NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

February 5, 2024

3:10 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JEREMY A. COONEY, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Senate will come to order.

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

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: I'd like to invite the Reverend Dr. Sabu Varghese, of the India Christian Assembly in Levittown, New York, to deliver today's invocation.

Pastor.

REVEREND DR. VARGHESE: Let us pray.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

As we gather here today, we ask that You give our lawmakers here wisdom from above for the doing of Your will, so that this state may shine with justice, righteousness and peace.

As we read in Romans 13:1, everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except which God has established. The authorities that exist have

been established by God.

We acknowledge that Your divine authority reigns over our government and its people. We pray that these servants of Yours will be united in their decisions and always have the good of the citizens at the forefront of their minds. May Your people be blessed by their service to them.

We thank You for lending Your ears to our prayers, because we have asked these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday, February 4, 2024, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Saturday, February 3, 2024, was read and approved. On motion, the Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator O'Mara moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 8567 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 8081, Third Reading Calendar 63.

Senator Rivera moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 8522 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 8056, Third Reading Calendar 191.

Senator Cleare moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 8604 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 8063, Third Reading Calendar 193.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: So ordered.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Good afternoon, Mr. President.

Let's begin by taking up the reading

of the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 63, Assembly Print Number 8567, by Assemblymember Palmesano, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 50.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 191, Assembly Bill Number 8522, by Assemblymember Paulin, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 50.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 193, Assembly Bill Number 8604, by Assemblymember Clark, an act to amend the Judiciary Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 50.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill

is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 194, Senate Print 8067, by Senator Skoufis, an act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Lay it aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 197, Senate Print 8074, by Senator Krueger, an act to amend the General Construction Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2023.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 197, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco and Weik.

Ayes, 43. Nays, 9.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 204, Senate Print 3385A, by Senator Brisport, an act to establish a task force on educator diversity in New York State.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Lay it aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 258, Senate Print 1032, by Senator Jackson, an act to amend the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Jackson to explain his vote.

SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you.

My colleagues, I stand in front of you today to advocate for this bill that enhances

the mission of the Amistad Commission. The bill number is 1032. It was established by the Legislature in 2005, the commission's role to be pivotal in integrating the history of chattel slavery into our state curriculum.

Despite its initial placement within the State Department, a 2016 report recommended a strategic shift, proposing its integration into the State Education Department, a move aligning more closely with its educational objectives.

Named after the historic 1839 Amistad uprising led by enslaved Africans on a Spanish vessel, the commission embodies a story of courage and justice. This uprising, which remarkably led to their liberation by the U.S. Supreme Court, stands as a symbol of resistance and rights.

In times when influential figures and groups attempt to underplay the significance of Black history, the necessity to amplify this fundamental aspect of our past becomes even more pressing. It's a critical moment to reexamine and bolster the commission's mandate.

My bill, S1032, advocates for a logical and widely endorsed shift of the

Amistad Commission under the Department of Education purview. And this move not only enhances its effectiveness, but also aligns with our commitment to educate the next generation about the harrowing history and enduring impact of slavery upon systemic racism.

So I call upon my colleagues to support this pivotal legislation. Let us heed the timeless warning: "Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it." In unity, let's collectively ensure our educational system becomes a powerful tool for learning.

Thank you.

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

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 261, Senate Print 1192, by Senator Persaud, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 261, voting in the negative are Senators Helming, Lanza, Oberacker and Ortt.

Ayes, 52. Nays, 4.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 264, Senate Print 1988, by Senator Jackson, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Jackson to explain his vote.

SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you,

Mr. President.

My colleagues, I stand before you today to advocate for Bill 1988, a measure I'm proud to sponsor.

In the diverse landscape of New York's public schools, New York faces a teacher diversity problem. In public schools across New York the number of minority students significantly exceeds half the total student population, especially in central urban districts, where nine out of ten students are not white.

Being a teacher from an underrepresented racial or ethnic group can isolate, making it challenging for performance regarding the job effectively.

However, the percentage of educators of color has remained stagnant, despite a growing body of research demonstrating that a diverse teacher workforce has a positive impact on the entire student body.

This imbalance not only places an undue burden on these educators, who become inadvertent role models and mentors for students of color, but also leads to a feeling of

alienation among their peers.

Bill 1988 is a step toward rectifying this imbalance. Its aim is to provide resources for mentorship and networking opportunities for underrepresented teachers, enabling them to share best practices and experiences.

It directs NYSED, the New York State Education Department, to organize annual statewide and five regional conventions for underrepresented teachers. By doing so, we are allocating resources to enhance the support network for these teachers, ultimately improving the education provided to the diverse children of New York State.

So let's pave the way for greater diversity in New York State's educational system, and I hope you will join me in voting aye on this bill.

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

Senator May to explain her vote.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm very pleased to support this

package of bills that are promoting recruitment and retention of underrepresented teachers.

I had the opportunity last year to visit a school in my district that has about -- really, 99 percent of the students are Black or brown. And I went from class to class, and the teachers were working hard to engage the students. And the students were mostly paying attention.

