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NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 4, 2025

3:50 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JAMAAL T. BAILEY, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

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

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

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

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

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Bishop  
9 Orlando Findlayter, of the New Hope Christian  
10 Fellowship in Brooklyn, New York, will deliver  
11 today's invocation.

12 Bishop?

13 BISHOP FINDLAYTER: Let us pray.  
14 God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, God  
15 of our weary years, God of our silent tears, we  
16 have come to You today first to say thank You.  
17 Thank You for the many blessings You have  
18 bestowed upon us individually and corporately as  
19 a state.

20 Thank You for this body, the  
21 New York State Senate. God, as they deliberate  
22 and as they make decisions that affect the entire  
23 state and all of its residents, we pray now that  
24 You will guide them. We ask God for wisdom,  
25 insight, a heart of compassion and the ability to

1 work together.

2 Grant, O God, to this body a heart  
3 for the marginalized, the downtrodden and the  
4 forgotten. Let every decision be fueled by love.  
5 And then, Lord, honor their sacrifices. Honor  
6 their commitment. Bless them, bless their homes  
7 and bless their families.

8 We ask that You would bless the  
9 leadership of the Senate. Bless every Senator.  
10 Bless the staff, and bless the great State of  
11 New York.

12 We pray for peace in this state. We  
13 pray for a season of prosperity for all  
14 New Yorkers. We ask, O God, that You grant mercy  
15 towards us where we have fallen short.

16 We pray this in respect to every  
17 faith tradition, but in my tradition, in the name  
18 of Jesus. Amen.

19 (Response of "Amen.")

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Reading  
21 of the Journal.

22 THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday,  
23 March 3, 2025, the Senate met pursuant to  
24 adjournment. The Journal of Friday, February 28,  
25 2025, was read and approved. On motion, the

1 Senate adjourned.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: 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 Mr. President.

15 I move to adopt the Resolution  
16 Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 439.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: All those  
18 in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar,  
19 with the exception of Resolution 439, please  
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Response of "Aye.")

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Opposed,  
23 nay.

24 (No response.)

25 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The

1 Resolution Calendar is adopted.

2 Senator Gianaris.

3 SENATOR GIANARIS: There is a  
4 privileged resolution at the desk. Please take  
5 that up, read it in its entirety, and call on  
6 Leader Stewart-Cousins.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: There is  
8 a privileged resolution at the desk.

9 The Secretary will read.

10 THE SECRETARY: Resolution 441, by  
11 Senator Stewart-Cousins, mourning the death of  
12 Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, distinguished citizen and  
13 devoted member of her community.

14 "WHEREAS, It is the custom of this  
15 Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of  
16 the State of New York whose lifework and civic  
17 endeavors served to enhance the quality of life  
18 in their communities and this great Empire State;  
19 and

20 "WHEREAS, The members of this  
21 Legislative Body are deeply saddened by the  
22 passing of Dr. Hazel Nell Dukes on March 1, 2025,  
23 at the age of 92, and wish to express their  
24 heartfelt condolences to her family, friends,  
25 colleagues, and the countless individuals whose

1 lives she touched; and

2 "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Dukes was a  
3 trailblazing civil rights leader, a tireless  
4 advocate for racial and social justice, and a  
5 champion for equality, dedicating her life to  
6 uplifting marginalized communities and fighting  
7 for the rights of all people; and

8 "WHEREAS, Born in Montgomery,  
9 Alabama, on March 17, 1932, to parents Alice and  
10 Edward Dukes, Hazel Dukes demonstrated an early  
11 passion for education and community service,  
12 attending Alabama State Teachers College before  
13 pursuing studies in business administration at  
14 Nassau Community College and later earning a  
15 bachelor's degree from Adelphi University in  
16 1978; and

17 "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Dukes made  
18 history in 1966 as the first African-American to  
19 work at the Nassau County Attorney's Office,  
20 where she worked to promote equal access to  
21 justice and public resources; and

22 "WHEREAS, She was instrumental in  
23 the implementation of President Lyndon B.  
24 Johnson's 'Head Start' program, which provided  
25 crucial early childhood education to underserved

1 communities and helped countless children and  
2 families achieve better futures; and

3 "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Duker held  
4 numerous leadership roles throughout her  
5 lifetime, including serving as the national  
6 president of the NAACP from 1989 to 1992, during  
7 which time she guided the organization through  
8 critical years of advocacy and reform, and later  
9 serving for more than four decades as president  
10 of the NAACP New York State Conference; and

11 "WHEREAS, She was a fearless  
12 advocate for voting rights, fair housing,  
13 economic opportunity, and education, and in 1972,  
14 she played a historic role by seconding the  
15 presidential nomination of Shirley Chisholm, the  
16 first Black woman to seek a major party's  
17 nomination for President of the United States;  
18 and

19 "WHEREAS, Her advocacy continued  
20 into the 21st century, influencing President  
21 Joe Biden's decision to select a Black woman as  
22 his running mate in 2020, and in 2023, she was  
23 awarded the NAACP's highest honor, the Spingarn  
24 Medal, presented by former Secretary of State  
25 Hillary Clinton in recognition of her

1 extraordinary contributions; and

2 "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Dukes also led  
3 efforts in public administration, serving as  
4 president of the New York City Off-Track Betting  
5 Corporation and later founding Hazel N. Dukes &  
6 Associates, a consulting firm specializing in  
7 public policy, health, and diversity; and

8 "WHEREAS, She remained a steadfast  
9 leader in the NAACP National Board of Directors  
10 and countless other civic organizations, ensuring  
11 that future generations continued the fight for  
12 justice and equality; and

13 "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Dukes'  
14 commitment to education was further exemplified  
15 by her service as a trustee of the State  
16 University of New York and Stillman College,  
17 where she worked to expand educational  
18 opportunities for underrepresented communities;  
19 and

