NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

April 24, 2023

11:15 a.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: Head Priest Giani Dharamveer Singh, of the Sikh Cultural Society of South Richmond Hill, New York, will deliver today's invocation.

(Whereupon, Head Priest Giani Dharamveer Singh recited in Punjabi the Prayer Ardas, translated as follows:

"Unto The One Supreme God Who by the grace of Sat guru (GOD) is realized. Remember, first, God the Almighty. Think then of Guru Nanak: of Angad Guru and Amar Das, and Ram Das. May their protection be ever with us! Remember Arjan, Hargobind, and the holy Har Rai. Let us think of the holy Har Krishan whose sight annuls all sorrow. Let us remember Tegh Bahadur, and all the nine treasures will come flowing in. May he protect us everywhere! May the Tenth Guru, the holy Guru Gobind Singh, protector of

faith, help us everywhere!

"Turn your thoughts, 0 Khalsa, to the Guru Granth Sahib, the visible body of the Gurus, and their word, and say, Waheguru, glory be to God! The five Loved Ones, the Guru's four sons, the Forty saved and other holy and heroic men, saints and martyrs: Remember their selfless and heroic deeds, and say, Waheguru, glory be to God!

"O Waheguru, please give the strength, the wisdom and ability to the elected Senators to do the right and deliver for what they are elected for.

"We, the Sikhs, thank you all for the passing of this Resolution, which will not only create a history but also bring the awareness of their religion and articles of faith. May the Almighty help you to help fellow humans irrespective of their faith, color or creed.

"Once again, thanks to you all, the Senators and the Governor, for providing this opportunity to the Sikh community of the great State of New York.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Reading of

the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Saturday, April 22, 2023, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Friday, April 21, 2023, 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.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Good morning, Madam President.

I wish to call up the following bills, which were recalled from the Assembly and are now at the desk: Senate Bill 608A and Senate Bill 636.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 77, Senate Print 608A, by Senator Salazar, an act to amend the General Business Law.

Calendar Number 174, Senate Print 636, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the Business Corporation Law and the Limited Liability Company Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to reconsider the vote by which these bills were passed.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bills are restored to their place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I offer the following amendments.

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

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, just to give my colleagues a sense of the order for the day, we're going to take up a resolution

shortly and then break for a Rules Committee meeting, which will produce the budget extender bill, which we will take up.

At that point we will break for party conferences and come back and take up the remaining bill off the supplemental calendar.

So let's begin by taking up previously adopted Resolution 751, by Senator Scarcella-Spanton, read its title, and recognize Senator Scarcella-Spanton.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution 751, by Senator Scarcella-Spanton, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2023 as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the resolution.

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: Thank you, Madam President.

Our military families and their children make countless sacrifices to serve our country and keep us safe, and it is essential that we take the time to acknowledge and honor

their contributions.

Military children face unique challenges as they navigate frequent moves, deployments of their parents, and the stress that comes with having a loved one in harm's way.

As myself and Senator Ashby's children can attest to, military children live a life of constant change. Military families move, on average, every two to three years, which causes military children to constantly change schools, make new friends, and adapt to new support networks.

In my family's case, my husband deployed to Afghanistan for the second time when our daughter was just 10 days old.

Despite these challenges, military children demonstrate remarkable resilience and strength. Moving forward, throughout the month of April we celebrate military children and express our gratitude for their courage, strength and sacrifice.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Ashby on the resolution.

SENATOR ASHBY: Thank you, Madam President.

I want to thank Chairwoman Scarcella-Spanton and my colleagues for bringing this resolution to the floor.

And, like her and so many families out there, the children of military families endure tremendous sacrifice and are often born into it. Like her family, my daughter Ellie was six months old during my first deployment -- or my second deployment. My son, who thought it would be better to go on a field trip today rather than come to the chamber --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR ASHBY: -- he was just a few weeks old during my first deployment.

Which oftentimes we talk about the sacrifices of those who served and we forget or sometimes overlook the sacrifices of the families. And it's important to remember that. Although our hardships, though we endured, are pale in comparison to those children whose family members -- whose parents, whose brothers, whose sisters -- did not come back, were unable to come back. And oftentimes, when they do come back,

struggle.