But then we went into a classroom that was taught by a young Black teacher who literally had the kids in the palm of her hand. They -- they were so excited and wanted to answer every question. They were falling all over themselves to answer her questions.

And it was mostly because she was a very gifted teacher, but it was also clearly because she looked like them, and they could imagine being like her someday.

And it made me realize not just how important it is for kids to have role models that they can identify with in their classrooms, but how lonely the job of that teacher must have been.

And so this -- this effort to bring

teachers together all across the state so that they can support each other and help each other, recruit additional people who look like them -- this is a really important effort for the teachers as well as for the students.

So I am proud to vote aye.

Thank you.

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

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 264, voting in the negative:

Senator Lanza.

Ayes, 60. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 271, Senate Print 3408, by Senator Parker, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Parker to explain his vote.

SENATOR PARKER: Thank you, Mr. President.

We know that education is not simply a key to open up the door of opportunity, but is a sledgehammer to knock that door of opportunity down. So I'm happy to support this package and want to thank the leadership for bringing this package of bills that actually addresses the issues around diversity and equity and inclusion, and by retaining teachers that in fact fit the model of not just looking like the people in the classroom but also providing a cultural competency that those students need in order for them to best learn.

This bill coming to the floor is a testament to the idea that the slow and the steady win the race. I was a cosponsor of this bill with now Congressman but at the time Assemblyman Espaillat back in 2005, when I first started in this body the Democratic Task Force on New Americans. And the idea is to create a space in which inclusion was a necessity.

When you look at some school districts, especially in places like Queens, when you have literally schools where like 50, 60, 70 languages -- more than that, okay, 90, 100 languages being spoken in school districts and in individual schools, this bill is really necessary because it provides the kind of economic incentive and boost that teachers need in order to make sure that bilingual teachers are available in our schools.

We must continue to push to make sure that we create every opportunity for our young people to be educated, because they are the future, and the better we educate them, the better our society will be going forward.

I vote aye and encourage my colleagues to vote aye as well.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Parker to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 271, voting in the negative: Senator Oberacker.

Ayes, 60. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill

is passed.

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: In that case, let's move to the reading of the controversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will ring the bell.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 194, Senate Print 8067, by Senator Skoufis, an act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law.

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

SENATOR LANZA: Mr. President, I believe there's an amendment at the desk. I waive the reading of that amendment and ask that you recognize Senator Helming.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: 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,

Mr. President, I appeal the ruling of the chair and ask that Senator Helming be heard on the appeal.

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

SENATOR HELMING: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, the proposed amendment is clearly germane as both the amendment and the bill before this chamber recognize the significant service and sacrifice of our veterans and propose eliminating fees for veterans.

The bill before the chamber would allow veterans and Gold Star families to visit public campsites, parks and other places of recreation free of charge. This is a fantastic proposal that I wholeheartedly support.

Veterans and their families make tremendous sacrifices to serve our country, and this bill is just the beginning of the steps this body should take to acknowledge their sacrifice.

I'm proposing an amendment that would further acknowledge our state's veterans

and provide another small benefit in return for their great sacrifice. This amendment, based on Senate Bill 3205, would eliminate sporting license fees for honorably discharged veterans with a 40 percent or greater service-connected disability.

Hunting, fishing and trapping are a way of life for many New Yorkers and offer residents the opportunity to experience our natural beauty and the abundance of our great state. In addition, these outdoor activities have been shown to improve mental health and to help our veterans cope with posttraumatic stress disorder.

A study by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs found that roughly 7 percent of veterans will experience PTSD. Even more staggering, 29 percent of the veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will experience PTSD in their lifetime. In many cases PTSD can lead to a disability determination for veterans returning to civilian life.

This is a reminder for this body we should take every step possible to provide outlets and opportunities for veterans suffering

from service-related disabilities, to improve their mental health and take advantage of the many recreational opportunities throughout our state.

This is exactly what my proposed amendment would accomplish by removing the financial barrier that stands in the way for many veterans hoping to pursue hunting, fishing or trapping.

For these reasons, Mr. President, I strongly urge you to reconsider your ruling.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Helming.

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.

(Response of "Aye.")

SENATOR LANZA: Show of hands.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: A show of hands has been requested and so ordered.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 20.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The

ruling of the chair stands, and the bill-in-chief is before the house.

Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2023.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 204, Senate Print 3385A, by Senator Brisport, an act to establish a task force on educator diversity in New York State.

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

SENATOR LANZA: Mr. President, I believe there's an amendment at the desk. I waive the reading of that amendment and ask that you recognize Senator Tedisco.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: 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, Mr. President, I appeal the ruling of the chair and ask that Senator Tedisco be recognized to be heard on the appeal.

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

SENATOR TEDISCO: Thank you, Mr. President.

As I rise to appeal the ruling of the chair, it's clear the proposed amendment is germane to the bill at hand because the bill at hand creates an educational task force, which the amendment I have brought today also creates.

This task force is centered on the impact of pandemic learning loss on our children. The pandemic forced children out of classroom and onto iPads. It put extra burdens on teachers, who had to come up with every avenue possible to educate students, many of whom were not engaged with their schooling as they would have been in a

classroom environment.