20 "WHEREAS, She was a devoted member  
21 of the Assembly of Prayer Baptist Church, where  
22 she served as executive assistant to the pastor,  
23 was a member of the board of trustees, and taught  
24 adult Sunday school, demonstrating her deep faith  
25 and commitment to community service; and

1                   "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Dukes received  
2 numerous accolades for her unwavering dedication,  
3 including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the  
4 YWCA City of New York John La Farge Memorial  
5 Award for Interracial Justice, and the Guy R.  
6 Brewer Humanitarian Award, reflecting the  
7 profound impact of her work on both local and  
8 national levels; she was an active member of the  
9 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Northern Manhattan  
10 Alumnae Chapter and was selected to receive the  
11 sorority's Althea T.L. Simmons Social Action  
12 Award in August 2010; Dr. Dukes was incorporated  
13 in 2007 as a Pi Eta Kappa Fellow, and her  
14 biography has been selected for publication in  
15 many journals and directories, including Fisk  
16 University Library, Minority Women Contribution,  
17 American Biographical Institute Personalities of  
18 Northeast, Who's Who Among American Women and  
19 Who's Who Among Black Women; and

20                   "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Dukes has shown  
21 outstanding commitment to education, leadership,  
22 and community service; she was awarded an  
23 Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the  
24 City University of New York Law School at Queens  
25 College in 1990, an Honorary Doctor of Humane

1 Letters from Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn,  
2 New York, in 2009, and a similar honor from  
3 Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harlem,  
4 New York, in 2012; Dr. Dukes has also held  
5 leadership roles, including serving as the former  
6 president of the Metro-Manhattan Links Chapter  
7 and being appointed the National Links NGO  
8 Representative in 2010; her contributions to  
9 higher education include serving as a trustee for  
10 both the State University of New York and  
11 Stillman College; additionally, she has been an  
12 advocate for social justice and public health  
13 through her involvement with the National Council  
14 of Negro Women, Inc., and the National Black  
15 Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.; and

16 "WHEREAS, In recognition of her  
17 lifelong commitment to civil rights, a street in  
18 Roslyn Heights, New York, where Dr. Hazel Dukes  
19 once resided, was named 'Dr. Hazel Dukes Way' in  
20 her honor, serving as a lasting tribute to her  
21 legacy; and

22 "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Dukes resided in  
23 Harlem, New York, where she continued her  
24 advocacy and community involvement until her  
25 passing; and

1                   "WHEREAS, Dr. Hazel Dukes' passing  
2                   is an immense loss to the civil rights community  
3                   and the nation as a whole, yet her legacy will  
4                   live on in the policies she helped shape, the  
5                   lives she uplifted, and the generations she  
6                   inspired; now, therefore, be it

7                   "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
8                   Body pauses in its deliberations to mourn the  
9                   passing of Dr. Hazel Nell Dukes, to recognize  
10                  and celebrate her lifelong dedication to civil  
11                  rights and public service, and to express its  
12                  deepest gratitude for her contributions to a more  
13                  just and equitable society; and be it further

14                  "RESOLVED, That copies of this  
15                  resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to  
16                  the family of Dr. Hazel Nell Dukes, the NAACP  
17                  National Office, and the NAACP New York State  
18                  Conference as a token of appreciation for her  
19                  extraordinary work and enduring impact."

20                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Majority  
21                  Leader Stewart-Cousins on the resolution.

22                  SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS:    Thank you  
23                  so much, Mr. President.

24                  And I rise on behalf of this body to  
25                  express our condolences to the family of

1 Dr. Dukes and the many people who were called her  
2 children, the many people who were influenced by  
3 her intellect, her wisdom, all of those who had a  
4 chance to meet her, to be in her presence, and  
5 certainly all of those who will never have an  
6 opportunity to stand and honor this icon. It is  
7 certainly an incredible loss to not only this  
8 state, but to the nation.

9 But as I listened to all that was  
10 said and all that filled her 92 years, we know it  
11 was a life well-lived, but also it is a life to  
12 be celebrated. There is no one who has ever seen  
13 or heard Dr. Dukes who was not influenced by her,  
14 who was not indelibly marked by her -- by what  
15 she said and what she taught, how she lived, and  
16 how she believed in justice for everyone and  
17 certainly put her body on the line, put all she  
18 had on the line to make sure that justice was  
19 achieved. And if she didn't achieve it, you knew  
20 that she would die trying.

21 Dr. Dukes was somebody who I had the  
22 pleasure of meeting many, many years ago when I  
23 started in government around the desegregation  
24 issue in the City of Yonkers. We became closer  
25 as I came into the Senate and had an opportunity

1 to work with her and the NAACP in matters of  
2 civil rights and human rights and criminal  
3 justice reform and education and healthcare,  
4 because she cared about everything.

5           And there was nothing, no one who  
6 was either too great or too small to be in  
7 Dr. Dukes' sphere. She would mentor you, she  
8 would scold you, she would bring you up, she  
9 would put you down. And no matter how she did  
10 it, she did it in a way that you knew that she  
11 was talking to you out of love. That's not easy  
12 to do.

13           You never were ambiguous what she  
14 meant or what she was trying to convey. And she  
15 was also, again, unambiguous in her love -- not  
16 only for humanity, but for justice.

17           What an honor and a privilege to be  
18 able to stand here, and in the presence of the  
19 new state director of NAACP, L. Joy Williams; the  
20 executive director of the NAACP statewide,  
21 Christopher Alexander; and our Regent Hasoni  
22 Pratts, who we'll be voting on, will be  
23 returning.

24           But all of whom in this moment are  
25 representing the thousands of NAACP members

1 across our state and across our nation who are  
2 mourning and celebrating simultaneously the life  
3 and the legacy of Dr. Hazel Nell Dukes.

