

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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3  
4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 March 28, 2023

11 3:21 p.m.

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13  
14 REGULAR SESSION

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18 SENATOR SHELLEY B. MAYER, Acting President

19 ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

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

2 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senate  
3 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 MAYER: Pastor  
9 Greg Merriweather, Calvary Baptist Church of  
10 Haverstraw, New York, will deliver today's  
11 invocation.

12 Pastor.

13 PASTOR MERRIWEATHER: There's an  
14 old proverb that says: If you want to go fast,  
15 go alone; but if you want to go far, go together.  
16 And it's in this spirit that we pray on today.

17 God in Heaven, we thank You for this  
18 moment, this opportunity. Thank You for the  
19 ability to gather together. And most of all, we  
20 thank You for life, health and strength. Every  
21 day is a gift. So on this day we celebrate the  
22 gift of common minds, we celebrate the gifts of  
23 thoughts and opposing opinions. We celebrate the  
24 gifts of all of Your children that's gathered  
25 here in Creation on today.

1           We can take deep breaths because we  
2       don't have to worry about much. Your word says  
3       it true, that if You take care of the birds that  
4       are in the trees, even such as a sparrow, we know  
5       that You will watch over us.

6           So God, grant us the opportunity to  
7       join together in unity. We pray for Your spirit,  
8       that it would guide us, that it would give us  
9       calm, that it would give us direction. And most  
10      of all, it would give us protection.

11          We thank You again on today. Now  
12      bless every person that's gathered, bless every  
13      area that they represent, every home, every  
14      household. Bless them as they come together to  
15      do the business of the State of New York.

16          And it's in Your name, Jesus, that  
17      we pray.

18          Let all God's children say amen.

19          (Response of "Amen.")

20          ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Reading of  
21      the Journal.

22          THE SECRETARY:    In Senate, Monday,  
23      March 27, 2023, the Senate met pursuant to  
24      adjournment. The Journal of Friday, March 24,  
25      2023, was read and approved. On motion, the

1 Senate adjourned.

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

4 Presentation of petitions.

5 Messages from the Assembly.

6 Messages from the Governor.

7 Reports of standing committees.

8 Reports of select committees.

9 Communications and reports from  
10 state officers.

11 Motions and resolutions.

12 Senator Gianaris.

13 SENATOR GIANARIS: Good afternoon,  
14 Madam President. I move to adopt the  
15 Resolution Calendar, with the exception of  
16 Resolution 590.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: All those  
18 in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar,  
19 with the exception of Resolution 590, please  
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Response of "Aye.")

22 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
25 Resolution Calendar is adopted.

1 Senator Gianaris.

2 SENATOR GIANARIS: Can we begin by  
3 taking up previously adopted Resolution 516, by  
4 Senator May, read that resolution's title, and  
5 recognize Senator May.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
7 Secretary will read.

8 THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution  
9 516, by Senator May, memorializing Governor Kathy  
10 Hochul to proclaim April 2023 as Fair Housing  
11 Month in the State of New York.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
13 May on the resolution.

14 SENATOR MAY: Thank you,  
15 Madam President. I rise today to commemorate the  
16 month of April as Fair Housing Month.

17 In 1934, my grandfather bought a  
18 house for about \$3,000 in a quiet neighborhood  
19 walking distance from his job at UCLA. He was a  
20 low-paid instructor, not even on tenure track,  
21 but the bank was willing to give him a mortgage  
22 because of a brand-new Depression-era federal  
23 policy to back home loans with the full faith and  
24 credit of the U.S. government.

25 My grandparents lived there for

1     30 years until the neighborhood was overrun with  
2     rowdy movie stars, at which point they bought a  
3     house in a quieter neighborhood. But when they  
4     finally sold their second house, in their  
5     eighties, they were able to pay for years of  
6     nursing care with enough left over to leave small  
7     nest eggs to all five grandchildren, so we were  
8     able to make down payments on homes of our own.

9             The federally backed mortgage  
10    program was a spectacular success in promoting  
11    home ownership and building equity for millions  
12    of families like mine -- but only for families  
13    that looked like mine.

14            Black and brown families were  
15    explicitly excluded, which meant they were frozen  
16    out of the opportunity to build home equity, the  
17    major source of generational wealth.