And it's important for us to remember and recognize the struggles of those families and to do our utmost in this chamber to help them.

So again, I want to thank my colleague for all she does as the chairwoman of the Veterans Committee, and thank my colleagues.

And thank you, Madam President. I proudly vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator.

The resolution was previously adopted on April 18th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, Senator Scarcella-Spanton would like to open this resolution for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you choose not to be a cosponsor on the resolution, please notify the desk.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: There will be an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in

Room 332.

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: The Senate stands at ease.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senate stands at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 11:25 a.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 11:32 a.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senate will return to order.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, back to motions and resolutions.

We're going to now take up previously adopted Resolution 633, by Senator Thomas, read its title, and recognize Senator Thomas.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution 633, by Senator Thomas, memorializing

Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2023 as Sikh Awareness Month in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Thomas on the resolution.

SENATOR THOMAS: Thank you, Madam President.

Sat Sri Akal.

(Response from gallery.)

SENATOR THOMAS: Thank you to Giani Dharamveer Singh from the Richmond Hill Gudwara in Queens for that prayer -- Senator Addabbo's district.

Once again, today I want to highlight how blessed we are in this great state with our diversity.

April is Sikh Heritage and Awareness Month, and this month was chosen because Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi, which is the Birth of the Khalsa.

It is a religion founded more than 500 years ago by Guru Nanak, who taught that all paths lead to one God, all people are equal, and we should serve our community without asking for anything in return.

Through today's resolution I want to

recognize the many contributions that Sikh Americans have made to our nation, and to reflect on the pluralism that is a hallmark of America.

Sikhs have a long and rich history here in the United States. As early as the 1800s, Sikh men and women have been making notable contributions to American society. Early settlers played a major role in building America's railroads. Sikh Americans served in the U.S. military during the world wars. And the first Asian-American Congressman was a Sikh American elected to office in 1957.

Sikhism's principles of equality, service, interfaith cooperation and respect are principles shared by all Americans. Their faith centers on equality of all humankind and the need for compassion in our service to others -- like what we do in this chamber.

This month provides an opportunity for all of us to recognize the invaluable contributions of the Sikh community to our state and our nation. The Sikh community in New York is an integral part of our diverse population. They have contributed greatly to our state.

Sikh Americans continue to be recognized for their outstanding contributions in various fields, including medicine, law, business, the military, media and more.

That's why I am excited to welcome some special guests today: Mr. Harpreet Singh Toor, Mr. Jatinder Singh Boparai, Mr. Bhupinder Singh Boparai, Mr. Buta Singh, and Mrs. Rajwinder Kaur. Thank you for joining us.

However, a sad reality is that Sikhs have also faced discrimination and hate crimes in our country. It is important to stand in solidarity with our Sikh brothers and sisters, denounce hate and bigotry, and work towards a more inclusive society.

As we celebrate Sikh Awareness Month, let us take the time to learn about the Sikh religion, its values, and its contributions to our society.

Madam President, please recognize my guests in the gallery who have come from all over New York State today to grace us with their presence this morning.

Thank you so much.

(Response from the gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Thomas.

Senator Addabbo on the resolution.

SENATOR ADDABBO: Thank you very much, Madam President.

Good afternoon, everybody.

I want to thank Senator Thomas for the resolution. Thank you very much.

And for my friends who have visited Albany, thank you so much for being here.

The Sikh Cultural Society, thank you very much. And obviously Dharamveer Singh, thank you very much for being here all the way from Richmond Hill.

You know, the Census doesn't account for religion when they do their census. But the American Community Survey, they account for religion throughout our state. And in our state there's roughly 27,000 Sikhs living in New York State, 10,000 of which are in my district in Richmond Hill. And we do appreciate their contributions to the community and being a part of our community and community members.

The Sikh religion advocates for equality, social justice, service to the

community, and tolerance for other religions, which is very important in such a diverse state like ours and in the Borough of Queens, the most diverse borough in the world.

But also the message of the Sikh religion is freedom of religion, reverence to God, and towards practicing the ideals of honesty, compassion, humility and generosity. Honesty, compassion, humility and generosity.