4 Her funeral will be next week. I  
5 cannot imagine how many people will be there  
6 because, as you've heard, she's been doing what  
7 she's been doing for the better part of those  
8 90 years, having grown up in the segregated South  
9 and having been so instrumental in advising  
10 presidents, putting, you know, Head Start into  
11 our communities across the nation, being able to  
12 second the nomination of Shirley Chisholm in  
13 1972. Somebody who was courageous enough to  
14 stand up and say, this Black woman is worth being  
15 President -- in 1972.

16 Someone who was able to advise  
17 President Biden, swear in the current Governor,  
18 get awarded by Hillary Rodham Clinton, and every  
19 single person in between who had an opportunity  
20 to say thank you to Hazel Dukes, took the  
21 opportunity to say thank you.

22 I am so grateful that she was able  
23 to get flowers and her accolades while she was  
24 alive. So much we wait until people are gone and  
25 then we start saying all these great things. But

1 Hazel, she wouldn't let you wait. And you  
2 shouldn't. And I think we need to learn that  
3 lesson as well.

4 We can be passionate and still be  
5 someone that when we transit, when we transition,  
6 the loss of that energy is so deep and so  
7 profound that we have no choice but to admire it  
8 and to follow it, and to understand it makes a  
9 difference when you actually have the courage of  
10 your conviction and are willing to put everything  
11 on the line in order to achieve it. Not just for  
12 you, but for all of humanity.

13 So I am so honored, again, to have  
14 known her, to have been mentored and befriended  
15 and just elevated by her. And I really want to  
16 thank Senator Cleare, because actually it's --  
17 this is her constituent. But, you know, she  
18 allowed me to, you know, carry it because, again,  
19 the influence of Dr. Dukes is something that we  
20 all celebrate for years to come.

21 So thank you so much, Mr. President.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
23 you, Madam Leader.

24 Senator Cleare on the resolution.

25 SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you,

1 Mr. President.

2 And thank you, Majority Leader  
3 Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Like always, you just so  
4 eloquently said all the things.

5 But if I were to add anything, you  
6 know, I have the privilege of serving the  
7 30th District, which includes the Village of  
8 Harlem. And that was the home to Hazel Dukes.  
9 She was bigger than Harlem. She's worldwide.  
10 But, you know, I always looked at her that she  
11 belonged to us. And I'm thankful that I was able  
12 to say that and I had the privilege of being able  
13 to speak with her, being able to glean from her,  
14 get a few talking tools from her, and just be  
15 able to look at the inspiration, be inspired by  
16 her.

17 You know, she was well known for  
18 standing up, not backing down. Staying the  
19 course. Being her true self. And I'd like to  
20 think that some of that fell on me and others.  
21 It's about being yourself, showing up, standing  
22 up for what you believe in. And that's what she  
23 did. She led with class, she led with  
24 distinction, she led with compassion, with grace,  
25 with strength, with fire. With fire.

1                   And I think we can all take some of  
2                   that from her as a tribute to her. She served on  
3                   my community board -- got to shout out my  
4                   Community Board 10. That was her family. She  
5                   led, she taught, and she just kept giving till  
6                   the end. She gave and gave and gave --  
7                   everything. She left it here.

8                   So I'll say to everyone, including  
9                   myself, there are no excuses. Hazel Dukes taught  
10                  us, she showed us the way. Her greatest title  
11                  she earned was Ma Dukes. And she was that to  
12                  many of us in Harlem and beyond. May she rest in  
13                  power and prestige.

14                  Rest in peace, Hazel Dukes.

15                  Thank you.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
17                  you, Senator Cleare.

18                  Senator Webb on the resolution.

19                  SENATOR WEBB: Thank you,  
20                  Mr. President.

21                  I rise just to add my remarks. I  
22                  too was influenced by Dr. Hazel "Ma" Dukes as a  
23                  young person, being a member of my local NAACP.  
24                  But also as I became an adult and helping to  
25                  support the campus chapter back in my district, I

1 had the opportunity to work with Dr. Dukes.

2                   And as has been already shared, once  
3 you met her, you were forever changed. Because  
4 she had this incredible ability to not only give  
5 you a lasting impression with her wit and most  
6 certainly her conviction, but she was someone  
7 that inspired you to do better. To stand up and  
8 be courageous and to fight for what is right.  
9 And that is not just simply civil rights, but  
10 what it means to be a member of our human family.

11                   And her 92 years of sacrifice,  
12 legacy building, as everyone has shared,  
13 continues not only in our halls but in halls all  
14 across this country.

15                   Last year when we established the  
16 SUNY Black Leadership Institute, we actually have  
17 a fellowship within that institute that's named  
18 after her. And so this was something that she  
19 has been a long champion of ensuring equitable  
20 representation across every institution in our  
21 state and in our nation.

22                   And so it is that legacy that we  
23 will continue in her honor, but also that is what  
24 she would want us to do.

25                   And not only as a mentor to me, but

1 also as a soror of mine through our sorority,  
2 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, she is  
3 someone that also has contributed en masse to our  
4 organizations's legacy that goes beyond this  
5 country, but most certainly internationally.

6 And so I want to extend my  
7 condolences to her family, to all of us who had  
8 the honor and privilege of being able to call on  
9 her. We knew that when you made that call, it  
10 was time for action, because she was going to  
11 make sure that the work was done and that it was  
12 done well and that you were respected.

13 And as we are lifting up Women's  
14 History Month, most certainly she embodies all of  
15 those things that we lift up and celebrate during  
16 this time of year.

17 And so I want to thank our Senate  
18 Majority Leader for her leadership always, and  
19 for most certainly Senator Cleare for bringing  
20 forward this important resolution.

