and approved. On motion, Senate  
19 adjourned.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Without  
21 objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

22 Presentation of petitions.

23 Messages from the Assembly.

24 Messages from the Governor.

25 Reports of standing committees.

1 Reports of select committees.

2 Communications and reports from  
3 state officers.

4 Motions and resolutions.

5 Senator Gianaris.

6 SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, I  
7 offer amendments to the following Third Reading  
8 Calendar bills:

9 Sponsored by Senator Gianaris,  
10 page 10, Calendar 186, Senate Print 166;

11 And by Senator Kaplan, page 27,  
12 Calendar 473, Senate 4704.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
14 amendments are received, and the bills shall  
15 retain their place on the Third Reading Calendar.

16 SENATOR GIANARIS: Can we take up  
17 the calendar at this time.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
19 Secretary will read.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 198, Senate Print 1633, by Senator Skoufis, an  
22 act to amend the Executive Law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
24 last section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

1 act shall take effect immediately.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
6 the results.

7 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
8 Calendar 198, those Senators voting in the  
9 negative are Senators Akshar, Borrello, Boyle,  
10 Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Jordan, Lanza,  
11 Martucci, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt,  
12 Palumbo, Rath, Ritchie, Serino, Stec, Tedisco and  
13 Weik.

14 Ayes, 43. Nays, 20.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
16 is passed.

17 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
18 199, Senate Print 2884, by Senator May, an act to  
19 amend the Executive Law.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
21 last section.

22 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
23 act shall take effect on the 120th day after it  
24 shall have become a law.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the

1 roll.

2 (The Secretary called the roll.)

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
4 the results.

5 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
6 Calendar Number 199, those Senators voting in the  
7 negative are Senators Akshar, Borrello, Boyle,  
8 Felder, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Jordan, Lanza,  
9 Martucci, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt,  
10 Palumbo, Rath, Ritchie, Serino, Stec, Tedisco and  
11 Weik.

12 Ayes, 42. Nays, 21.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
14 is passed.

15 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
16 223, Senate Print 1187, by Senator Gianaris, an  
17 act to amend the Insurance Law.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
19 last section.

20 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
21 act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
23 roll.

24 (The Secretary called the roll.)

25 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce

1 the results.

2 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
4 is passed.

5 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
6 308, Senate Print 2115, by Senator Bailey, an act  
7 to amend the Penal Law.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
9 last section.

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

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
13 roll.

14 (The Secretary called the roll.)

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
16 the results.

17 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
19 is passed.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 361, Senate Print 2623, by Senator Jackson, an  
22 act to amend the Labor Law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
24 last section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

1 act shall take effect immediately.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
6 the results.

7 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
8 Calendar 361, those Senators voting in the  
9 negative are Senators Akshar, Borrello, Boyle,  
10 Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Jordan, Lanza,  
11 Martucci, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt,  
12 Palumbo, Rath, Ritchie, Serino, Stec, Tedisco and  
13 Weik.

14 Ayes, 43. Nays, 20.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
16 is passed.

17 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
18 362, Senate Print 2928A, by Senator Addabbo, an  
19 act to amend the Workers' Compensation Law.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
21 last section.

22 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
23 act shall take effect on the first of January.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
25 roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
3 the results.

4 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
5 Calendar 362, those Senators voting in the  
6 negative are Senators Akshar, Borrello, Boyle,  
7 Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Jordan, Lanza,  
8 Martucci, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt,  
9 Palumbo, Rath, Ritchie, Serino, Stec, Tedisco and  
10 Weik.

11 Ayes, 43. Nays, 20.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
13 is passed.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 429, Senate Print 33, by Senator Kaplan, an act  
16 to amend the State Administrative Procedure Act.

17 SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Lay the  
19 bill aside.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 479, Senate Print 3563, by Senator Breslin, an  
22 act to amend the Insurance Law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
24 last section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This



1 act shall take effect immediately.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
6 the results.

7 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
9 is passed.

10 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
11 497, Senate Print 4844A, by Senator Biaggi, an  
12 act to amend the Labor Law.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
14 last section.

15 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
16 act shall take effect on the 180th day after it  
17 shall have become a law.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
19 roll.

20 (The Secretary called the roll.)

21 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
22 the results.

23 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
24 Calendar Number 497, voting in the negative:  
25 Senator Helming.

1                   Ayes, 62.   Nays, 1.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The bill  
3   is passed.

4                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
5   500, Senate Print 1364, by Senator Serrano, an  
6   act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic  
7   Preservation Law.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Read the  
9   last section.