No matter what our background is, if we applied those principles to our lives, we would be a far better society and even a better government.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Addabbo.

Senator Comrie on the resolution.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Madam President.

I want to thank Senator Addabbo and Senator Thomas for bringing this resolution today.

The Sikh community is very prominent in Queens. I've been honored to work with them

over the years, for many years.

The Sikh Cultural Society has not only been active in making sure that they inform the entire community of their history and religion, but they're also involved in community and civic activities, having been very involved in the pandemic and making sure that people were taken care of, making sure that people were fed and making sure that people had opportunity for medical services.

I'm proud to have a small section of the Sikh community in my new district. I had a larger section in my old district, but I will continue to work with all parts of the Sikh community, because it's important that we allow folks to be able to express themselves, that we can do tolerance for each other, make sure that all communities in Queens and throughout New York State get to understand and appreciate each other.

Thank you, Madam President, for allowing this resolution to come forward.

(Response from the gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Comrie.

Senator Stavisky on the resolution.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you to the Senators for recognizing the Sikh community.

And notice that we're from Queens -- Senator Addabbo and Senator Comrie and I have in common the Sikh community, and we thank them and honor them today.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Stavisky.

Senator Kennedy on the resolution.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam President.

I too want to recognize the Sikh leadership for being here today, our friends from the Sikh community; our colleagues for bringing this to the floor, from Senator Thomas from Long Island, Senator Addabbo from Queens. You heard from Senator Comrie and Senator Stavisky, both from Queens.

But out in Buffalo and Western New York we also have a thriving Sikh community. I'm proud to represent that Sikh community in my district. The one thing I've learned over many years is the Sikh leadership and the

Sikh community represents a community of peace.

And these are leaders throughout our community in Western New York, and clearly across the state and the nation, that are leading both in the community and in business, and in helping other people thrive.

And so it's with great honor that I welcome you here too to the chamber today, and it's with great pride that I represent the Sikh community in Western New York.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Kennedy.

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

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The resolution was previously adopted on April 10th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Senator Thomas would like to open that resolution for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The

resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you choose not to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator Gianaris.

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

Can we take that up, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

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

Senate Print 5889, by Senator Breslin, an act to amend the Insurance Law;

Senate Print 6454, Independent Redistricting Commission, an act to amend the State Law;

Senate Print 6480, by Senator Krueger, an act making appropriations for the support of government.

All bills reported direct to third reading.

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

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Opposed?

(No response.)

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

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please take up the supplemental calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 627, Senate Print 6454, Independent Redistricting Commission, an act to amend the State Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay aside that bill temporarily, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is temporarily laid aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 628, Senate Print 6480, by Senator Krueger, an act making appropriations for the support of government.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Is there a

message of necessity and appropriation at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: There is a message of necessity and appropriation at the desk.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to accept the message.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: All those in favor of accepting the message please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Opposed?

(Response of "Nay.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The message is accepted, and the bill is before the house.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is laid aside.

That completes the reading of the calendar, Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Can we now go to the controversial calendar, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will ring the bell.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 628, Senate Print 6480, by Senator Krueger, an act making appropriations for the support of government.

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

SENATOR BORRELLO: Why do I rise? Well, it's not to make another Groundhogs Day joke, I can promise you that.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BORRELLO: Will the sponsor yield for a question.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Krueger, do you yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes, I will.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senator yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you. Through you, Madam President.

So here we are, I believe this is our fifth budget extender today, if I'm counting correctly, five.

What's the value of today's extender?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Today's extender is worth $4.8 billion and lasts through Friday.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Madam President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Do you continue to yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senator yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So almost $5 billion for four days. This should be an identifier to the people of New York State of exactly what it costs or what our government spends each and every day here in New York State.

So for the -- the question is, is this a straight policy -- or is this a straight extender? Is there any policy in the budget today?

SENATOR KRUEGER: It's a straight extender. I don't believe there's any policy per se.

There is some new money that we haven't seen in previous weeks, I think for the EPIC program, which is the Elderly Pharmaceutical IC -- Insurance Coverage. I knew I knew that.

Thank you. So there's approximately $7.8 million in this for the money needed for EPIC.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you.