21 Thank you, Madam President.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
23 you.

24 Senator Bailey on the resolution.

25 SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,

1 Madam President.

2 Madam Leader, thank you. And as  
3 always, eloquent. Senator Cleare, thank you for  
4 your words, and Senator Webb, and everybody, all  
5 of my colleagues who will after me say incredibly  
6 eloquent things about living history.

7 We've read history books, we learn  
8 about Black history. But when you've been able  
9 to be around and have actual, meaningful  
10 conversation with someone who is a part of  
11 history, it's important to treasure that. It's  
12 important to commemorate that in these floors and  
13 places where, quite frankly, Madam President,  
14 folks like us weren't allowed here quite some  
15 time ago. When she started her life, the way  
16 that this chamber looked was a lot different.

17 But because of actions for  
18 Dr. Dukes, because of what she did, and folks  
19 like her, we have the chance to sit at these  
20 seats, to sit at that table, that proverbial  
21 table that Shirley Chisholm spoke about. Because  
22 of her. Generations after us, even if it's not a  
23 textbook or if it's a tablet -- whatever it is,  
24 she's going to be in history books. We got a  
25 chance to get jewels from somebody who is going

1 to be in history books.

2 I think we should soak that in for a  
3 second. History wasn't always written for us.  
4 Quite frankly, quite the contrary. But in that  
5 next chapter, it's written because of people like  
6 Dr. Dukes.

7 Growing up, you know about the NAACP  
8 and what they've done for Black folks and what  
9 they did in our community. And my branch, the  
10 Williamsbridge branch, was up here today.

11 But to hear the name Hazel Dukes and  
12 then to get a chance to meet her was incredible.  
13 And then when you realize that Hazel Dukes knows  
14 your name, it sends chills down your spine. The  
15 first time that she's said to each of you by your  
16 name, I'm pretty sure I can challenge you to say  
17 that it made you feel incredibly special.

18 She would come to me and say, the  
19 Senator from the Boogie-Down. Because as you  
20 well know, Dr. Dukes was Dr. Dukes wherever she  
21 was going to be. If it was at the conference, if  
22 it was in the chamber, or if it was just on the  
23 street, she was consistent. In a day and age  
24 when we lack consistency in many ways, she was a  
25 steady and consistent figure throughout her life.

1 I'm grateful for the times that I  
2 had a chance to have a conversation with her.  
3 I'm grateful for the knowledge that she imparted  
4 upon me and the chances that we had to have a  
5 conversation. But I'm grateful that I got to,  
6 like by osmosis, almost, as it were, just to soak  
7 up some of what she was putting out there.

8 I can't imagine what it was like  
9 92 years ago. I can't imagine what it was like  
10 to be a Black woman growing up then. But  
11 nevertheless, she persisted. She is someone that  
12 will ring bells throughout history. So as the  
13 bell tolls and continues to toll, let's always  
14 remember to say thank you, thank you to the  
15 generation.

16 And one more thing, Madam President.  
17 Our NAACP chapters, our leadership, thank you for  
18 the work that you do. But the membership, we've  
19 got to make sure we support them and continue the  
20 mission. That's what Dr. Dukes would have wanted  
21 us to do.

22 May she rest in peace,  
23 Madam President.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
25 you.

1                   Senator Sanders on the resolution.

2                   SENATOR SANDERS:   Thank you,  
3                   Madam President.

4                   To our Majority Leader, to  
5                   Senator Cleare, thank you for bringing this  
6                   before us.

7                   A mighty tree has fallen. You can't  
8                   get around that. The world has changed. A  
9                   mighty tree has fallen.

10                  Let me tell you a quick Hazel Dukes  
11                  story, a recent one. Everyone knows that  
12                  New York State has pioneered the art, the  
13                  science, the wonder of trying to figure out  
14                  reparations. But what you may not know is there  
15                  came some snags in that. There were -- the big  
16                  money said it would not happen, that it couldn't  
17                  happen and it just -- it was dead in the water,  
18                  dead man walking.

19                  All right. They didn't understand  
20                  the dynamics. And I picked up the phone to Hazel  
21                  Dukes. Now, I cannot attest to what happened. I  
22                  cannot tell you the magic that was done. I  
23                  cannot tell you what this arm twister or this  
24                  smile -- I don't know. But what I do know is a  
25                  no turned into a yes.

1                   Now, I'm not quite clear on how it  
2 happened, and I sure wish that I could have her  
3 in my life for a whole bunch of other things.  
4 But all I know is a no turned into a yes.

5                   So we're seeing the passing of the  
6 greatest generation. Isn't this amazing? Folk  
7 who stood when the rest of us would have fallen.  
8 Women and men who labored from can't see in the  
9 morning to can't see at night, who stood up when  
10 everybody ran -- when it was sensible to run and  
11 it may have been insane to stand. A mighty  
12 generation. They don't make them that way  
13 anymore. Or do they?

14                   So a mighty tree has fallen. Can't  
15 get around it. This is a tree that gave us  
16 shade, took us under her wing, comforted us. Fed  
17 us -- if you were hungry, you were fed. Gave us  
18 warmth. But I know one thing about life and  
19 nature. A mighty tree is necessary in nature,  
20 but it must fall because if the mighty tree does  
21 not fall, the younger trees cannot come forward.

22                   The next generation has to come  
23 forward. The mighty trees have to yield so that  
24 the next branches of the trees come forward.

25                   We are here saluting the next

1 branches of this tree. You come from a good  
2 stock. You got deep roots. These roots go back  
3 400 years. They never ran. They never will.  
4 May you stand well-comforted by the incredible  
5 tradition that you come out of. A tradition that  
6 has brought us to here, where you have the first  
7 Black Majority Leader, a mighty tree.