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

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Call the  
13   roll.

14                                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

15                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Announce  
16   the results.

17                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 63.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The bill  
19   is passed.

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

22                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    Thank you,  
23   Mr. President.   Let's move on to the  
24   controversial calendar.

25                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The

1 Secretary will ring the bell.

2 The Secretary will read.

3 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
4 429, Senate Print 33, by Senator Kaplan, an act  
5 to amend the State Administrative Procedure Act.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
7 Lanza, why do you rise?

8 SENATOR LANZA: Mr. President, I  
9 believe there's an amendment at the desk. I  
10 waive the reading of that amendment and ask that  
11 you recognize Senator Oberacker to be heard.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
13 you, Senator Lanza.

14 Upon review of the amendment, in  
15 accordance with Rule 6, Section 4B, I rule it  
16 nongermane and out of order at this time.

17 SENATOR LANZA: Accordingly,  
18 Mr. President, I appeal the ruling of the chair  
19 and ask that Senator Oberacker be recognized.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
21 appeal has been made and recognized, and  
22 Senator Oberacker may be heard.

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

25 I would argue this amendment is

1     germane because the bill-in-chief relates to the  
2     small business liaisons.

3             By the way, it's a good bill that  
4     would help our businesses across the state, and  
5     I'm planning on supporting it. But it would be a  
6     great bill with this amendment.

7             Over the last year the Governor  
8     has issued directives and mandates directly  
9     impacting our small businesses, many with no  
10    scientific reasoning. This legislation is a true  
11    repeal. In contrast, the bill passed last week  
12    is not a clean repeal but rather an extension of  
13    the Governor's emergency powers.

14            My colleagues and I continue to  
15    bring this amendment because it is the right  
16    thing and would fully restore this Legislature as  
17    a coequal branch of government.

18            You know, I've heard this argument  
19    from my friends across the aisle, that the action  
20    last week is enough. But for the people of  
21    New York, it is greatly lacking. Small landlords  
22    continue to call my office because renters are  
23    claiming they don't have to pay the rent. So the  
24    Governor says so.

25            Tourism-related businesses

1 throughout my district still need to know how to  
2 plan for the upcoming summer season. My answer  
3 today is same as it was last week: It's up to  
4 the Governor.

5               Forget the window dressing and the  
6 small print, we need a true repeal of the  
7 Governor's overreaching powers. That what this  
8 amendment will accomplish.

9               We are duly elected members of this  
10 Legislature, sent here on behalf of our  
11 constituents to be their voice, not stand by  
12 while one man makes all the decisions.

13              Our state is at a difficult  
14 crossroads. The pandemic has left us facing a  
15 number of social and economic issues. We have a  
16 looming deficit that only has been exacerbated by  
17 the pandemic, and we are now just over three  
18 weeks away from the budget deadline. We need to  
19 bring this Legislature back to the table and get  
20 to work on the serious issues facing this state.  
21 We cannot do that with an embattled Governor  
22 calling all the shots.

23              For these reasons, we will continue  
24 to bring this amendment. And I urge all of my  
25 Senate colleagues to join in doing the right

1     thing. Support this critical amendment, and get  
2     back to the people's business.

3                     Thank you, Mr. President.

4                     ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
5     you, Senator Oberacker.

6                     I want to remind the house that the  
7     vote is on the procedures of the house and the  
8     ruling of the chair.

9                     Those in favor of overruling the  
10    chair signify by saying aye.

11                    SENATOR LANZA: Request a show of  
12    hands.

13                    SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President,  
14    we've agreed to waive the showing of hands and  
15    record each member of the Minority in the  
16    affirmative.

17                    ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Without  
18    objection, so ordered.

19                    Announce the results.

20                    THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 20.

21                    ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
22    ruling of the chair stands, and the bill-in-chief  
23    is before the house.

24                    Are there any other Senators wishing  
25    to be heard?

1           Seeing and hearing none, debate is  
2 now closed. The Secretary will ring the bell.

3           Read the last section.

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

6           ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
7 roll.

8           (The Secretary called the roll.)

9           ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
10 the results.

11          THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

12          ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
13 is passed.

14          Senator Gianaris, that completes the  
15 reading of the controversial calendar.

16          SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you,  
17 Mr. President.

18          If we can now return to motions and  
19 resolutions, I move to adopt the  
20 Resolution Calendar.

21          ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: All in  
22 favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar please  
23 signify by saying aye.

24          (Response of "Aye.")

25          ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Opposed,

1     nay.

2                     (No response.)