18            It is the main reason why  
19    Black Americans, who make up 13 percent of the  
20    U.S. population, hold only 4 percent of the  
21    wealth. It is also the main factor that has  
22    driven housing segregation in this country.  
23    Wherever you live -- village, town,  
24    neighborhood -- your community has been shaped by  
25    our shameful national history of housing

1 discrimination.

2 Fifty-five years ago,  
3 President Johnson worked with members of Congress  
4 to pass the Fair Housing Act, a landmark federal  
5 law that prohibits discrimination in the  
6 provision of housing. Access to safe, affordable  
7 and quality housing is critical to every single  
8 person in this state.

9 And at the state level we have  
10 expanded the principles of the Fair Housing Act  
11 to prohibit discrimination in housing based on  
12 things like age, sexual orientation, or source of  
13 income.

14 In observing Fair Housing Month in  
15 1984, President Reagan said: "This April, let us  
16 once again dedicate ourselves to the great work  
17 of assuring fair housing for all, and let us  
18 continue that work until fair housing becomes a  
19 permanent reality in our national life."

20 In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled  
21 that policies segregating minorities in poor  
22 neighborhoods, even unintentionally, are against  
23 the law. As President Obama said in his remarks  
24 that year on Fair Housing Month, "The Court  
25 recognized what many people know to be true from

1     their own lives, that too often where people live  
2     determines what opportunities they have in life."

3             He also emphasized the important  
4     role of local governments in both creating and  
5     solving the problem, and his administration began  
6     the work of helping local governments meet that  
7     need by gathering data on housing and  
8     neighborhood conditions to help inform  
9     policymakers.

10            The Fair Housing Act was signed in  
11     1968. We've made tremendous progress in  
12     addressing discrimination through the tools it  
13     provides, but we all know there is much more to  
14     be done. Too often the same families who lost  
15     out on the opportunities that my family benefited  
16     from are the ones disproportionately hurt by the  
17     lack of housing, lack of affordable housing, the  
18     lack of credit and equity, inadequate code  
19     enforcement, arbitrary evictions, and quiet  
20     discrimination by realtors and lenders and zoning  
21     boards.

22            We are joined today by the leader of  
23     CNY Fair Housing, Sally Santangelo. Her  
24     organization is leading the way in providing  
25     information to help policymakers and public



1 defenders help us realize the goals of the  
2 Fair Housing Act.

3 As we enter Fair Housing Month here  
4 in the State of New York, I urge all of us to  
5 keep the spirit of the Fair Housing Act alive.

6 Thank you.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
8 Senator May.

9 To our guest, I welcome you to the  
10 Senate chamber. We extend to you the privileges  
11 and courtesies of the house. Please rise and be  
12 recognized.

13 (Standing ovation.)

14 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
15 resolution was previously adopted on March 15th.

16 Senator Gianaris.

17 SENATOR GIANARIS: Can we now move  
18 to Resolution 590, by Senator Cooney, read that  
19 resolution's title, and recognize Senator Cooney.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
21 Secretary will read.

22 THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution  
23 590, by Senator Cooney, commending Dan DiClemente  
24 for his many years of dedicated service to the  
25 Rochester City School District.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
2   Cooney on the resolution.

3                   SENATOR COONEY:    Thank you,  
4   Madam President.

5                   I'm sure that our colleagues in this  
6   chamber will agree that the best part of this job  
7   is that we're granted with opportunities to  
8   recognize and uplift individuals in our  
9   communities who go above and beyond in the  
10  service of their neighbors.

11                  You would be hard-pressed to find an  
12  individual more deserving of this recognition  
13  than Dan DiClemente.  His biography speaks for  
14  itself.

15                  After working nearly a decade in the  
16  Rochester City School District, he was elected  
17  president of BENTE Local 2419, charged with  
18  representing more than 1200 nonteacher RCSD  
19  employees.  And as president, Dan has not only  
20  negotiated the past five collective bargaining  
21  agreements, he's led demonstrations, spoken in  
22  front of the school board and members of the  
23  State Legislature.  And he founded a scholarship  
24  program for our students.

25                  In 2017, Dan was elected president

1 of AFSCME Council 66, representing 8,500 public  
2 and nonprofit-sector workers in upstate New York  
3 and the Hudson Valley.

4 And on a personal note, as the first  
5 Rochester City School District graduate to be  
6 elected to the State Legislature in decades, I've  
7 had a personal connection to all those who work  
8 in service of our city's children, including our  
9 AFSCME members.