8           Having said this, I say to you what  
9 I said to her. Whatever little bit I could do is  
10 done. I don't want anything except to aid in the  
11 process of growing this great tree. And that  
12 tree has to lead to one America. One America.  
13 Not 20, not 30, just one America with the same  
14 rights for everyone.

15           God bless you all. Thank you very  
16 much.

17           ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
18 you, Senator.

19           Senator Jackson on the resolution.

20           SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you,  
21 Madam President and my colleagues.

22           And to the Majority Leader and  
23 Cordell Cleare, thank you for bringing forward  
24 the resolution. And I just want to thank  
25 Dr. Hazel Dukes for her advocacy on behalf of all

1 people, and especially the children.

2           When I was involved with the  
3 Campaign for Fiscal Equity, CFE versus the State  
4 of New York, she was there and she supported the  
5 process of litigating this particular case. It  
6 took many, many years. But the bottom line, like  
7 you know and like she knew, is that education is  
8 the key to uplift all people. It doesn't matter  
9 if you're Black or you're white or you're  
10 Hispanic or you're Asian, whether you're rich or  
11 you're poor. It's education.

12           And Dr. Dukes has always been there  
13 as someone. So I rise now in her passing, but to  
14 thank her for being who she was and standing up  
15 for what's right. And that's what this is about.  
16 And that's why I'm committed as a State Senator  
17 to continue to struggle to represent people and  
18 do the best that I can to make their lives  
19 better.

20           And with that, to the family and  
21 friends, peace and blessings to you. And rest in  
22 peace, my dear Mom, Hazel Dukes.

23           ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
24 Brisport on the resolution.

25           SENATOR BRISPORT:    Thank you,

1 Mr. President.

2 I want to thank the leader for  
3 introducing this resolution, and also my  
4 colleague Senator Cleare.

5 I want to reiterate what Senator  
6 Jackson just said about Dr. Hazel Dukes'  
7 commitment to uplifting children and say one of  
8 my favorite memories of fighting alongside her  
9 was a couple of years ago when there were  
10 proposed changes to the charter school cap.

11 Because I remember Dr. Dukes hearing  
12 that there may be a massive expansion in charter  
13 schools in New York City, and she wasn't having  
14 that. So she showed up in Albany to rally with  
15 us. And standing alongside her, I could feel the  
16 immense legacy that she emanated. It really made  
17 me wish I could have been there in the '60s  
18 fighting alongside her.

19 But truly, when someone like  
20 Dr. Hazel Dukes devotes their entire life to  
21 uplifting children -- and so many other things,  
22 but uplifting children is one way to uplift all  
23 of society. And I've just got to say she has  
24 left incredibly large shoes that it will take all  
25 of us to fill.

1                   So thank you again for introducing  
2 this resolution.

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
4 Liu on the resolution.

5                   SENATOR LIU:    Thank you,  
6 Mr. President.

7                   I will -- you know, I sit next to  
8 Senator Sanders. I listen to him all the time.  
9 It usually goes in one ear and out the other.  
10 But today I was moved. You know, Sanders, you  
11 actually said something good.

12                  SENATOR SANDERS:    Be the last -- be  
13 the last time.

14                  SENATOR LIU:    It was -- you know,  
15 he said that a mighty tree at some point has to  
16 fall so that the young trees can grow up and take  
17 over. And as much tribute has been paid to  
18 Ma Dukes, I want to say that we are in good hands  
19 with L. Joy Williams. I was there when Ma Dukes  
20 anointed her the leader of Brooklyn. And now she  
21 has -- she is that new young tree that is taking  
22 the place of Ma Dukes.

23                  Thank you, Mr. President.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
25 Krueger on the resolution.

1                   SENATOR KRUEGER:    So Hazel Dukes  
2    had an enormous impact on me in one day in my  
3    life.  It was the late 1980s.  Ted Kennedy -- one  
4    of the good Kennedys --

5                   (Laughter.)

6                   SENATOR KRUEGER:    -- was coming to  
7    New York to do a -- to revisit -- sorry -- the  
8    tour of Robert, Sr., on hunger in America.  And  
9    so they had planned a whole day of visits through  
10   the same areas of New York City that Robert  
11   Kennedy, Sr., had visited.  And Ted Kennedy was  
12   carrying an antihunger bill in Congress at the  
13   time.

14                   And I was invited to come be with  
15   Ted Kennedy and, it turns out, Hazel Dukes,  
16   traveling the day, talking about the continuing  
17   crisis of hunger growing out of inadequate  
18   funding of federal food programs, which was the  
19   area I was working in at the time.  And I pretty  
20   much think I spent the whole day with my mouth  
21   open, just listening to Ted Kennedy and  
22   Hazel Dukes talk about the work that had been  
23   done and needed to be done.

24                   So even though in theory I was there  
25   to explain technically what was going on, I was

1 mostly just sitting in this car with my mouth  
2 open the whole day. And I never forgot that day.

3 And I think it's just representative  
4 of a small piece of the impact that she had in  
5 her life, and the work, and the meaning it was  
6 for anyone who did have the opportunity to come  
7 in contact with her.

8 Thank you.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: To our  
10 guests, NAACP leadership for the future, I  
11 welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend  
12 to you all of the privileges and courtesies of  
13 this house.

14 Please rise and be recognized.

15 (Extended standing ovation.)

16 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
17 question is on the resolution. All in favor  
18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Response of "Aye.")

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Opposed,  
21 nay.

22 (No response.)

23 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
24 resolution is adopted.

25 Senator Gianaris.

1                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Thank you,  
2   Mr. President.

3                   We have some additional resolutions  
4   to take up. We are going to simultaneously call  
5   an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in  
6   Room 332, and then take up Resolution 439, by  
7   Leader Stewart-Cousins, read that in its  
8   entirety, and call on Senator Webb on that  
9   resolution.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    There  
11   will be an immediate meeting of the  
12   Rules Committee in Room 332.