3                     ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     The  
4     Resolution Calendar is adopted.

5                     Senator Gianaris.

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

8                     At this time can we take up  
9     previously adopted Resolution 403, by  
10    Leader Stewart-Cousins, read that resolution in  
11    its entirety, and recognize Senator Salazar on  
12    the resolution.

13                    ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     The  
14    Secretary will read.

15                    THE SECRETARY:     Senate Resolution  
16    403, by Senator Stewart-Cousins, memorializing  
17    Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2021  
18    as Women's History Month in the State of  
19    New York.

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

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

24                    "WHEREAS, Each year New York State  
25    officially sets aside time to recognize the



1 unique contributions that New York women have  
2 made to New York State and beyond; and

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

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

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

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

21 "WHEREAS, In 1917, New York  
22 guaranteed women the right to vote in all  
23 elections, and in the following year the first  
24 two women, Ida Sammis and Mary Lilly, were  
25 elected to the New York State Legislature and

1 became the first women to then serve in 1919; and

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

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

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

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

19 "WHEREAS, In 1978, Olga Mendez  
20 became the first Latina woman to serve in the  
21 New York State Legislature; and

22 "WHEREAS, In 1983, New York State  
23 women legislators established the Legislative  
24 Women's Caucus to improve the participation of  
25 women in all areas of government, support issues

1 that benefit women, and provide a network of  
2 support for women in the State Legislature; and

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

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

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

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

21 "WHEREAS, Carrie Chapman Catt became  
22 the first president of the League of Women  
23 Voters; Emma Willard opened the first endowed  
24 institution for the education of women; Civil War  
25 surgeon Dr. Mary E. Walker was the only woman

1 ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;  
2 Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist who led slaves  
3 to freedom by way of the Underground Railroad in  
4 the 19th century; and

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

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

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

19 "WHEREAS, Civil rights lawyer and  
20 New York State Senator Constance Baker Motley  
21 became the first black woman to sit on the U.S.  
22 District Court in New York, and there have been  
23 so many more known and unknown women who  
24 championed rights and opportunity for all; and

25 "WHEREAS, New York State has hosted

1 many conventions, campaigns and events of the  
2 Women's Rights Movement, from the 1848 convention  
3 at Seneca Falls to the 1999 Berkshire Conference  
4 of Women Historians, which was held to improve  
5 the status of women in history and in the  
6 historical professions; and

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

11 "WHEREAS, 2021 marks the 101st  
12 anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which  
13 guaranteed women the right to vote in the  
14 United States; and

15 "WHEREAS, Today, 73 women serve in  
16 the New York State Legislature, making up  
17 34 percent of the seats, holding leadership  
18 positions in both houses and bringing the diverse  
19 experiences of women into law and public policy;  
20 now, therefore, be it

21 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
22 Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize  
23 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2021  
24 as Women's History Month in the State of  
25 New York; and be it further

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

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Senator  
7 Salazar on the resolution.

8                   SENATOR SALAZAR:     Thank you,  
9 Madam President.

10                  We began this week with people all  
11 around the world recognizing International  
12 Women's Day, as well as the month of March as  
13 Women's History Month.

14                  While International Women's Day is  
15 observed across the globe, its roots are traced  
16 back to New York. The very first National  
17 Women's Day commemorated the direct action taken  
18 by workers in 1908 when 15,000 women marched  
19 through New York City demanding shorter work  
20 hours, better pay, and voting rights.

21                  This resolution today to recognize  
22 Women's History Month, introduced by Majority  
23 Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, is a reminder to  
24 me as a young woman, a Latina woman serving in  
25 the State Senate, of the women who came before

1 us. We honor the women who made it possible for  
2 women like myself to be legislators today.

3 It was a collective of Black  
4 feminists, the Combahee River Collective, who  
5 wisely stated: "The major source of difficulty  
6 in our political work is that we are not only  
7 fighting oppression on one front or even two, but  
8 instead to address a whole range of oppressions."

9 These words remain true in our world  
10 today and underscore why it is remarkable that in  
11 the Senate we have the privilege of witnessing  
12 the leadership every day of not only the first  
13 woman, but the first Black woman to serve as the  
14 Senate Majority Leader in the history of our  
15 state.

16 The struggle for truly complete  
17 gender equity will only succeed if it is an  
18 intersectional struggle to overcome the  
19 oppressions recognized by the Combahee River  
20 Collective.

21 As legislators, we can understand  
22 this Women's History Month resolution as a call  
23 to action in our daily lives and in our work  
24 together.

