NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

May 4, 2022

3:32 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR SHELLEY B. MAYER, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: 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 MAYER: Today Rabbi Michael Mishkin, of Temple Beth Israel in Port Washington, will deliver the invocation.

Rabbi.

RABBI MISHKIN: The first word in the Jewish prayer book is "Thankful." Modeh Ani: "Thankful am I."

As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught: "Gratefulness makes the soul great."

May we see our lives, and the world around us, through the lens of gratitude.

May we be grateful for this new day -- and may we fill it with love and laughter, generosity and good deeds.

May we be grateful for the honor and responsibility of being leaders, for being entrusted by so many to use our hearts and minds to improve the lives of our constituents.

May we be grateful for being citizens of this extraordinary country and this great state.

May we be grateful for the State of Israel, which has been a great blessing to the Jewish people, the United States and the world.

And may we be grateful for the friendships, alliances, and cooperation between the United States and Israel and between the State of New York and Israel.

This past Monday was the 162nd birthday of Theodore Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, which is the belief that the Jewish people have the right to live in their homeland in dignity and have the right to self-rule.

When Herzl first had this dream, most people in the world believed it was impossible. But he lived by a mantra: Im tirtzu, eyn zo aggadah -- "if you will it, it is no dream."

God, please bless us, our families, and all people of goodwill with health, happiness, love and peace.

God, please bless us, each one of us, that we are able to tap into that spirit of

Im tirtzu, eyn zo aggadah: If you will it, it is no dream.

May we will it -- and work at it -- to share our gifts and blessings with others.

May we will it -- and work at it -- to transcend our political differences and focus on the values and principles which unite us.

May we will it -- and work at it -- to create laws which respect the dignity of all of our residents.

And let us say: Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, May 3, 2022, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, May 2, 2022, was read and approved. On motion, the Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator

Reichlin-Melnick moves to discharge, from the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations, Assembly Bill Number 9694 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 8545, Third Reading Calendar 740.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: So ordered.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Good afternoon, Madam President. Great to see you once again.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Good afternoon.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Amendments, Madam President, are going to be offered to the following Third Reading Calendar bills:

Senator Krueger, page number 32, Calendar Number 564, Senate Print 6226D;

Senator Rivera, page number 34, Calendar Number 596, Senate Print 6534B;

Senator Gianaris, page number 46, Calendar Number 801, Senate Print 1231;

Senator Persaud, page number 50, Calendar Number 847, Senate Print 63A;

And Senator Hoylman, page number 22, Calendar Number 254, Senate Print 774A.

I move that these bills retain their place on the order of third reading.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The amendments are received, and the bills will retain their place on the Third Reading Calendar.

Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam President.

I wish to call up Bill Print 6443A, by Senator Mayer, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 470, Senate Print 6443A, by Senator Mayer, an act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law and the Family Court Act.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Madam President, I now move to reconsider the vote by which this

bill was passed.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is restored to its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Madam President, I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The amendments are received, and the bill will retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Madam President, please take up -- I'm sorry.

Madam President, please call on Senator Lanza.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Lanza.

SENATOR LANZA: Madam President, on behalf of Senator Palumbo, on page 42 I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 737, Senate Print Number 7687A, and ask that said bill shall retain its place on Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The amendments are received, and the bill will retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR LANZA: Additionally, Madam President, on behalf of Senator Jordan, I move to amend Senate Bill Number 2089C by striking out the amendments made on May 3rd and restoring it to its previous print number, 2089B.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: So ordered.

Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, Madam President, thank you.

Please take up previously adopted Resolution 2062, by Senator Kaplan, read that resolution in title only, and recognize Senator Kaplan on the resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution 2062, by Senator Kaplan, congratulating the State of Israel upon the occasion of the 74th anniversary of its independence, and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the State of New York and Israel.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Kaplan on the resolution.

SENATOR KAPLAN: Thank you, Madam President.

I rise today to speak out strongly in support of this resolution, which congratulates the State of Israel on the 74th anniversary of its independence and reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the State of New York and Israel.

Strong support for Israel is an issue that is deeply personal to me, and that is why I'm proud not only to be author of this resolution today, but also to be hosting a celebration in honor of Israel's Independence Day here in the State Capitol.

As many of you know, I came to this country as a refugee when I was 13 years old. My parents weren't able to come with me. And by the time they were able to flee Iran, nations around the world had turned their backs on Jewish refugees like us.

As one nation after another denied their entry, Israel was the only place that would allow them to seek refuge. And they opened their

arms to my parents, giving them a safe place to call home until they were finally able to reunite with me and my siblings in this country.

Their story is not unique. Israel has been a beacon for Jewish people around the with world since its inception. And as Israel faces new challenges and as antisemitism and global instability once again threatens the safety of Jewish people worldwide, it has never been more important for us all to stand up and speak out in the strongest of terms in support of Israel.

As I mentioned, today we are celebrating Israel's Independence Day here in the Capitol, and there are some very special guests with us here in the chamber that I would like and I'm honored to recognize.

We have with us Ambassador Asaf Zamir, the Consul General of Israel in New York; Rabbi Mishkin, who led our wonderful invocation today; members of the Consul General's team; representatives from AJC Global, AJC New York, AJC Long Island, and AJC Westchester.