13                  Please read the resolution  
14   prescribed by Senator Gianaris. The Secretary  
15   will read.

16                  THE SECRETARY:    Resolution 439, by  
17   Senator Stewart-Cousins, memorializing Governor  
18   Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2025 as Women's  
19   History Month in the State of New York,  
20   recognizing the invaluable contributions of women  
21   in all aspects of society.

22                  "WHEREAS, March is Women's History  
23   Month, and each year New York State officially  
24   sets aside time to recognize the unique  
25   contributions that women have made to New York

1 State and beyond; and

2 "WHEREAS, New York State has a  
3 distinguished history of monumental achievements  
4 in the area of women's rights; and has long been  
5 at the forefront of the women's rights movement,  
6 leading the nation in legislative and social  
7 advancements for gender equality; and

8 "WHEREAS, The social and political  
9 leadership of women has strengthened our  
10 democracy, from the abolitionists who fought for  
11 the freedom and racial equality of all Americans  
12 and the suffragists who fought for the  
13 19th Amendment in 1920 to modern-day leaders  
14 shaping policy and governance at all levels; and

15 "WHEREAS, Throughout history, women  
16 have played an integral role in shaping  
17 politics, education, science, law, medicine,  
18 business, technology, literature, arts, and  
19 sports, breaking barriers and driving progress  
20 despite systemic obstacles; and

21 "WHEREAS, Recognizing Women's  
22 History Month provides an opportunity to  
23 highlight, honor, and celebrate the vital and  
24 extraordinary achievements of women past and  
25 present, ensuring that their stories are included

1 in our national and state narratives and serve  
2 as inspiration for future generations; and

3 "WHEREAS, Breaking barriers in  
4 education, Emma Willard opened the Troy Female  
5 Seminary in Troy, New York, in 1821, the first  
6 endowed institution for the education of women,  
7 expanding opportunities for women's academic  
8 advancement; and

9 "WHEREAS, In 1848 in New York, the  
10 first Women's Rights Convention was held at  
11 Seneca Falls to secure for all women a number of  
12 civil rights, including the right to vote, access  
13 to education, property ownership, and legal  
14 rights; and

15 "WHEREAS, Racial justice has been a  
16 crucial and ongoing fight within the women's  
17 rights movement, as women of color have  
18 historically faced both gender and racial  
19 discrimination; and Sojourner Truth, an  
20 abolitionist and civil rights advocate who  
21 challenged racial and gender inequality, spoke  
22 out for the abolition of slavery and suffrage for  
23 all women, famously delivering her 'Ain't I a  
24 Woman?' speech in 1851; and Harriet Tubman, a  
25 courageous abolitionist, led enslaved individuals

1 to freedom through the Underground Railroad  
2 during the 1850s and 1860s, ultimately settling  
3 in Auburn, New York, where she continued her  
4 humanitarian work; and

5 "WHEREAS, Pioneering advancements in  
6 education and medicine, Elizabeth Blackwell  
7 became the first woman in the United States to  
8 earn a medical degree, in 1849, from Geneva  
9 Medical College in New York, paving the way for  
10 women in medicine; and Dr. Mary E. Walker, the  
11 first female United States Army surgeon, in 1863,  
12 was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in  
13 1865, becoming the only woman in U.S. history to  
14 receive this distinction; and

15 "WHEREAS, Belva Lockwood became the  
16 first woman to argue a case before the U.S.  
17 Supreme Court in 1880, advocating for women's  
18 rights in the legal profession; and

19 "WHEREAS, Ida B. Wells, a  
20 journalist, civil rights activist, and former  
21 resident of Brooklyn, fought for social,  
22 economic, and racial equality for  
23 African-Americans and all women while cofounding  
24 the National Association for the Advancement of  
25 Colored People (NAACP) in 1909, highlighting the

1 intersection of civil rights and women's rights;  
2 and

3 "WHEREAS, Between 1911 and 1919,  
4 Madam C.J. Walker, an African-American  
5 entrepreneur and former resident of Harlem,  
6 became the first woman of any race to become a  
7 self-made millionaire due to the success of her  
8 hair-care products and the Madam C.J. Walker  
9 Manufacturing Company; and furthermore, Madam  
10 C.J. Walker's mansion, Villa Lewaro, located in  
11 Irvington, New York, is listed on the National  
12 Register of Historic places and stands as a  
13 symbol of optimism, perseverance, and the  
14 resilience of the American entrepreneurial  
15 spirit; and

16 "WHEREAS, In 1917, New York  
17 guaranteed women the right to vote in all  
18 elections, and in the following year the first  
19 two women, Ida Sammis and Mary Lilly, were  
20 elected to the New York State Legislature and  
21 became the first women to then serve in 1919; and

22 "WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and  
23 Susan B. Anthony were two of many women leading  
24 the campaign for women's suffrage throughout the  
25 mid-to-late 19th century, advocating for the

1 right to vote, which culminated in the passage of  
2 the 19th Amendment in 1920; and Maud Wood Park  
3 became the first national president of the League  
4 of Women Voters in 1920, helping to establish an  
5 organization that continues to empower voters and  
6 defend democracy; and

7 "WHEREAS, Margaret Sanger, a pioneer  
8 in birth control education and advocacy, opened  
9 the first birth control clinic in the  
10 United States in Brooklyn, in 1916, leading to  
11 the establishment of the Birth Control Clinical  
12 Research Bureau in New York City in 1923; and

13 "WHEREAS, Eleanor Roosevelt, a  
14 humanitarian and diplomat, served as the  
15 United States Delegate to the United Nations from  
16 1946 to 1952, and played a pivotal role in  
17 drafting the Universal Declaration of  
18 Human Rights in 1948; and