10 Dan has been a trusted voice, a  
11 fierce advocate, and a relentless defender of  
12 workers' rights in the Rochester community not  
13 only for his members, but for members across  
14 upstate New York.

15 It's an honor and privilege to  
16 welcome Dan and his family and many colleagues  
17 and friends to Albany this afternoon, and it is  
18 my hope that we walk away not only with a deep  
19 appreciation for his contributions to our  
20 collective labor community, but may we be  
21 inspired by his integrity, his leadership in the  
22 movement, and his unshakeable commitment to fight  
23 for those who may otherwise be voiceless.

24 Thank you, Madam President.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,

1 Senator Cooney.

2 Senator Brouk on the resolution.

3 SENATOR BROUK: Thank you,  
4 Madam President.

5 I'm honored to stand here with my  
6 fellow Rochester Senator, Senator Cooney, as we  
7 welcome Dan DiClemente today and recognize him  
8 with this resolution.

9 Dan is a beloved member of our  
10 Rochester community, recognized for his steadfast  
11 championing of workers' rights in the Rochester  
12 City School District, through BENTE Local 2419,  
13 as well as for AFSCME New York Council 66 and the  
14 Rochester Area Labor Council Executive Board.

15 Over the past few years, Dan has  
16 been a steady hand while leading his fellow union  
17 members through incredibly tumultuous times. I  
18 remember August 2020 we stood together with BENTE  
19 members as they were losing their health benefits  
20 in the midst of a global pandemic. Even before I  
21 had the privilege of sitting in this seat, we  
22 pleaded with the school district to support  
23 workers in this massive time of need.

24 And at a time when it was so hard to  
25 feel hopeful and the challenges were mounting,

1 Dan not only supported his members who were  
2 scared of how they'd protect their own families,  
3 but he reached out to the larger community and  
4 ensured that these stories were being told and  
5 that we came together to help.

6 Dan is a tireless champion for our  
7 school community, and I have been moved and  
8 inspired by his sacrifice and dedication to  
9 others. My work here in Albany to increase  
10 school budgets, champion our public schools, is  
11 all a direct response to the advocacy I have seen  
12 back home from Dan.

13 To Dan, I want to say how grateful I  
14 am to have you as a community member, as a labor  
15 leader, and as a fierce partner in the work we do  
16 to improve this state for all New Yorkers.

17 Thank you, and welcome.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
19 Senator Brouk.

20 To Mr. DiClemente and your friends  
21 and family, please be welcome to the Senate.  
22 It's an honor to have you here today.

23 Please rise and be recognized.

24 (Standing ovation.)

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The

1 question is on the resolution. All in favor  
2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Response of "Aye.")

4 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
7 resolution is adopted.

8 Senator Gianaris.

9 SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President,  
10 Senators May and Cooney would like to open their  
11 resolutions for cosponsorship.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
13 resolutions are open for cosponsorship. Should  
14 you choose not to be a cosponsor on the  
15 resolutions, please notify the desk.

16 Senator Gianaris.

17 SENATOR GIANARIS: There will be an  
18 immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in  
19 Room 332.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: There will  
21 be an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in  
22 Room 332.

23 SENATOR GIANARIS: The Senate will  
24 stand at ease.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senate

1 will stand at ease.

2 (Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease  
3 at 3:36 p.m.)

4 (Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at  
5 3:44 p.m.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senate  
7 will return to order.

8 Senator Gianaris.

9 SENATOR GIANARIS: There's a report  
10 of the Rules Committee at the desk.

11 Can we take that up, please.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
13 Secretary will read.

14 THE SECRETARY: Senator  
15 Stewart-Cousins, from the Committee on Rules,  
16 reports the following bills:

17 Senate Print 1319, by  
18 Senator Rivera, an act to amend the Public Health  
19 Law and the Insurance Law;

20 Senate Print 5818A, by Senator  
21 Myrie, an act to amend the Election Law;

22 Senate Print 6061, by Senator  
23 Hoylman-Sigal, an act to amend the Judiciary Law.

24 All bills reported direct to third  
25 reading.

1                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Move to accept  
2   the report of the Rules Committee.

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   All those  
4   in favor of accepting the report of the  
5   Rules Committee signify by saying aye.

6                   (Response of "Aye.")