It increased pressure on parents, forcing them to take on the role of substitute teacher. It put masks on toddlers learning to speak.

The setback this has created for children of all ages is still unknown. We do know that many children, especially children of color, are behind the curve on the very basics of education. Math and reading scores are down, and we're losing a generation of talented students and kids.

We must take the steps necessary to identify how big the problem is and what we are, as a state, going to do to help those kids back on track. Instead of cutting money for schools, as the Governor is proposing, we should put money back into the budget and help these kids move forward. This is a start with that, creating a task force to help them help us move them forward.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reconsider your ruling.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

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.

(Response of "Aye.")

SENATOR LANZA: Show of hands.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: A show of hands has been requested and so ordered.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 20.

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

Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, why do you rise?

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Mr. President. I was wondering if the sponsor would yield for a few questions.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, I'd like to know if the term "educators" is defined in this bill.

SENATOR BRISPORT: Through you, Mr. President, "educators" is self-explanatory.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Through you, Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Will the task force be permitted -- and will it be within the scope of the task force -- to look at administrators in addition to educators?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Through you, Mr. President, the task force is referred to as a task force on educator diversity.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Through you, Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the

sponsor yield?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Thank you.

Will this bill be limited to educators in grades K through 12, or will it also apply to colleges and universities?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Through you, Mr. President, this bill does not put stipulations on the grade levels.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: In light of what has gone on at CUNY with the senior leadership, I'd like to know if the sponsor is aware of the Jewish representation on the CUNY senior leadership board.

SENATOR BRISPORT: Through you,

Mr. President, I don't have that in front of me.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: So just last spring it was revealed that the two Jewish remaining members on CUNY's board were resigning or removed, leaving no Jewish members on the 80-member leadership board.

And I'm wondering if this task force could evaluate the representation of groups like Jewish educators in the confines of their task force.

SENATOR BRISPORT: Through you, Mr. President, this task force examines a comprehensive study on the presence of educator diversity, state actions taken to promote educator diversity, and how New York State can encourage new initiatives to enhance or promote educator diversity.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:

Will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: So is it the sponsor's position, then, that Jewish educators are not considered in the concept of diversity?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Through you, Mr. President. No, I did not say that.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Is the task force permitted to look at the representation of Jewish educators in the scope of their task force?

SENATOR BRISPORT: Through you, Mr. President, there is nothing that prevents the

task force from examining that in the bill.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Thank you.

On the bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick on the bill.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: In light of what's gone on since the attack on October 7th -- and in recent months we've seen an escalation in antisemitic activity, and we have to address it at the basic level of our educational system, because the students are getting their cues and their guidance from educators and administrators.

This task force is looking at diversity representation. And I submit to this body that we should be looking at the representation of Jewish representatives in our educational system in order to deal with the antisemitic problem that we are faced with.

So this bill is certainly well on the right path to addressing issues, but I think it could be expanded so that we address the other issues that we know that we're facing.

Thank you. I will be voting aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard?

Seeing and hearing none, debate is now closed.

The Secretary will ring the bell.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Mayer to explain her vote.

SENATOR MAYER: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the opportunity.

And thank you to Senator Brisport and my colleagues for voting for this bill.

And I just feel it's necessary to remind my colleagues -- and I appreciate the conversation that you had -- that we're not in a zero-sum issue here about diversity and equity.

I obviously share my colleague's great concern about issues regarding Jewish educators and Jewish students, particularly in higher ed. And I'm sure I'll be working with our

chair of Higher Ed on these issues as they continue to be real challenges throughout our state and the nation.

But at the same time, that doesn't mean that it isn't appropriate to have a task force on educator diversity. As someone who's traveled around our K through 12 schools throughout the state, we know the importance, as Senator Brisport mentioned, of having a diverse educator pipeline. And in fact the teachers' union has endorsed a pipeline as well, because this is an effective way for us to reach a growingly diverse body of students.

So it's not one versus the other. Our job here is to advance equity, equality, opportunity and education for all. And I'm confident we can do that.

I'll be voting aye and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Mayer to record her vote in the affirmative.

Senator Bailey to explain his vote.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Again, thank you, Senator Brisport,

for this legislation. Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick certainly illuminated some important topics.

But if you can't see it, you can't be it. I went to public schools my entire life, and the first time I had a Black male teacher, I was a junior in high school.

So if we're talking about diversity and talking about people that live within certain communities -- and again, it's important to make sure that all communities can see individuals that look like them and sound like them and where they're from.

To do that, I just want to make sure that we illuminate that fact and show that, again, you know, a public school system in a majority Black neighborhood where I went to school, I did not have a Black male teacher until I was a junior in high school.

So programs like this are critically important to promote in STEM and try to trigger diversity. And diversity is not monolithic by any stretch of the imagination, but diversity is critically important.

And for those reasons I'll be voting

aye, Mr. President. Thank you.

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

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 204, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara and Ortt.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 4.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

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

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

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 6th, at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 6th, at 3:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 3:39 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)