19 "WHEREAS, Rhoda Fox Graves, in 1934,  
20 became the first woman to be elected to the  
21 New York State Senate; she served from 1935 to  
22 1948, sitting in the 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st,  
23 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, and 166th New York  
24 State Legislatures; and

25 "WHEREAS, In 1955, Bessie Buchanan

1 was the first African-American woman to serve in  
2 the New York State Legislature; and

3 "WHEREAS, Constance Baker Motley, a  
4 civil rights lawyer and the first Black woman  
5 elected to the New York State Senate in 1964, was  
6 appointed to the U.S. District Court for the  
7 Southern District of New York in January 1966,  
8 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, and was confirmed  
9 by the United States Senate in August 1966,  
10 making her the first Black woman to serve as a  
11 federal judge in the United States; and

12 "WHEREAS, In 1967, Muriel Siebert  
13 became the first woman to own a seat on the  
14 New York Stock Exchange, opening the door for  
15 women to gain positions of greater economic  
16 power; and

17 "WHEREAS, In 1968, New York State  
18 Assemblywoman Shirley Chisholm became the first  
19 Black woman elected to Congress, and in 1972 she  
20 ran for President of the United States, another  
21 first for Black women; and

22 "WHEREAS, In 1970, New York City was  
23 the site of the first Women's Strike for  
24 Equality, in which 50,000 people marched for  
25 equal rights; and

1                   "WHEREAS, In 1978, Olga Mendez  
2           became the first Puerto Rican woman to serve in  
3           the New York State Legislature; in 1983, New York  
4           State women legislators established the  
5           Legislative Women's Caucus to improve the  
6           participation of women in all areas of  
7           government, support issues that benefit women,  
8           and provide a network of support for women in the  
9           State Legislature; and

10                   "WHEREAS, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a  
11           Brooklyn native, was a trailblazing attorney and  
12           jurist who dedicated her career to advancing  
13           gender equality and civil rights and successfully  
14           argued landmark cases before the U.S. Supreme  
15           Court, challenging laws that discriminated on the  
16           basis of sex and laying the legal foundation for  
17           gender equity; in 1993, she made history as the  
18           second woman and the first Jewish woman to serve  
19           on the U.S. Supreme Court; and

20                   "WHEREAS, In 1999, the Berkshire  
21           Conference of Women Historians was held to  
22           improve the status of women in history and in the  
23           historical professions; and

24                   "WHEREAS, Hillary Rodham Clinton has  
25           been a trailblazer in American politics and

1 public service, and in 2000 she became the first  
2 woman elected as a U.S. Senator for New York  
3 State; and

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

7 "WHEREAS, In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor,  
8 a Bronx native, became the first Latina and the  
9 third woman appointed to the United States  
10 Supreme Court; and

11 "WHEREAS, New Yorker Edith Windsor  
12 fought to expand marriage equality in the  
13 United States prior to the Marriage Equality Act  
14 of New York, which became law in 2011; and

15 "WHEREAS, In 2015, New Yorker  
16 Loretta Elizabeth Lynch was appointed as  
17 Attorney General of the United States, becoming  
18 the first African-American woman to serve in this  
19 esteemed position; and

20 "WHEREAS, Avril Haines of New York  
21 City became the first woman to serve as the  
22 Director of National Intelligence on January 21,  
23 2021; furthermore, on January 26, 2021,  
24 Janet Yellen of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, became the  
25 first woman to serve as the U.S. Secretary of

1 Treasury; and

2 "WHEREAS, Brenda K. Sannes became  
3 the first woman to serve as Chief Judge of the  
4 U.S. District Court for the Northern District of  
5 New York in 2022; Nusrat Choudhury became the  
6 first Muslim-American woman and the first  
7 Bangladeshi-American to serve as a U.S. District  
8 Judge in the Eastern District of New York in  
9 2023; Meredith Vacca became the first  
10 Asian-American woman to serve as a Judge of the  
11 Western District of New York in 2024; and

12 "WHEREAS, The New York Liberty won  
13 their first WNBA Championship in 2024, marking a  
14 significant milestone in women's sports; and

15 "WHEREAS, Currently, 50 percent of  
16 statewide elected officials are women, a  
17 testament to the growing representation and  
18 leadership of women in New York State government;  
19 notably, each of these leaders made history as  
20 the first woman elected to their respective  
21 positions, breaking barriers and paving the way  
22 for future generations of women in public  
23 service; and

24 "WHEREAS, 2025 marks the  
25 105th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which

1 guaranteed women the right to vote in the  
2 United States; and

3 "WHEREAS, Today, 73 women serve in  
4 the New York State Legislature, 51 Assemblywomen  
5 and 22 Senators, holding leadership positions in  
6 both houses and bringing the diverse experiences  
7 of women into law and public policy; and

8 "WHEREAS, The extraordinary  
9 achievements of these trailblazing women --  
10 spanning politics, law, medicine, business,  
11 civil rights, journalism, education, and  
12 activism -- have shaped the course of history and  
13 continue to inspire future generations; the  
14 collective achievements and efforts of these  
15 women have expanded rights, shattered barriers,  
16 and strengthened democracy, ensuring a more just  
17 and equitable society for all; now, therefore, be  
18 it

19 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
20 Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize  
21 Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2025 as  
22 Women's History Month in the State of New York;  
23 and be it further

24 "RESOLVED, That copies of this  
25 resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to

1 the Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State  
2 of New York, and the Legislative Women's Caucus  
3 of New York State."

4 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
5 Webb on the resolution.

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

8 It is my honor to rise today on  
9 behalf of our esteemed Majority Leader, Senator  
10 Andrea Stewart-Cousins, to speak on this very  
11 timely and very needed resolution memorializing  
12 Governor Hochul to proclaim March 2025 as Women's  
13 History Month in our great State of New York.