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Opposed?

8                   (No response.)

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   The report  
10  of the Rules Committee is accepted.

11                   Senator Gianaris.

12                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Please take up  
13  the reading of the calendar.

14                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   The  
15  Secretary will read.

16                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
17  356, Senate Print 717, by Senator Cleare, an act  
18  to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

19                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Read the  
20  last section.

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

23                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Call the  
24  roll.

25                   (The Secretary called the roll.)



1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
2   Cleare to explain her vote.

3                   SENATOR CLEARE:    Thank you,  
4   Madam President.

5                   The Senior Citizens Rent Increase  
6   Exemption program, SCRIE, is one of the most  
7   important tools that we have to freeze rents for  
8   older New Yorkers, who are often on a very fixed  
9   income but wish and deserve to age in the  
10   community they have lived in all their lives.

11                  In New York City it applies to well  
12   over 100,000 households but, like so many  
13   benefits, has hard caps and cliffs that lock  
14   people out far too hastily. The purpose of this  
15   bill is to expand the population eligible to take  
16   advantage of SCRIE by excluding all medical and  
17   prescription drug expenses not reimbursed or paid  
18   for by insurance from the definition of "income,"  
19   for the purpose of determining eligibility for  
20   the program.

21                  By allowing those essential costs to  
22   be deducted, fewer individuals will exceed the  
23   income cap and will thus remain and/or become  
24   eligible for the SCRIE program and its many  
25   benefits.

1 I wish to thank my beloved seniors  
2 at A. Philip Randolph Senior Center in my  
3 district for their advocacy and work on this bill  
4 and for lobbying me to pass it. And I just want  
5 to read a small portion of what they sent me  
6 about this bill.

7 They said: "We, the members of the  
8 A. Philip Randolph Senior Center located in the  
9 30th Senatorial District would like to express  
10 our heartfelt appreciation for your efforts to  
11 improve the lives of older adults in our state.

12 "Today we hosted an Advocacy Day in  
13 support of a few of your Aging legislative  
14 priorities, particularly Senate Bill S717, which  
15 proposes a new definition of income to allow more  
16 people to be eligible for the Senior Citizen Rent  
17 Increase Exemption program.

18 "This important legislation will  
19 assist seniors like us and people across our  
20 state in affording their housing costs and  
21 enabling them to live more independently."

22 I proudly vote aye and hope that  
23 everyone else does the same.

24 Thank you.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator

1       Cleare to be recorded in the affirmative.

2               Announce the results.

3               THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
4       Calendar Number 356, voting in the negative:  
5       Senator Walczyk.

6               Ayes, 61.   Nays, 1.

7               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
8       is passed.

9               THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
10       391, Senate Print 4967, by Senator Jackson, an  
11       act to amend the Administrative Code of the City  
12       of New York.

13               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Read the  
14       last section.

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

17               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Call the  
18       roll.

19               (The Secretary called the roll.)

20               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Announce  
21       the results.

22               THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
23       Calendar 391, those Senators voting in the  
24       negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello,  
25       Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Felder, Gallivan, Griffo,

1 Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray,  
2 Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads,  
3 Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

4 Ayes, 40. Nays, 22.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
6 is passed.

7 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
8 394, Senate Print 1172, by Senator Harckham, an  
9 act to amend the Executive Law.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
11 last section.

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

14 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
15 roll.

16 (The Secretary called the roll.)

17 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
18 the results.

19 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
20 Calendar 394, those Senators voting in the  
21 negative are Senators Borrello,  
22 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Griffo, Helming, Martins,  
23 Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo,  
24 Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk and Weik.

25 Ayes, 47. Nays, 15.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
2   is passed.

3                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
4   475, Senate Print 1468, by Senator Breslin, an  
5   act to amend the Insurance Law.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Read the  
7   last section.

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

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Call the  
11   roll.

12                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Announce  
14   the results.

15                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 62.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   The bill  
17   is passed.

18                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
19   506, Senate Print 4266A, by Senator Webb, an act  
20   to establish a task force on missing women and  
21   girls who are Black.

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Read the  
23   last section.

24                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 3.   This  
25   act shall take effect on the 60th day after it

1 shall have become a law.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
6 Webb to explain her vote. Thank you.