To our honored guests, thank you so much for making the trip to celebrate with us.

To my colleagues here, thank you for your support for this resolution. Supporting Israel isn't a partisan issue. At a time when the stakes really couldn't be higher, it is a common purpose around which we can all unite.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Kaplan.

Senator Krueger on the resolution.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you very much.

I also rise to thank Senator Kaplan for bringing this resolution welcoming our guests, welcoming the new ambassador, who I have not had a chance to meet yet.

But I just wanted to tell a quick story. So my father mostly lived in Israel most of my life. We gave up counting the number of trips when we got to 450. But there was a moment in time where my mother got very ill and ended up in a coma, and I knew I had to find my father, who was somewhere in Israel. But it was pre-cellphones, so I was thinking, How will I find him?

So I call Israel. I figure he stays

in two hotels, if he's in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. So I called the King David. The operator says, "He's not here, but I'll find him. If he's somewhere in this country, I'll find him and I'll put him on the next plane home."

And that's exactly what she did.

And happily, my mother survived and was better. But I'll never forget when people talk about the closeness between Israel and the United States, or in my family and that country, the concept that it's really a small town. You just pick up the phone and call an operator, and they find you someone, they find you who you need at that moment.

So of the endless stories I could tell about my family's relationship with Israel, that's the one I guess I will always remember.

So thank you very much.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

To our guests, I welcome you all on behalf of the New York State Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam President.

Please take up previously adopted Resolution 2377, by Senator May. Read that resolution in title only, and recognize Senator May on this resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution 2377, by Senator May, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 4, 2022, as Volunteer Firefighters Appreciation Day in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator May on the resolution.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Madam President.

And before I give my remarks on the resolution, I'd like to introduce and recognize a special guest today, Mr. John D'Alessandro, Secretary of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

We want to extend our gratitude to you and, through you, to all of our volunteer firefighters across this state.

And also our congratulations on the 150th anniversary of the Firefighters Association. I will treasure this challenge coin that you presented to me, and we honor you for 150 years of important service.

In the spirit of my colleague Senator Gounardes, I'm also a bit of a history nerd, so I'll say a few things about firefighting in the United States, which dates back to the earliest years of colonization here.

The early firefighters just were community members who would respond to neighborhood fires with buckets. But the first dedicated volunteer fire brigade was established by Ben Franklin in Philadelphia in 1736.

Other colonies soon organized such companies, and among those who served as volunteer firefighters were George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and Paul Revere.

These volunteer companies were often paid by insurance companies in return for

protecting their clients.

In 1818, the first known female firefighter, Molly Williams, rose to prominence in New York when she took her place with the men on the drag ropes and pulled the pumper to the fire through the deep snow.

Volunteer firefighters in particular exemplify the character of Americans at their best, with a generosity of spirit and dedication to helping a neighbor in the time of need.

One of my favorite experiences since becoming a Senator was an evening I spent in the Town of DeRuyter at a ceremony where the volunteer fire department recognized its members for their service. I was able to honor a gentleman who had served in that capacity for 50 years. And I also got to sit and talk with the Ladies Auxiliary and learn about the critical work they do to assist people displaced by fires.

The best part of that evening was the induction of a couple of young men into the fire department. The joy and gratitude in the room was palpable. It is critically important and incredibly hard to recruit new people to make the commitment to this kind of selfless service.

Volunteer fire companies are a critical lifeline in rural areas, and the number of volunteer firefighters is declining at very disturbing rates. It's dropped, since 1990, by 25 percent. And though the state has made gains in recruitment through a Recruit New York program, lengthy training requirements for new recruits pose significant hurdles.

In addition to the lifesaving efforts our firefighters provide, we should also remind ourselves that the services they provide -- often at great personal cost to them -- comes at an enormous economic benefit to our state. The Firefighters Association commissioned a study in 2015 that found savings of $5.2 billion a year in salaries and benefits alone, because otherwise we'd have to hire an additional 32,000 paid firefighters across the state.

I am proud and honored to sponsor this resolution to show our appreciation to our New York volunteer firefighters, and in conjunction with International Firefighters Day. Today I call on our state to take a moment to thoughtfully consider and appreciate the service

of our volunteer firefighters in New York and commit ourselves to policies that adequately demonstrate that commitment.

As the chair of the Aging Committee, I should also say the firefighters association operates the only skilled nursing home in the country exclusively for volunteer firefighters. It's located in Hudson, New York. And they also have a Museum of Firefighting on the same property, which houses the country's premier collection of fire apparatus and artifacts.

So to John and all the members of FASNY, I thank you again for all you do and for coming here today. I know I speak for everyone here when I say we want you to know how deeply we appreciate you and your fellow firefighters, and we are ready and eager to work with you to increase our support for volunteer firefighters.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator May.

Senator Brooks on the resolution.

SENATOR BROOKS: Thank you, Madam President.

And thank you, Senator May, for

introducing this resolution.

You know, New York State is blessed with over 80,000 men and women in this state who volunteer to serve as volunteer firefighters. It goes without saying that there's real risk in serving as a firefighter, and across the way we have a monument that demonstrates that risk.

Those who serve as volunteer firemen and firefighters are very special people who assume that risk. They're key parts of the community. They are people helping their neighbors in time of need during a fire service.