Madam President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Do you continue to yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Krueger yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So this extender will take us through Friday, April 28th. So do we expect to see some budget bills, perhaps even tonight, so that they have time to age and we can vote on them before Friday?

SENATOR KRUEGER: I'm pretty optimistic we will see budget bills. I don't believe we will see any by tonight.

You are right about the normal aging process of three days. But as you might have noticed, we seem to do budget bills using messages of necessity, which are not an ideal scenario but perhaps are better than continuing extenders.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Madam President,

will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Do you continue to yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Krueger yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So it sounds like things are somewhat improving, we'll say, in the budget negotiation logjam.

What's the status of the negotiations right now?

SENATOR KRUEGER: So the three leaders have been continuing to meet, and the secretaries have been continuing to meet. And everybody I think feels that we are making progress.

Some policy issues that the Governor put in her original budget are what I guess -- I don't know if this is the official term, but people seem to be using it, falling off the table. And appropriations are continuing forward pretty effectively.

So I think there are still a handful of some big-picture policy issues that need to be addressed. But again, I'm always

glass-half-full, Madam President. But I feel like we could actually get this done before we go home again.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Madam President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Do you continue to yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senator yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Well, I'm glad to hear you're glass-half-full. And we all, I think, are hopeful.

But, you know, I've heard your folks -- the folks on your side of the aisle say that we'd rather have, you know -- rather than a bad budget, we'd rather have a good budget, so it doesn't necessarily have to be on time.

But really, you know, what do you anticipate that's going to be in this budget that's going to be so much better that it couldn't have been negotiated and done on time? What's -- what's better that we are now so late, historically late, for this budget?

SENATOR KRUEGER: So I'm not sure

we are historically late, Madam President, because I've been here in August and done budgets in August. So I don't think we're anywhere near historical lateness. And I don't wish for us to ever do that again, thank you.

And it is interesting, because people do say they would rather have a good budget than an on-time budget, and it's an interesting question. I'd say it's in the eye of the beholder, because you and I each might have very different definitions of what's a good budget and what makes a budget better or not better than the original Executive proposal. So I think that's a much longer discussion.

I will highlight that I think the importance to the people of New York of our doing these extenders are that government is continuing to function. We are paying the workers. We are continuing to make -- pay our debts. We are paying the bills. Government has not ceased to function because we are late in the budget.

Now, interestingly, this year -- and people seem to have forgotten pretty quickly, because the Governor is allowed to submit her budget two weeks later the first year after an

election -- she did submit it two years -- two years? -- two weeks later. So technically we're not as far behind as we think, because we had two weeks less before April 1st to negotiate and get done.

So I actually think those first two weeks of being late were sort of putting us back on a normal schedule, bizarrely. But now we are a couple of weeks late.

But again, for the people who may be out there listening and watching and making sure that government is continuing to function, it absolutely is as long as we get this extender passed before noon today.

So I don't wish to continue extenders. I can guarantee you the staff do not wish to continue extenders. But it is far, far better to have the extender option and continue to complete our negotiations and get to budget bills we are confident in, because we are not doing harm to the functioning of the State of New York on behalf of all of our constituents.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Madam President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Do you

continue to yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: I do.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senator yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So notwithstanding the two-week mulligan that you've given yourself in this, I think we are certainly frustrated. Because although we are continuing to limp along, and our operations are running, I hear from folks every day that want to know what's going on because so much of their budget, so much depends on what happens here and this budget being passed.

So with that being said, you know, budgets are about budgets, they're about money, they're about what we're going to expend, what the revenues are. It's clear that it's policy that's holding up this budget and not the finances of New York State.

So with that being said, why are we discussing policy in the budget?

SENATOR KRUEGER: I like the question. Thank you very much, Madam President.

Some people think we shouldn't do any policy in a budget. And some states have

far, far less policy built into their budget documents. I would probably vote for less policy in our budgets, although it's impossible not to have some because when you're appropriating money for programs, you're often creating programs at the same time, or redesigning them.

So I think it would be impossible to remove policy from our budgets, but I actually would agree with my colleague that perhaps there's just too much policy going into our budget document and we could be working on those as freestanding bills and changing statutes.