7 SENATOR WEBB: Thank you,  
8 Madam President. I rise to explain my vote.

9 This legislation will address the  
10 discrepancies and disparities for missing and  
11 murdered Black, Indigenous women and girls of  
12 color by instituting a task force on missing  
13 BIPOC women and girls in New York State.

14 I just want to share a couple of  
15 statistics that demonstrate why this task force  
16 is necessary and why I hope my colleagues will  
17 support it.

18 According to a 2020 report by the  
19 Women's Media Center, there are approximately  
20 75,000 missing Black women and girls across the  
21 United States.

22 Another report released by the  
23 Sovereign Bodies Institute documents that there  
24 are over 2,306 missing Indigenous women and girls  
25 in the U.S. Nationally, more than 250,000 women

1 and girls were reported missing in 2020, and at  
2 least 40 percent were women and girls of color,  
3 despite making up less than 15 percent of the  
4 population. And this came from the National  
5 Crime Information Center, NCIC, missing person  
6 and unidentified persons statistics.

7 In addition, in a two-year review of  
8 all suspected national human trafficking  
9 incidents, 40 percent of sex trafficked women  
10 were identified as Black women.

11 From 2016 to 2020, there was a  
12 38 percent increase in the number of missing  
13 children -- 31 percent of that increase was for  
14 Black children. And in 2020, the New York State  
15 Missing Persons Clearinghouse Annual Report  
16 shared that 59.8 percent of children reported  
17 missing were female, and 29.2 percent of them  
18 were Black.

19 And so when you think about these  
20 stats, right -- and included among the tens of  
21 thousands of these missing BIPOC women and girls  
22 are abductees, the sex trafficking victims, and  
23 runaways that get grouped disproportionately, and  
24 that this thus impacts the intersection of both  
25 racism and sexism, and it is subjective to

1 pervasive social and economic barriers.

2 For these reasons, missing BIPOC  
3 girls are often categorized as runaways, which  
4 makes it more likely that their cases will be  
5 pushed aside and treated with a lack of urgency.

6 This is an epidemic that  
7 unfortunately is being rendered silent, and we as  
8 a state owe it to these women and their families  
9 to do better. This task force will develop  
10 policy changes within New York State government  
11 agencies to address the lack of care and concern  
12 for missing and murdered BIPOC women and girls,  
13 including that our first responders are also  
14 culturally competent.

15 This task force will ensure that  
16 there's transparency when it comes to the numbers  
17 of missing and murdered BIPOC women and girls so  
18 that communities understand the scale of this  
19 problem.

20 This task force will also make sure  
21 that communities are educated and trained on the  
22 prevention, protection and protocols relating to  
23 missing BIPOC women and girls as relates to  
24 social media, and will recommend preventative  
25 programming and ideas to protect vulnerable women



1 and girls.

2                   Madam President, this legislation  
3 will take a crucial step to make visible missing  
4 BIPOC women and girls in the public discussion.  
5 By developing this task force on this crisis,  
6 New York has an opportunity to not only take  
7 charge but also acknowledge the work that  
8 has to be done to bring justice for missing BIPOC  
9 women and girls.

10                   I would like to thank our Majority  
11 Leader for her support on this initiative, and I  
12 will be voting aye and I encourage my colleagues  
13 to do the same.

14                   Thank you.

15                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Thank you.  
16 Senator Webb to be recorded in the affirmative.

17                   Senator Ramos to explain her vote.

18                   SENATOR RAMOS:   Thank you.

19                   I want to begin by thanking  
20 Senator Webb for being a chair that truly values  
21 intersectionality and for this very thoughtful  
22 bill.

23                   You know, when we speak about  
24 Indigenous people, we often think of them as  
25 human beings from the past, some sort of relic --

1 and that couldn't be farther from the truth.  
2 Indigenous people are part of our communities,  
3 particularly in mine. And I of course always  
4 share how proud I am of my own Indigenous  
5 heritage.

6 And that's why I want to point out  
7 that, you know, the genocide that started with  
8 Christopher Columbus has never actually really  
9 ended. I have a few stats to share myself.  
10 Native women face murder rates more than 10 times  
11 the national average. Homicide is the third  
12 leading cause of death among Native girls and  
13 women aged 10 to 24 and the fifth leading cause  
14 of death for Native women aged 25 to 34.