I've been in the fire service now for 53 years. That -- the service has changed dramatically. We don't use horses -- no, we didn't use horses in my day.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BROOKS: But really the changes in firefighting tactics, the changes in equipment are very dramatic. But one of the things too that we've allowed is many changes in building codes and the materials we use in structures now. And we have to be mindful of what's happening, because in some cases we're increasing the risk to firefighters because of

the carcinogens in these materials.

But today, today it's time that you think about your neighbors who a few years ago, before we all rode inside of the cabs, when you rode on the back step of the truck at 3 o'clock in the morning in an ice storm, burying your head into the hose bed to take the pain shots that were coming off the way, or the calls that you get to get a cat out of a tree, or the times that you make a save and bring somebody out of a fire.

We are very, very fortunate in this state with the men and women that we have that volunteer. And we in this state have done a good job, too, providing some assistance and benefits to those members. And this year we've passed several bills associated with the fire service which recognize what they do and what they provide to all of us every day.

So I thank the Senator for this resolution that we recognize what we do. I salute my friend across the aisle who also sometimes rides on the back of a truck. But it's -- you know, the people involved, it's a great brotherhood. There's a lot of horseplay and that because of the nature of the work that

we do. It's a good time. There are sad times too.

And certainly on 9/11 we saw what the fire service is exposed to. We saw the fire service come together, paid and volunteers. On that day I was up in a meeting in Connecticut, and I was -- our department was called down. I went down. I will tell you that at one point I was the only chief's car going over the Throgs Neck Bridge, because there was nobody else out. And all I saw was the smoke coming up from the Towers.

What the volunteer firefighters do, what the paid firefighters do, the professional firefighters do, is risky business. We as a state are blessed by the men and women who step forward to volunteer.

Madam Chairman -- Madam President, rather, I vote aye on this resolution.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Brooks.

Senator Addabbo on the resolution.

SENATOR ADDABBO: Thank you, Madam President.

And I want to thank Senator May for the resolution, and I want to echo her sentiments with the association. Welcome, and congratulations on the anniversary. And thank you.

You know, every day we are thankful for -- five boroughs in New York City, we are certainly thankful each and every day for the efforts of our FDNY and our EMS and other first responders. But in certain unique geographic situations throughout the five boroughs, we have volunteer fire department and ambulance corps. I have five of them. And in -- as Senator Brooks mentioned, during 9/11 they were there. And during certainly local tragedies and catastrophic events like Flight 587 in 2001, Hurricane Ida, most recently, and Hurricane Sandy, they were there. Actually, they were there first. They were the first responders.

And so we are thankful for them, for their volunteerism. They go from ordinary people to extraordinary people as they step across the line to protect our residents -- again, many as first responders.

So again, I'd like thank personally

Point Breeze Volunteer Fire Department, Rockaway Point Volunteer Fire Department, Roxbury Fire Department, Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department & Ambulance, and West Hamilton Beach Volunteer Fire Department for their extraordinary work in our city and in my district.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Addabbo.

Senator Martucci on the resolution.

SENATOR MARTUCCI: Thank you, Madam President.

I want to begin by thanking the sponsor for bringing this resolution to the floor and, most importantly, say a big gigantic thank you to the volunteer fire service members that I get to represent in the 42nd District and those members of the volunteer fire service who protect New Yorkers all across our great state.

Members of the fire service make a tremendous sacrifice. It begins Day One with extensive training that they have to undergo and continues throughout their entire service, which oftentimes lasts decades and stretches in

families from generation to generation, spending tremendous times away from their family and putting themselves directly in harm's way to protect our communities and protect our families.

Really, Madam President, this represents some of the greatest and most noble public service that anyone can provide to their community. We owe the greatest respect and a tremendous debt of gratitude to the men and women of the fire service who protect us and keep us all safe.

And for that reason, I say a tremendous thank you to each and every one of them and proudly support the resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Martucci.

Senator Borrello on the resolution.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to first thank the sponsor and also associate myself with the comments of my colleagues, particularly Senator Brooks -- thank you very much for your decades of service -- and all those who answer the call, Senator Boyle as well.

You know, in rural areas like mine, we live and die, literally, by volunteer fire departments. They are the folks who provide the rescue operations, who fight the fires. And they are an amazing community and brotherhood. I went to a fire banquet this past weekend and gave out awards to active members, still active members -- 40, 50, 60 years of active service answering the call. God bless all those that do this.

Three generations all at once in the fire service in their hometown. God bless all of those that do that.

I also want to tell a story that was personally impacted by myself. Many years ago in the small community of Sunset Bay where I live, the Sunset Bay Volunteer Fire Company -- we had a flood in Sunset Bay, as we often do, and we had to evacuate the bay. But the firefighters stayed behind.

And thank God that they did, because we had a house fire in the middle of a flood. It was a windy night, and the fire was going to spread to many other houses. And the handful of firefighters that were there, they actually just waded through the icy cold waters of Cattaraugus

Creek as it flooded the bay, and fought the fire. With downed electric wires, they fought that fire and they protected the homes that would have been probably dozens of homes that went up, because they're all very close together. Thank God for those that answered the call.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Senator Gaughran on the resolution.