Ironically, being so tied up in the budget being late, we have less time to be working on those statutes that I think all of us would like to see moved.

So yes, if I was writing the Executive Budget, if I was queen for a day -- which I am not -- maybe I wouldn't have as much policy proposals in it as we have been given. But under our rules, or more like under a court case decision -- that's Pataki v. Silver, which gave the Governor such a disproportionate amount of the powers and authority when it comes to what goes into a budget, what comes out, and what else

can go in -- this is the hand we have been dealt.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Madam President, on the bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Borrello on the bill.

SENATOR BORRELLO: I want to thank Senator Krueger again for those thoughtful responses. And I think we all appreciate the fact that we are now on our fifth extender and the holdup indeed is policy.

And I appreciate the fact that you agree we shouldn't have as much policy. I think that that's really the holdup here.

And, you know, that's part of the problem of why most people don't feel that their government represents them in a transparent way, because we try to hide all this policy in the budget. It's actually difficult for our staff to try and find that needle in the haystack. When we talk about, for example, bail reform, and it ends up in a part of the budget that has absolutely nothing to do with criminal justice.

You know, that's the kind of shell game that is played here in Albany. And quite frankly, you know, that's somewhat unique for

New York State in a lot of ways. But it is the reason why people lack faith.

And the people who depend on us the most to get this budget done, the people that deal with our most vulnerable citizens -- people with disabilities, senior citizens -- all those folks are waiting every day. And although a lot of our constituents don't know that the budget is late, the people that we need to supply critical funding and resources for, they do.

And I urge everyone to move as quickly as possible to finalize this so that the people that are dealing with the most vulnerable citizens in New York State have some assurance that their government does indeed work.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

SENATOR HELMING: Thank you, Madam President. If the sponsor will yield for a question.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Krueger, do you yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Certainly.

SENATOR HELMING: Thank you,

Senator Krueger. Through you, Madam President.

Senator Krueger, I heard you make a comment to the effect that government continues to function as we pass these extenders. And Senator Borrello just raised an excellent point that there are many organizations and agencies that are out there, and they're struggling, waiting. And the fact that we haven't passed a budget, it is impacting them.

I have heard over the last several days from several childcare providers, not-for-profit providers who are really struggling right now. They depend upon the stabilization grant funding. I've heard -- in conversations with OCFS, I've heard the stabilization grants referred to as lifelines for these not-for-profit childcare providers.

Can you tell me if there's any funding or any resources in the extender that will help our childcare providers?

SENATOR KRUEGER: One second.

Thank you. Sorry, I needed to double-check something.

Our understanding is stabilization grants are more like one-time grants, and that

the childcare providers can be submitting bills for reimbursement on their ongoing costs under their contracts.

But I don't disagree with you that there are many groups out there hoping that they will see additional monies in the new fiscal year above and beyond what they were being paid under their ongoing contracts. In fact, I think I tried to add up sort of the master list of what everyone was asking for, and I had to sit down because it was I think about $40 billion of hopes and dreams that people were submitting to us. And I'm pretty sure they won't be getting all that.

But yes, childcare providers are not getting any kind of new one-shot stabilization grants yet until we resolve this budget.

SENATOR HELMING: Thank you.

On the bill, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Helming on the bill.

SENATOR HELMING: So this is very concerning to me. As I stated, I had a number of not-for-profit childcare centers reach out to me. Some have gone as far as closing down classrooms.

I have another one that serves over a hundred families, and they've maxed out credit cards to try and meet their payroll and their other financial obligations.

They were waiting for the Round 3 stabilization grants to be passed. And of course, as we just heard, that's not going to happen until the budget is approved.

There isn't any more money left from Round 2 funding that the OCFS can pass out to these childcare providers. This is a real concern not only to families and to employers trying to get people to work, but also to children who, when their routine is disrupted, it has a negative impact.

So I would urge the Majority to do everything they can, that if we're back here on Friday with another extender, we have something in it to help these providers. Personally, I hope we're not passing a sixth extender, that we're actually starting to work on the budget.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Helming.

Are there any other Senators wishing

to be heard?

Senator Stec, why do you rise?

SENATOR STEC: Thank you. If the sponsor would yield for a question, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: A quick question, do you yield?