25 Facing this public health crisis for

1 a full year has demanded that we recognize the  
2 profound value of reproductive labor, the unpaid  
3 or underpaid work of caring for our families that  
4 sustains our economy and our society -- work that  
5 is done mostly by women of color, by new  
6 Americans, by women who immigrated and are  
7 undocumented.

8                   This is a moment to ask ourselves,  
9 does our public policy honor these women too?  
10 Does the law in our state honor the most  
11 vulnerable women among us? Does it include our  
12 trans neighbors as well?

13                   Women's History Month is an  
14 opportunity to celebrate the tremendous progress  
15 that has empowered many of us as women. And it's  
16 also an opportunity to ask ourselves, how will I,  
17 how will we use our position in our state to help  
18 forge a world with complete gender equality?

19                   Thank you, Madam President.

20                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Senator  
21 Bailey on the resolution.

22                   SENATOR BAILEY:    Thank you,  
23 Madam President.

24                   It is fitting to see you presiding  
25 as we converse about this resolution.



1                   Thank you to Senator Salazar for her  
2                   incredible words, and thank you to Leader  
3                   Stewart-Cousins for being consistent in  
4                   sponsoring this necessary resolution.

5                   And so when you think about the  
6                   amazing accomplishments of women -- not just  
7                   women that we serve with, but the women who run  
8                   the Senate -- and not just our Majority Leader,  
9                   who is a history maker, who runs the Senate --  
10                  the Secretary of the Senate is a woman, Alejandra  
11                  Paulino. If you think about the Majority's chief  
12                  of staff and lead counsel, she is a woman,  
13                  Shontell Smith.

14                  So quite frankly, the Senate is  
15                  being run by women. And it can be attributed to  
16                  such -- to the greatness that we've been having  
17                  over the last few years.

18                  I want to make sure that -- I would  
19                  be remiss if I didn't recognize the great Senator  
20                  Velmanette Montgomery, who I didn't get a chance  
21                  to speak about her when she came up. But I  
22                  wanted to make sure that she knew that we all  
23                  follow in her footsteps, and she inspires so many  
24                  women, she inspires young men like me. So I  
25                  wanted to make sure that I -- we continue to give

1 Senator Montgomery her flowers while we can.

2           And I was thinking about what I was  
3 going to speak about today, and I'm always  
4 inspired by the amazing women in my life: My  
5 amazing wife, my daughters, my mother, my  
6 grandmothers, my aunts, my adopted aunts, my play  
7 cousins, everybody.

8           But I was reading something this  
9 morning, it was by a British sprinter by the name  
10 of Dina Asher-Smith. It was in The Players'  
11 Tribune, and it was called "Who We Elevate."

12           And those of you who know me know I  
13 am a huge sports fan. And sometimes, in sports,  
14 women are overlooked for no good reason. And if  
15 we think about what women have done in sports  
16 that have gone recognized and unrecognized, I  
17 want to illustrate some of that.

18           So we talk about social justice  
19 movements, and we don't hear much about the women  
20 who lead the social justice movements as we do  
21 the men. But I want to tell you about when the  
22 protests were happening over this summer, with  
23 the Black Lives Matter protests, the NBA players  
24 got a lot of credit -- but the WNBA players were  
25 first. And quite frankly, the WNBA players went

1 out on a limb.

2 The Atlanta Dream -- amazing women  
3 in the WNBA. They were -- their team was owned  
4 by an individual who decried the notion of Black  
5 Lives Matter. Not only did they oppose that,  
6 they showed up with shirts that said Black Lives  
7 Matter.

8 And it turns out that after that  
9 took place, and after Kelly Loeffler lost the  
10 seat, the Atlanta Dream were pivotal in making  
11 sure there was recognition about the Senate race  
12 with Senator Warnock.

13 Not only did that take place, now  
14 Renee Montgomery, a former WNBA player, world  
15 champion and All Star, is now the owner of the  
16 Atlanta Dream. This is the power of women.

17 Maya Moore, one of the greatest  
18 basketball players of all time, in the midst of a  
19 Hall of Fame basketball career, she stopped. The  
20 reason why she stopped was because she wanted to  
21 pursue justice, the exoneration of Jonathan  
22 Irons. Maya Moore -- again, one of the greats,  
23 one of my favorites -- stopped a Hall of Fame  
24 career to pursue justice. Amazing women.