SENATOR GAUGHRAN: Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator May, for this resolution that's so important.

And thank you to the tens and thousands of volunteer firefighters who protect us every single day. It's been mentioned we have two in our chamber, Senator Boyle and Senator Brooks. And I can't tell you how many times I call Senator Brooks on legislation and issues that we are dealing with as colleagues, and he either quickly tells me or texts me, "I got to get back to you, I'm on a call."

And that's the kind of dedication that we see all over this state.

And, you know, it's important to recognize these folks are volunteers. They have families, children, jobs, full-time obligations. And they're willing to answer the call of service at a minute's notice. And sometimes we have seen and we've honored folks here, they have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

And I think it's also interesting to note that about 95 percent of these volunteer organizations protect communities with less than 25,000 people. And about 50 percent, communities of less than 2500 people. They are brave, tested, trained and fearless.

So it is my honor today to cosponsor this resolution and to say thank you to our volunteer firefighters from all across this great state.

I vote in the affirmative, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Gaughran.

Senator Boyle on the resolution.

SENATOR BOYLE: Thank you, Madam President. On the resolution.

I'd like to first thank Senator May

for your sponsorship and thank FASNY for the wonderful advocacy you have done for our volunteer firefighters for many years. Thank the men and women of volunteer fire services throughout the state who answer the call, put their lives on the line day and night to protect our families, our friends, and our communities.

I'd like to also thank my colleague Senator Brooks, over 50 years of service. I can't imagine the countless thousands of hours you've done in volunteerism. Also Senator Oberacker, on our side of the aisle, is a longtime volunteer firefighter. I'm celebrating my 25th year as a volunteer firefighter. Ironically, I'm with the Great River Fire Department, which is in Senator Weik's district. Don't ask me how I managed that.

But I think it speaks to one of the issues that we're facing as volunteer fire service. Senator Brooks, Senator Oberacker and myself, we're not spring chickens. We have a hard time with recruitment. Younger New Yorkers are not joining the volunteer fire services, and we need to do a better job. Anything we can do as Senators and Assemblypeople to get the word

out that we need volunteers -- it is a great calling. You need to do it. It's an adrenaline rush. It's a camaraderie. But you're doing important work to save people.

I will end with this one story. Over the course of the decades, our technology has changed. We used to get the calls on beepers; now we get them on our cellphones. So two times -- as any volunteer firefighter knows, you'll get a call at 3 o'clock, 4 o'clock in the morning, wake up out of a dead sleep, start getting dressed -- I've got to get going. That's happened to me twice, and I got up, started getting dressed, heading out the door and I realized: I'm in Albany. I'm not going to answer this call.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BOYLE: So we need more help.

Madam President, I vote yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Boyle.

Senator Serino on the resolution.

SENATOR SERINO: Thank you, Madam President.

And thank you, Senator May, for bringing this forward.

You know, I just spent the weekend going to the Recruit New York weekend, just like you spoke about, Senator Boyle. And it's amazing because we have a lot of the older firefighters that are there and trying to recruit. Some of the younger ones can sometimes be a real challenge, and we spoke about that.

But we also spoke about some of the amazing things that they do. And it's really remarkable. And just the words "thank you" just don't seem nearly enough to express our gratitude for them.

You know, when you think about who's the first people that respond to any kind of an incident, it's usually our firefighters are the ones that are showing up -- with our ambulances, too.

So I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of our firefighters, volunteer and paid. They -- like I said, thank you is not nearly enough.

So thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,

Senator Serino.

To Mr. D'Alessandro, here on behalf of all the volunteer firefighters of New York, we welcome you to our house. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of the Senate.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Lengthy standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The resolution was previously adopted on May 3rd.

Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, thank you, Madam President.

At the request of the sponsors, these resolutions are open for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Both of these resolutions are open for cosponsorship. Should you choose not to be a cosponsor of either of the resolutions, please notify the desk.

Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Please take up the reading of the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 213, Senate Print 664, by Senator Sanders, an act

to amend the Banking Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 276, Senate Print 5139, by Senator Rivera, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 391, Senate Print 859A, by Senator Gounardes, an act to amend the Labor Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Jackson to explain his vote.

SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you, Madam President.

And my colleagues, I rise to support this bill, S859A, by Senator Gounardes, requiring student loan payment information to be distributed to entry-level employees and postgraduate interns upon hire.

Education costs are skyrocketing and becoming out of reach for more and more people.

And as a result, many people take on tremendous and crippling student loans that take years and even decades to repay. Today, student loan debt is at a staggering $1.75 trillion. Just think about that for a second.

What's worse is that many students do not know about repayment options simply because they are not informed.

And this bill addresses this problem. When students or postgraduate interns get their first entry-level job, every employer must inform them of their repayment options. The Department of Labor will provide employers with information consisting of consolidation and alternative federal student loan repayment plans, income-based repayment plans, the Student Lending Resource Center on the Department of Financial Services' website, and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

We cannot continue to go down this road of shackling our students with crushing debt that follows them for years. And we must do all we can to help them. And I'm proud to cosponsor this bill, and I thank Senator Gounardes for introducing this piece of legislation.

I vote aye, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Jackson to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 391, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Helming, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rath, Ritchie, Serino and Tedisco. Also Senator Jordan.