15 The median age for missing and  
16 murdered Indigenous women and girls is 29. And  
17 unfortunately we have to note that the condition  
18 that makes women most vulnerable to violence is  
19 poverty. Native American women are typically  
20 paid only 60 cents for every dollar paid to a  
21 white non-Hispanic man. And that pay gap is  
22 typically around \$2,055 every month, or nearly  
23 \$25,000 every year.

24 And as we know, especially, you  
25 know, on our side of the aisle, poverty makes

1 everybody unsafe. And here we're sharing that it  
2 particularly makes Indigenous women unsafe.

3 So I of course want to use this  
4 opportunity to implore you all to support our  
5 Raise the Wage Act, as we're closing in on budget  
6 negotiations.

7 And I vote aye, Madam President.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
9 Ramos to be recorded in the affirmative.

10 Senator Fernandez to explain her  
11 vote.

12 SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so  
13 much, Madam President.

14 I truly want to thank the sponsor  
15 for putting this bill forward and to initiate the  
16 creation of this task force.

17 It really can't be stressed enough  
18 the crisis that is in our communities, in  
19 everyone's district here and especially like mine  
20 in the Bronx, where every other 99-cent store,  
21 grocery store, the 5 by 5 bulletin, is covered  
22 with missing girls, missing kids. And it is a  
23 crisis.

24 This task force, as it was detailed,  
25 is going to do so much to empower our young

1 people, our old people, those that are vulnerable  
2 to this crime, to this evil that is human  
3 trafficking. And we really need to get to the  
4 bottom of it. We need to find the solutions. We  
5 need to stop the trafficking. We need to stop  
6 whatever is incentivizing girls to go missing and  
7 to fall into these terrible hands.

8               So thank you for bringing this to  
9 the floor. Thank you for highlighting something  
10 that doesn't get highlighted often. Every time  
11 we see of a missing person, a young person, a  
12 young woman, it's never to the extent that we see  
13 of a young white woman given to a young Black or  
14 brown woman. It's just not the same, the  
15 attention is not the same.

16              And we need to start making it the  
17 same. We need to start really getting to the  
18 bottom of how this is happening, why it's  
19 happening, and empowering and educating our  
20 communities to prevent it from happening.

21              So I really thank you for this. I  
22 encourage everyone, please vote aye, because  
23 lives are being lost, lives are disappearing, and  
24 it's time that we put a stop to it.

25              Thank you. I vote aye.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
2   Fernandez to be recorded in the affirmative.

3                   Senator Cleare to explain her vote.

4                   SENATOR CLEARE:    I want to thank  
5   Senator Webb for this important bill.

6                   As a Black woman, in my community I  
7   have seen many women go missing.  And often I've  
8   accompanied families to law enforcement, and the  
9   same energy is not put behind finding them -- the  
10  same regard, the same care.

11                  We're all members of somebody's  
12  family.  This is somebody's sister, somebody's  
13  daughter, maybe even somebody's mother.  And in  
14  some cases I have even had to look for people who  
15  were somebody's mother.

16                  Until we respect and protect every  
17  single woman, then we are not doing our job, we  
18  are not serving justice to females.  And I  
19  just -- I can't tell you enough how much this  
20  bill means to me and many other families.  We're  
21  simply written off as runaways or written off as  
22  it doesn't matter, it's not worth looking for  
23  them.

24                  And this is so important.  I  
25  encourage every one of my colleagues to vote aye

1 on this today. There are so many families who  
2 have suffered. We have had missing children that  
3 have never been found. If you know the impact  
4 that that could have -- think about your own  
5 child and never, ever finding that child again.  
6 It's horrific. But on top of that, to feel as if  
7 no one's even looking is even worse.

8 So I thank you for this bill today,  
9 and I proudly vote aye.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
11 Cleare to be recorded in the affirmative.

12 Senator Brouk to explain her vote.

13 SENATOR BROUK: Thank you,  
14 Madam President.

15 And I want to congratulate and thank  
16 my colleague Senator Webb for really being  
17 deliberate in her advocacy as she has progressed  
18 with this bill, to make sure that we are taking  
19 into account many different perspectives and  
20 create the most sound bill possible.

21 And I also -- as so many of my women  
22 of color colleagues have pointed out, this  
23 country has a very long history of discounting,  
24 forgetting, disrespecting Black women and women  
25 of color. We're left out of history books.