SENATOR STEC: A quick question. I hope.

SENATOR KRUEGER: I will answer a quick question.

SENATOR STEC: Thank you. Good morning, Senator Krueger.

In previous discussion about the amount of policy that's in the budget with another colleague of ours, you made reference to the progress that had been made over the weekend and that some policy items that were under discussion have, quote, fallen off the table.

I was just wondering if you could enlighten us and the 20 million New Yorkers what those items might be, since the budget's 24 days late and everyone's curious to know what's going on with the budget.

Thank you.

SENATOR KRUEGER: I'm sorry, no, I

don't have a master list. And I think quite a few of them have already hit the press. So I would say that the housing package of the Governor is one of the items that she has pulled back on. I think there are a number of other items that she's already announced she's pulled back on.

And I apologize that there's no others that are just jumping to my mind right now. But again, I think anything that is known has also already been shared through the press, because there are no secrets in this town and they're pretty good at tracking what's happening.

SENATOR STEC: Madam President, if the sponsor would yield for one quick follow-up.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Will you yield for a quick question?

SENATOR KRUEGER: If it's a follow-up, yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senator yields.

SENATOR STEC: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

Can you give us an update on where we stand at this moment with bail reform, since

that was the one that's been most talked about? I still think there's a cloud of uncertainty over what we're doing on criminal justice.

SENATOR KRUEGER: So I do not believe that has fallen off the table.

I do believe that there are changes in criminal justice that will be part of the final budget bills. But it is not necessarily my bailiwick, so I do not actually have details I can share yet.

SENATOR STEC: Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Stec.

Senator Tedisco.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Will the sponsor yield for a question.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Krueger, will you yield for a quick question?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: I'm adding "quick."

SENATOR TEDISCO: Senator Krueger --

SENATOR KRUEGER: Look at the

clock. Just -- we have the 12 o'clock deadline, sorry. A very quick question.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Over the years there have been other budgets that have been late. And at that time there were separate bodies here who were controlled by your side of the aisle, others were controlled by our side of the aisle, so that Republicans blame Democrats, Democrats blame Republicans.

But this is kind of different. Your party controls all sides of the aisle -- super-majority here, super-majority in the Assembly. You've got the Governor, the same affiliation for you.

Whose fault is it that we're here going on four weeks late with the budget this time? Because it can't be our affiliation, because we don't control any part of the system here.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Well, we all ran for office, and we're all the government. So I always look in the mirror every morning and say now I'm part of the problem. And I think at a certain level all of us are. We do not have a perfect system of government. Democracy is a

delicate balance -- democracy, small D, not party affiliation. So we have not perfected how we get great budgets done on time each year.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Very quickly, Senator Sanders has a --

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Excuse me, Senator Tedisco. Senator Tedisco.

Senator Tedisco, are you asking Senator Krueger to yield?

SENATOR TEDISCO: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: I don't think she was finished.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Last question, very quickly.

Senator Sanders has a bill to penalize the Governor the way we're purportedly penalized, to delay her salary. Is that an indication that you and he and your conference believe she's responsible?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Oh, I have not had a discussion with my conference. I signed onto the bill, but I can't speak for anyone else.

And it is 12 o'clock, Madam President, so I think I can't answer any more questions.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

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 17. 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, 57.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: At this point we're going to stand at ease while we have respective party conferences.

There will be an immediate meeting of the Democratic Conference in Room 332.

And please recognize Senator Lanza.

SENATOR LANZA: Madam President, there will be an immediate meeting of the Republican Conference in Room 315.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senate stands at ease.

There will be respective meetings of the Senate conferences.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 12:02 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 12:52 p.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senate will return to order.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Madam President.

At this time can we return to the supplemental calendar, remove the lay-aside that was placed temporarily on Calendar Number 627, and take that bill up, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 627, Senate Print 6454, Independent Redistricting Commission, an act to amend the State Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 6. 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 627, voting in the negative: Senator Lanza.

Ayes, 56. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

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

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

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let me remind my

colleagues we're going back into a Democratic conference upon adjournment.

On that, I move to adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 25th, at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Senate stands adjourned until tomorrow, April 25th, at 3:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 12:53 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)