Ayes, 51. Nays, 11.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 402, Senate Print 4449, by Senator Stavisky, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to

Calendar Number 402, voting in the negative: Senator Tedisco.

Ayes, 61. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 451, Senate Print 7278B, by Senator Krueger, an act to amend the Real Property Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 512, Senate Print 7914, by Senator Liu, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: 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 MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Savino to explain her vote.

SENATOR SAVINO: Thank you, Madam President.

I want to rise in support of this bill and thank Senator Liu for bringing this important bill forward.

You know, I became aware of just how problematic this issue is recently because I have a 20-year-old nephew who was enrolled at the New York Institute of Technology right in the middle of the pandemic hitting. He realized that he wasn't going to be able to continue with the studies that he was enrolled in because of the pandemic, but he was not aware that there was a policy in place where he was supposed to disenroll.

Well, he recently was notified that he's being sued in Richmond County Civil Court

when he was served, and he's being sued for the entire payment of his tuition. Twenty years old, and he has to appear in civil court.

So you think about how many students across the state are similarly situated because of the pandemic.

I also went to the New York Institute of Technology's policies. I looked them up. "Ambiguous" is an understatement. So how would a 20-year-old be able to figure it out when his 50-plus aunt could barely discern the policies of that institution?

So I fully support this bill, Senator Liu. Hopefully we'll get it passed and maybe we can do something for the probably thousands of students that are being affected.

And finally, I will tell you the State of New York, SUNY and CUNY do this on a regular basis. In fact, the Attorney General of the State of New York regularly sues students for failure to drop out of classes under their policy and sues them for their entire tuition. Forget about student loan debt -- they just go after them for their whole tuition.

So thank you, Senator Liu, for

bringing this bill. And I hope that the other house will pass it and we'll do something about students who are being saddled with debt that they'll never be able to repay.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Savino to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 628, Senate Print 5136B, by Senator Thomas, an act to amend the General Business Law and the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 6. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Thomas to explain his vote.

SENATOR THOMAS: Thank you, Madam President.

This bill is for all those parents, grandparents and even uncles and aunts who cosigned on a private student loan so that their loved ones can go to school.

Best-case scenario, the student graduates, gets a job and pays back that loan. For many, that is simply not the case.

Soaring college costs and pressure to compete in the job market that we have right now are big reasons why some graduates default. For others, life happens, and they have to drop out of school.

No one goes to school thinking they will not be able to repay those loans. These parents and grandparents are increasingly feeling the burden of these debts that they took out for their children and grandchildren.

Back in 2019, New York led the way by creating the Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights, and today we give those co-borrowers -- those parents, those grandparents and those siblings -- some rights, cosigner rights.

And this legislation creates

protections specifically for those co-borrowers who want to get off the loan. Now they can, after a minimum amount of payments by the student borrower.

This is a great start to protecting our student loan borrowers, and I vote aye on this bill.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Thomas to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 628, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Akshar, Borrello, Boyle, Helming, Martucci, O'Mara, Ortt, Rath and Stec.

Ayes, 53. Nays, 9.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 641, Senate Print 1769, by Senator Skoufis, an act to amend the General Municipal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Borrello to explain his vote.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you, Madam President.

I vote in support of this legislation. You know, again, I spent 10 years in county government, six years as the chairman of the Planning and Economic Development Committee in Chautauqua County before becoming county executive, which put me on the IDA board.

And I will tell you that Chautauqua County is a model for IDAs throughout the state because of the fact that the only elected official on that IDA board was the chairman of the Planning and Economic Development Committee from the County Legislature.

That board is made up largely of what it should be -- business owners and other local stakeholders that can do a great job in evaluating and determining if a project should move forward and if it should be funded. Those are the folks who have skin in the game because

they are community leaders. It also has representatives from local unions, people that are on foundation boards, people that communicate with the people in the community and understand what it's like.

Adding more elected officials is not a good idea. And as much as I like the idea of local control, I think in this case it is much better for the state to speak on this and not allow the other local elected officials to apply pressure to be appointed to those boards. I can tell you from personal experience that they are not good at keeping information confidential. Because again, success has a thousand fathers, and failure is an orphan, and everyone wants to spike that football to help get reelected.

That's why these boards should be populated with people that truly have the best interests of the community at heart.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Borrello to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 641, those Senators voting in the

negative are Senators Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rath and Ryan.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 5.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 740, Assembly Print Number 9694, by Assemblymember Zebrowski, an act to amend the Public Officers Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 759, Senate Print 502, by Senator Breslin, an act to amend the Insurance Law and the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 9. This act shall take effect on the 70th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 786, Senate Print 5346, by Senator Stec, an act to amend the General Municipal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 832, Senate Print 3682, by Senator Felder, an act to direct the Commissioner of Education to examine, evaluate and make recommendations on the provision of services by public school guidance counselors.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is laid aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 840, Senate Print 3264, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 849, Senate Print 552A, by Senator Mayer, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 871, Senate Print 7862, by Senator Bailey, an act to amend the State Finance Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the

roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Bailey to explain his vote.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Madam President.

You know, each of us on this floor, we go to schools in our districts and we encourage the children there to continue their education because it is a path to success. And we recognize the differences between going to college or going to law school or going to a doctoral program. But we encourage lots of kids that we come into contact with to go on to college, including my own children.