25 We know about the 2019 World Cup,

1 Megan Rapinoe and so many women on that team  
2 showed young women what it was like.

3 But I refer back to this "Who We  
4 Elevate" article by Dina Asher-Smith. And she  
5 said something that was incredibly poignant, and  
6 I want to make sure I get it word for word. I  
7 quote:

8 "I wanted to write this for all of  
9 the 8-year-old girls who are thinking about  
10 getting into sport but have doubts, fears and  
11 questions. And for all the young women who might  
12 be thinking about giving up sport.

13 "Why don't we see more of their  
14 stories, more of their images? Why have they not  
15 been elevated to cross over, to transcend our  
16 sporting world?

17 "Why aren't their achievements and  
18 legacies familiar to more of us, like those of  
19 Messi, Ronaldo, Tiger Woods, Michael Phelps,  
20 Usain Bolt and all the other amazing sportsmen?

21 "To be clear, I don't need this  
22 stuff to feel whole. We don't need it.

23 "We want to win. We want to be our  
24 best, to be the best.

25 "But we can see the double standard.

1                   "And while we see it, the 8-year-old  
2 girl can't."

3                   I think about when we have the  
4 conversation about the GOAT, about the greatest  
5 of all time. If you're not saying Serena  
6 followed by Williams, I'm not sure who is the  
7 greatest athlete of all time aside from Serena  
8 Williams, who made it to the final of a major  
9 while 7 months pregnant. Aside from that, she is  
10 the greatest athlete irrespective of that. But  
11 that is something that we don't recognize in her  
12 true greatness.

13                  I think about Becky Hammon, somebody  
14 who -- a woman who should be a head coach in the  
15 NBA. I think about how excited I was when the  
16 Liberty drafted Sabrina Ionescu, who was one of  
17 the greatest college basketball players of all  
18 time but quite frankly didn't get the same credit  
19 that male college basketball players get. But if  
20 you look at her stats, she was completely  
21 dominant at the University of Oregon.

22                  I think about Michele Roberts, a  
23 Bronxite, Madam President, the first woman to  
24 lead a professional sports union. She's the head  
25 of the NBA Players Association. So she's from

1 the Bronx, and she's a woman? Sounds like a  
2 winner to me, Madam President.

3 And I think about the up and coming  
4 stars like Naomi Osaka, who is a legend in the  
5 making.

6 But I think about Allyson Felix, one  
7 of the sprinters that we know from the Olympics.  
8 And one of the things that she did is she spoke  
9 up about Nike not offering support to -- for  
10 women with pregnancy complications.

11 I think that we have to make sure  
12 that we recognize the role that women are  
13 consistently playing in our lives in the world of  
14 sports. I think about great sports journalists  
15 like Kimberley Martin and Taylor Rooks and  
16 Cari Champion and so many other amazing women who  
17 break barriers every single day with reporting on  
18 the news.

19 And I think about the GOAT -- in my  
20 opinion, the GOATs. You might not have heard  
21 about them yet. Their names are Giada and Carina  
22 Bailey. Those are my daughters. And I was  
23 thinking about -- when I was thinking about what  
24 to say with the sports, I was putting it  
25 together.

1           This past summer I set up a couple  
2 of Fischer Price hoops in my yard. And my  
3 daughters like to play basketball. Right? And  
4 my daughter, one -- she made a basket and she  
5 said something that was so poignant, something  
6 that was so incredible, and something that I kind  
7 of live by every day. She said, "If you can't  
8 win, you win. If you don't win, you still win.  
9 If you believe in your heart and your strength,  
10 this is what you got."

11           That's my 6-year-old daughter who  
12 inspires me every single day. That is the reason  
13 why we need to make sure we recognize the  
14 accomplishments of women.

15           And I don't know if either Giada or  
16 Carina will ever play professional sports. I  
17 don't know if they'll play sports beyond the  
18 yard. But the most important thing, like Dina  
19 Asher-Smith said about "who we elevate," they  
20 need to know that not only can they play, they  
21 can play just as well as men, if not better.

22           So, Madam President, I thank you for  
23 the opportunity to speak on this resolution, and  
24 I thank the leader for introducing it.

25           ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The

1 resolution was previously adopted on March 2nd.

2 Senator Gianaris.

3 SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you,  
4 Madam President.

5 Leader Stewart-Cousins would like to  
6 open this resolution for cosponsorship.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The  
8 resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you  
9 choose not to cosponsor, please notify the desk.

10 Senator Gianaris.

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

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

15 SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to  
16 adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 10th, at  
17 3:00 p.m.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: On  
19 motion, the Senate stands adjourned until  
20 Wednesday, March 10th, at 3:00 p.m.

21 (Whereupon, at 3:38 p.m., the Senate  
22 adjourned.)

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