1 We're not considered in a lot of policymaking  
2 decisions -- although in this body that doesn't  
3 happen anymore.

4 And this bill is a way to not just  
5 correct some of those historical wrongs, but also  
6 to tell, as Senator Cleare said, to tell our  
7 young girls that they matter. I'm sitting here  
8 getting ready to celebrate the first birthday --  
9 that's why we need an on-time budget --

10 (Laughter.)

11 SENATOR BROUK: -- to celebrate the  
12 first birthday of my little Black baby girl. And  
13 I think about how she is the world to me. And to  
14 think that there are mothers out there who don't  
15 believe law enforcement or those in charge care  
16 that their child is missing is heartbreaking to  
17 me.

18 So thank you again to Senator Webb,  
19 because these things need to get attention.  
20 These things need to be talked about. These  
21 things need to be acted upon. And that's why I  
22 proudly stand with my colleague and so many of  
23 our colleagues who have voted aye on this bill.

24 And I hope that it is not the end of  
25 the work that we do to better recognize these

1       wrongs in our society, but the beginning.

2               Thank you.

3               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
4       Brouk to be recorded in the affirmative.

5               Announce the results.

6               THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 62.

7               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
8       is passed.

9               THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
10       508, Senate Print 2103A, by Senator Harckham, an  
11       act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

12               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Read the  
13       last section.

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

16               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Call the  
17       roll.

18               (The Secretary called the roll.)

19               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Announce  
20       the results.

21               THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 62.

22               ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
23       is passed.

24               THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
25       520, Senate Print 1839, by Senator Sanders, an



1 act to amend the Public Health Law.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
3 last section.

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

6 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
7 roll.

8 (The Secretary called the roll.)

9 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
10 the results.

11 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
13 is passed.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 524, Senate Print 3131, by Senator Mannion, an  
16 act directing the Commissioner of Health to  
17 conduct a study on the rates of reimbursement  
18 made through the New York State Medicaid Durable  
19 Medical Equipment.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
21 last section.

22 THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This  
23 act shall take effect immediately.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
25 roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)

2 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
3 the results.

4 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
6 is passed.

7 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
8 540, Senate Print 1250, by Senator Salazar, an  
9 act to establish an LGBTQ youth and young adult  
10 suicide prevention task force.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
12 last section.

13 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
14 act shall take effect on the 60th day after it  
15 shall have become a law.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
17 roll.

18 (The Secretary called the roll.)

19 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
20 Brisport to explain his vote.

21 SENATOR BRISPORT: Thank you,  
22 Madam President.

23 And I really want to thank Senator  
24 Salazar for bringing this bill to us.

25 I'm a former public school teacher,

1 and I recall a time I had to ride in an emergency  
2 vehicle with a student who had expressed they  
3 wished to take their own life. I've also had to  
4 experience making a call to a mother to let her  
5 know that her 11-year-old son was considering  
6 taking his own life, which is a call that no  
7 parent wants to receive.

8 I'm mostly an openly gay legislator,  
9 proudly gay -- and I say open and proud because  
10 too many people in the community are told not to  
11 be open and proud. Too many of our youth are  
12 told not to be open and proud. And too many  
13 youth take their lives. The rates among LGBTQ+  
14 youth are even higher, and I want these kids to  
15 live.

16 So I proudly vote aye, and thank  
17 you.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
19 Brisport to be recorded in the affirmative.

20 Senator Hoylman-Sigal to explain his  
21 vote.

22 SENATOR HOYLMAN-SIGAL: Thank you,  
23 Madam President.

24 And thank you to my colleague  
25 Senator Brisport, and mostly thank you to

1 Senator Salazar for this important bill.

2           You know, a war is being waged  
3 against LGBTQ kids in nearly half the states in  
4 this country. According to the ACLU, there are  
5 434, 434 anti-LGBTQ bills in statehouses like  
6 this across the country -- 434 and counting.  
7 Government officials are signaling to the general  
8 public that it's acceptable to discriminate  
9 against and fear LGBTQ people, and the hatred too  
10 often falls on our kids.

11           In our schools, nine out of 10 LGBTQ  
12 students reported being harassed and bullied last  
13 year. And over a third of LGBTQ students  
14 reported being physically assaulted at school  
15 because of their sexual orientation and gender  
16 identity. And really as a result of this  
17 vitriol, this nationwide vitriol that is being  
18 magnified and amplified by state legislatures,  
19 many of our LGBTQ youth are suffering mentally.