But what happens sometimes when we encourage individuals to seek higher education, they take out student loans. And when they take out student loans sometimes it's because of economic reasons -- well, it's not sometimes, it's because of economic reasons, because they cannot afford to pay the total cost of attendance.

And in some situations -- like myself, Madam President -- you are in an economic

position where on paper you are -- quote, unquote, you have too much money to be able to receive grants, but quite frankly you're not able to take advantage of other programs to be able to, you know, give you a better shot at a lower-cost education. So you take these loans out.

And sometimes, depending on, you know, your economic circumstances -- your parents are working one, two, maybe even three jobs to put food on the table and to send you to college because it is the dream that we espouse for our children.

So -- and I think about when we borrow this money, and I think about what happens now. You can be charged 22 percent interest on defaulting on a loan. So I want to talk about defaulting on a student loan. Simply, defaulting on a loan doesn't mean that you're irresponsible, it doesn't mean that you're a bad person, it just means that you are a regular person who may have fallen upon some hard times and missed a payment from time to time, and you may have defaulted on it.

Twenty-two percent. If any of us

were advising our children or our friends or family on a car loan, we would call that usurious. We would say, run don't walk away from that car dealership, don't sign those documents, do not buy that car -- because you'll be paying for that 2022 car in 2042.

Why do we do it if we recognize the value of education is priceless? Madam President, you are the Education chair, and a damn good one at that. You understand the value of education. And I think we do in this chamber as well. And I'm grateful to Madam Leader for -- Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for putting this bill on the agenda, because it speaks to what we should be trying to do in making college more affordable.

College isn't the one truth path. It's not the best path for everybody. But if you choose to attend, it should not be back-breaking. It should not be something that puts you in a position of debt for generations to come.

It's gotten to the point, Madam President, where you have people who have defaulted on loans and they may not encourage their children to take out loans, thus possibly

stopping another generation of education from fulfilling itself.

I'm grateful to Attorney General Letitia James for supporting this piece of legislation, and I'm grateful to my colleagues for supporting this piece of legislation. And I'm grateful that eventually, hopefully, we'll begin that real cancellation of student debt nationwide.

I'll be voting in the affirmative, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Bailey to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 871, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Griffo, Jordan, Oberacker, Ortt and Rath.

Ayes, 56. Nays, 6.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 872, Senate Print 7916B, by Senator Stavisky, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the

last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect June 1, 2023.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Lanza, why do you rise?

SENATOR LANZA: Madam President, to explain my vote.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Lanza to explain his vote.

SENATOR LANZA: I rise in support of this legislation. In fact, I've supported each of the measures put before the house today regarding the cost of college education.

I think the biggest crime that is occurring in this nation is the cost of college education. I think many of these measures -- I'm all for attacking it from every direction, from the top, from the bottom, from the side. We want to attack those who loan the money, those who pass the egregious interest rates on to the students.

But I think we are missing the mark.

The problem is the cost of college education. I hear a lot of people around the country talk about price gouging, the oil companies are price gouging, big business is price gouging. Nowhere is there price gouging like the type of price gouging we see at college universities.

I'm on that same piece of paper, my name's on that same piece of paper next to Senator Bailey. You know, I don't like talking about my own personal situations or my family, but right now my third child, he's a senior in high school, he's on his way to college.

You know, I don't care what you get, Madam President, in school. I don't care if you have a 30 average, a 50 average, a 100 average. That doesn't speak to who you are or what you are. However, to these college institutions, that's what they say they care about. Well, here's my son -- and again, this is not -- I'm not bragging, I'm just saying this to me is the problem. He's graduating with a 99 average, he's top whatever percent on the SAT, plays on two varsity sports, baseball and basketball. He volunteers in his community. He's done everything they say they care about. His parents

both are public servants. Everything they say they care about. They don't.

Because as a result of his record, he's made some of the most prestigious schools in this country. And they said, Congratulations, A.J., we welcome you as a this student or as a that student. Oh, and by the way, it's 80,000 a year, and you can figure out how to go get it.

And so they're saying: Congratulations, A.J., we think you're stupid. We think you're going to go out and borrow $350,000 for the privilege of sitting next to someone who is going there for free.

It's not a privilege. It's ridiculous, it's illusory, and it's a problem in this country.

And the student loan debt that we see that Senator Bailey is trying to address and others are trying to address is just a symptom of the problem. I don't have the answer, but I know colleges that are charging middle class -- and anyone -- 80,000 a year, 90,000 a year -- they're out of their minds.

And it's wrong, and it's a problem that just builds upon itself each and every year

in this country. And sooner or later I think we've got to take it to them and really do something about it.

Madam President, I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Lanza to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Jackson to explain his vote.

SENATOR JACKSON: Madam President, is this Stavisky's bill, 7916?

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Yes, it is.

SENATOR JACKSON: Okay, sure. Well, thank you.

I rise in order to support this bill. The Tuition Assistance Program helps so many students attend colleges and universities. This year our Majority restored the TAP eligibility to incarcerated students, and I'm proud to have sponsored that bill.

But we are not ensuring educational access to all New Yorkers seeking higher education learning. We are all well aware that the burden of rising costs, as my colleague talked about -- and I know it from my daughter,

who's 35. When she was in college, it cost us over $220,000 -- 100,000 out of our pocket, $100,000 in loans. And with interest rates that we have to pay. So I definitely know personally.

But this is something that all New Yorkers are aware that the burden of rising costs and tuition, room and board, books, technology, food and other expenses on New York families has become increasingly difficult to uphold. And there is a need to expand the Tuition Assistance Program to reach more families who need assistance to pay for college. Raising the threshold from $80,000 to $110,000 in household income reduces the burden of rising costs on thousands across our state.

And as I've stated passionately many times before, education is the key to uplift all families. The great equalizer. And if we want CUNY and SUNY to survive as the chief vehicle for upward economic mobility in our state, we must increase the Tuition Assistance Program award to cover the full cost of our public colleges.

Part of our legislative responsibility is to ensure all New Yorkers have access to top-quality and affordable public

higher education, and this legislation improves that access for all.

I vote aye, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Jackson to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 899, Senate Print 6503, by Senator Kaplan, an act to amend the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Lay that bill aside for the day, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 904, Senate Print 8647, by Senator Mannion, an act to amend the Mental Hygiene Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 913, Senate Print 7497, by Senator Ritchie, an act to amend the Highway Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 913, voting in the negative: Senator Brisport.

Ayes, 61. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

916, Senate Print 8282, by Senator Jackson, an act to amend Chapter 695 of the Laws of 1994.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Jackson to explain his vote.

SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to speak in support of my bill, S8282. And this makes permanent the procedure to obtain injunctive relief or a temporary restraining order for improper practices in cases where irreparable harm may occur. This law has been extended every two years for nearly 20 years in a row, and it's past time to remove the temporary status of the law.

The Taylor Law, which governs public-sector labor relations in New York, prohibits a number of unfair tactics used by management. These are known under the law as

improper practices. When an IP, improper practice, is committed, the harmed party has the right to complain to the Public Employment Relations Board, commonly known as PERB.

However, in many cases the PERB process takes far too long to complete, and the current law does not preserve the status quo during this process. Aggrieved parties may suffer irreparable injury if an improper practice is allowed to continue unchecked. Justice delayed is justice denied.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation. I proudly vote aye, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Jackson to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

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

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam President.

Please go to the reading of the

controversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will ring the bell.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 832, Senate Print 3682, by Senator Felder, an act to direct the Commissioner of Education to examine, evaluate and make recommendations on the provision of services by public school guidance counselors.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Lanza, why do you rise?

SENATOR LANZA: Madam President, I believe there's an amendment at the desk.

I waive the reading of that amendment and ask that you recognize Senator Jordan to be heard.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Lanza.

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

SENATOR LANZA: Accordingly, Madam President, I appeal the ruling of the chair and ask that you recognize Senator Jordan.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The appeal has been made and recognized, and Senator Jordan may be heard.

SENATOR JORDAN: Madam President, I rise to appeal the ruling of the chair.

The proposed amendment is germane to the bill at hand because, just as the legislation offered, the amendment seeks to better understand and ultimately address a major need in our school systems relating to the guidance, support and emotional development of our students.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Therefore, it is both a good time and an important time to acknowledge the mental health crisis gripping our young people and the immense need for mental health services in our schools.

Last fall the American Academy of Pediatrics, along with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Children's Hospital Association, declared a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health, citing both a decades-long rise in childhood mental health concerns but also the tolls of the pandemic.

The Center for Disease Control and

Prevention researchers quantified that toll in several reports. They found, between March and October 2020, emergency department visits for mental health emergencies rose by 24 percent for children ages five to 11 years, and 31 percent for children ages 12 to 17 years.

In addition, emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts increased nearly 51 percent among girls age 12 to 17 in early 2021 compared to the same period in 2019.

Despite the obvious need, access to care remains limited. Only 20 percent of children with mental, behavioral or emotional disorders receive specialized care.

The amendment I'm advancing on behalf of our conference would seek to address this crisis, expand access by establishing a mental health services coordinator program, and reimburse school districts for the hiring of mental health service professionals.

For these reasons, Madam President, I strongly urge you to reconsider your ruling and I strongly suggest that my colleagues across the aisle support this amendment.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Jordan.

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

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

SENATOR LANZA: Request a show of hands.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Without objection, Madam President, please waive the showing of hands and record each member of the Minority in the affirmative.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Without objection, so ordered.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 20.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The ruling of the chair stands, and the bill-in-chief is before the house.

Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard?

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

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris -- I'm sorry. Gianaris? That is not you.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: I apologize. Senator Kennedy, that completes --

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam President. I am a much better looking option.

(Laughter; applause.)

SENATOR KENNEDY: That being said, Madam President, there is a report of the Finance Committee at the desk.

Please take up that report and recognize Senator Krueger on the report.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The

Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Krueger, from the Committee on Finance, reports the following nomination:

As Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, and as President and CEO of the Empire State Development Corporation: Hope Knight.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you, Madam President.

I'd just like to second the new Senator Gianaris's position about his role here.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KRUEGER: But I would really like to bring to the floor the nomination that has moved through the Committee on Finance for Hope Knight to be confirmed as the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development and as president and CEO of the Empire State Development Corporation.