20           And I'll end with this. The Trevor  
21 Project found that 45 percent of LGBTQ youth  
22 seriously considered attempting suicide in the  
23 past year, including half of transgender and  
24 nonbinary youth in New York State. Half in our  
25 state.

1                   So I really do thank Senator Salazar  
2                   for this important legislation to get a handle on  
3                   suicide among LGBTQ youth and take steps to  
4                   prevent it. I vote aye.

5                   Thank you.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
7                   Hoylman-Sigal to be recorded in the affirmative.

8                   Senator Scarcella-Spanton to explain  
9                   her vote.

10                  SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON:   Thank  
11                  you, Madam Chair.

12                  And thank you, Senator Salazar, for  
13                  pushing this legislation forth.

14                  I just wanted to really commend this  
15                  legislation. It's so incredibly important. Just  
16                  this weekend on Staten Island we had a  
17                  20-year-old young man who took his own life for  
18                  being bullied for his sexual preference. This is  
19                  unacceptable and we have so much work to be done.

20                  And I want to highlight that on  
21                  Staten Island, it's one of the first places left  
22                  in our St. Patrick's Day Parade where our Pride  
23                  Center isn't allowed to march. Having that out  
24                  there in public, having these young men and women  
25                  who don't feel accepted by their own community,

1 is harmful.

2 And I really just wanted to thank  
3 you, and I proudly vote aye.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
5 Scarcella-Spanton to be recorded in the  
6 affirmative.

7 Senator Salazar to explain her vote.

8 SENATOR SALAZAR: Thank you,  
9 Madam President.

10 And thank you to my colleagues for  
11 supporting this legislation. Suicide among LGBTQ  
12 teenagers and young people in New York is a  
13 crisis. Suicide is the third leading cause of  
14 death among young people ages 15 to 24 years old  
15 in New York City, and LGBTQ youth face especially  
16 high risks of suicide or self-harm.

17 One out of every three transgender  
18 young people in New York City have seriously  
19 thought about taking their lives, and two out of  
20 every five report having made a suicide attempt.

21 During a time when LGBTQ young  
22 people and transgender youth in particular are  
23 being targeted across the country with harmful  
24 laws intending to erase trans existence, it  
25 should come as no surprise to us that these

1 children are experiencing alarming levels of  
2 suicidal ideation and self-harm. This is a  
3 moment for New York to respond with unequivocal  
4 support and love for queer and trans youth in the  
5 face of bigotry.

6 This task force will help us better  
7 understand the specific causes and factors that  
8 lead to higher risk of suicide among young  
9 people, such as trauma and oppression based on  
10 their sexuality and gender identity, so our state  
11 can take meaningful action to prevent suicide and  
12 self-harm.

13 Madam President, I vote aye.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
15 Salazar to be recorded in the affirmative.

16 Announce the results.

17 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
19 is passed.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 548, Senate Print 4131, by Senator Mannion, an  
22 act to amend the Tax Law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
24 last section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 5. This

1 act shall take effect on the first of January.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
6 the results.

7 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
9 is passed.

10 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
11 552, Senate Print 2691, by Senator Breslin, an  
12 act to amend the General Municipal Law.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
14 last section.

15 THE SECRETARY: Section 6. This  
16 act shall take effect on the 90th day after it  
17 shall have become a law.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
19 roll.

20 (The Secretary called the roll.)

21 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
22 the results.

23 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
25 is passed.



1                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
2     558, Senate Print 5176, by Senator Thomas, an act  
3     authorizing the World Restoration Center Inc. to  
4     receive retroactive real property tax exempt  
5     status.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     Read the  
7     last section.

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

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     Call the  
11     roll.

12                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     Announce  
14     the results.

15                  THE SECRETARY:     In relation to  
16     Calendar Number 558, voting in the negative:  
17     Senator O'Mara.

18                  Ayes, 61.   Nays, 1.

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     The bill  
20     is passed.

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

23                  SENATOR GIANARIS:     Is there any  
24     further business at the desk?

25                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     There is

1 no further business at the desk.

2 SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to  
3 adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 29th, at  
4 3:00 p.m.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: On motion,  
6 the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday,  
7 March 29th, at 3:00 p.m.

8 (Whereupon, at 4:09 p.m., the Senate  
9 adjourned.)

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