I think most of us have had multiple chances to meet Ms. Knight and to hear how she has a different vision for how she is running that agency than previously. And many of us were extraordinarily pleased with the new approach to

transparency and working with the Legislature and answering questions.

So I'm very happy to be nominating her, and I believe a few of my colleagues would like to speak on her nomination.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

Senator Comrie on the nomination.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Madam President.

Good afternoon, everyone.

It gives me great pleasure to commend and recommend the nomination of Hope Knight, to serve as president and CEO of the Empire State Development Corporation and the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, to my Senate colleagues today.

I don't know why I've got a frog in my throat, but I'm trying to let it go.

Hope Knight has a great resume --

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Comrie, there's another Senator who wishes to speak. Would you like me to come back to you?

SENATOR COMRIE: No, I'll work it

through. Thank you.

Hope Knight has a distinguished record of public service, and I have no doubt that she will continue to improve that record in the service of the people of our entire state.

At the outset, I want to recognize that Hope Knight's last position was within my Senate district as head of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, where she turned around an agency and moved it to where it was doing a lot of work in affordable housing in that area and working to revitalize downtown Jamaica, especially during the pandemic.

Even before then, she's worked in agencies and dealing with economic development and planning and in making sure that there were opportunities to create development opportunities for MWBEs, for new developers, and also to look at new strategies to make sure that development can happen.

I can tell you that there's no one better or more qualified to take the Empire State Development Corporation to where it needs to be, from an agency that has been a disaster for the last 12 years to something that we can now all

work with to make sure that we're truly delivering true economic development projects for our state.

Hope Knight is someone that's a low talker with a soft voice, but we need someone that's quiet and focused and positive. We need someone that's deliberate and thoughtful and resourceful. We need someone that's going to be unafraid to ask questions and take information from people from all sectors, so that we can come up with something -- a solution that makes sense for all parts of our state.

Hope Knight has worked and lived in different parts of our state. She's spent time in Lake Placid, where she has been honored and recognized for her work up there by Marymount College and by many other entities around the state.

I can say that there's no better person to dial down the foolishness that happened at EDC and take it to a new level. So I'm proud to recommend her, and I hope that we have -- that she is passed by the Senate -- I'm sorry, just went dry.

And I'm confident that once she is

passed by our Senate today, she will serve this state with distinction and we'll have many other opportunities to bring Hope Knight and the projects that she brings to the floor, because they'll be much better than what has been done in the last 12 years.

I vote aye, Madam President. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Comrie.

Senator Martucci on the nomination.

SENATOR MARTUCCI: Thank you, Madam President.

I rise in support of the nominee. As the ranking member of the Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business Committee, I've had an opportunity to work with Hope Knight -- certainly not as long as my colleague Senator Comrie, but I've experienced much of the same. I've come to know a very well qualified individual to lead ESDC into the future.

Myself and many of my colleagues have had conversations with her, and I agree with Senator Krueger that she has been transparent and knowledgeable. And I look forward to her

ushering in a new day at ESDC.

I think most importantly of all of it, Madam President, she gets the importance of ESDC's role in improving the lives of New Yorkers. Because it can be a transformative agency that really does improve the lives of the people that call this great state home, and she understands her role in doing that.

I'm also very confident that she will be carefully selecting and promoting projects that will come before this house and other bodies that will improve the lives of not only the people I represent, but the people that we all represent in this room.

So for that reason I do believe Hope Knight is a wise choice. I wish her well, and I proudly vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Martucci.

Senator Kennedy on the nomination.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam President.

I too want to echo the chorus of support for this tremendous nomination. And I'm proud to second this nomination, along with my

colleagues.

I want to thank Senator Krueger for shepherding this through, and my great colleague Senator Comrie for really working with us to get to know Hope Knight.

And I want to recognize, commend and congratulate Governor Hochul for putting such a superb nominee forward for consideration and approval here today.

I have gotten to know Hope Knight over the short period of time that she has been serving here in state government as interim, and I can tell you I have been absolutely blown away by the way that she has handled herself, engaged on the issues on a very personal level. She's demonstrated transparency, professionalism and a profound understanding of the work that needs to be done all across New York State.

Now, all across New York we recognize that there is a diversity in economic development issues. Being from Buffalo and Western New York, the issues that we have on the table that have to be addressed are similar but different than what happens in the downstate vicinity, and certainly in central and the north

part of this great state.

So, you know, it's important that we have somebody that understands and grasps the diversity of the state, both from who we are as individuals -- and she brings that diversity to the table -- but who we are from a geographical perspective and how we need to address on a very unique level the impact of job creation and investment on a respective regional basis.

So I really believe that this individual, Hope Knight, is the best of the best that can be offered as it pertains to this position, and I'm really looking forward to not only approving her here today but continuing the work with her that we've already begun from a job creation and economic development perspective. And I'm looking forward to doing just that.

So with that, I vote aye, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Kennedy.

The question is on the nomination.

Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The nominee, Hope Knight, is confirmed to the position of Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development and President and CEO of the Empire State Development Corporation.

Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Madam President, is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: There is no further business at the desk.

SENATOR KENNEDY: That being said, I move to adjourn until Thursday, May 5th, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, May 5th, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 4:40 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)