14 As it was read by our clerk, to  
15 recognize the countless contributions that women  
16 have made in our past, present and most certainly  
17 our future, and as we take up this resolution  
18 today, I want to lift up the words of a  
19 well-known abolitionist, feminist, and that is  
20 Sojourner Truth. She was someone who, like  
21 Dr. Hazel Dukes, who was unwavering in her  
22 commitment, courageous in a time where there was  
23 imminent danger. But she stood strong. And as  
24 she delivered her speech "Ain't I a Woman?" at  
25 the 1851 Women's Rights Convention more than

1 174 years ago, there's a particular piece in that  
2 speech I wanted to lift up that I think also  
3 helps to characterize why, when you add women,  
4 you change everything.

5 "If the first woman God ever made  
6 was strong enough to turn the world upside down  
7 all alone, these women together ought to be able  
8 to turn it back and get it right side up! And  
9 now they is asking to do it, the men better let  
10 them."

11 (Laughter.)

12 SENATOR WEBB: The words of  
13 Sojourner Truth ring true today as we gather our  
14 collective strength to face new and continued  
15 challenges as a nation, most certainly as a  
16 state, and in our respective communities.

17 Mr. President, as we pause today to  
18 recognize Women's History Month and to lift up  
19 the long and distinguished history of the women  
20 of New York, as it has been mentioned, this year  
21 marks the 105th anniversary of the 19th Amendment  
22 which granted women the right to vote in the  
23 United States. And we know that women of color  
24 didn't see that right until many years later.

25 We know that it is important that we

1 lift up women like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth  
2 Cady Stanton and we celebrate abolitionists Like  
3 Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman -- all the  
4 women of color, past and present, who continue  
5 fighting to ensure justice and dignity for all  
6 women.

7 We celebrate trailblazers like Ida  
8 B. Wells, a journalist and civil rights activist  
9 who fought for social, economic and racial  
10 equality for African-Americans and all women,  
11 also while cofounding the NAACP in 1909.

12 We also want to thank women who  
13 continue to break and shatter not only glass  
14 ceilings, but especially for women of color,  
15 those ceilings are often made of bricks. And so  
16 we have trailblazers in our own state like  
17 New York State leader, former Assemblywoman and  
18 Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who became the  
19 first Black woman elected to Congress and in 1972  
20 became the first Black woman to run for  
21 president.

22 We also recognize the history of  
23 women in this chamber. Most certainly,  
24 Mr. President, I was proud to be elected to this  
25 body two years ago as part of the first-ever

1 all-women class of Senators ever in our state  
2 history.

3           And we have the opportunity and the  
4 privilege to serve under the leadership of yet  
5 another trailblazer, our own Majority Leader,  
6 Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who is the first  
7 Black woman to lead our respective legislative  
8 body.

9           And so while we continue to make  
10 important milestones and break records in our  
11 state, I want it to be clear: We have a long way  
12 to go. When you talk about issues as it relates  
13 to fairness in pay, when we talk about, through  
14 policy, the work we're trying to do to address  
15 the very real challenges with maternal mortality  
16 rates, when we talk about still having to ensure  
17 that we have bodily autonomy as women in this  
18 country, it is important that representation in  
19 every institution has gender parity.

20           And so as we commemorate Women's  
21 History Month and we lift up these challenges, it  
22 is important that we think about the next  
23 generation of women leaders, that we are creating  
24 a legacy that they can carry this torch of  
25 change, of human change. And that, as it says in

1 the saying that we all have heard, Strong women,  
2 right, may we know them, may we be them, and most  
3 certainly may we raise them.

4 Mr. President, I encourage my  
5 colleagues to vote aye. I will most certainly be  
6 doing that. And happy Women's History Month.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
9 you, Senator Webb.

10 Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick on the  
11 resolution.

12 SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:

13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 I rise to thank the Majority Leader  
15 for bringing this resolution to the floor to  
16 commemorate Women's History Month so that we can  
17 take a moment to recognize the multitude of women  
18 who have contributed to our great state, to our  
19 nation, and to the world at large.

20 For those of you who are fans of  
21 golf, the first professional female golfer, Helen  
22 Hicks, was born in my Senate district, the 9th  
23 Senate District, in Cedarhurst, and was one of  
24 the 13 founding members of the LPGA. Her playing  
25 career included two major championship titles,

1 and last year Helen was inducted into the World  
2 Golf Hall of Fame for her storied career and her  
3 efforts for women's golf.

4 I couldn't stand here today without  
5 the support of the great women in my life. And I  
6 always think of my grandmother, Sophie Canzoneri,  
7 who immigrated to this country from Italy. And I  
8 wear her American flag pin proudly, because she  
9 was so proud to be an American citizen.

10 I also have to thank my mom, because  
11 she encouraged me, along with my brothers, to do  
12 anything I wanted. As one of six, three girls,  
13 three boys, she raised us -- without Alice or any  
14 other help from anybody outside -- and I always  
15 admire my mom for that.

16 As the mother of three daughters,  
17 I'm proud of the numerous roles women have in our  
18 sports, our business, our academics, and here in  
19 this chamber.

20 But most importantly, we need to  
21 show them that we are examples to them of what  
22 they can do. And even more importantly, we have  
23 to show our sons that women can do anything.  
24 Because when they have the support of everyone  
25 around them, there is no limit to what they can

1       achieve.

2                       So thank you, Mr. President, for  
3       allowing me to speak on this.

4                       I proudly vote aye. Thank you.

5                       ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
6       you, Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick.

7                       Senator Sanders on the resolution.

8                       SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you,  
9       Mr. President.

10                      Today I rise as Sister Lois's son.  
11       My mother, Lois Sanders, was a proud Black woman  
12       who through her life tried to show and teach us  
13       that women were equal to us. They were not  
14       supposed to walk behind us, not supposed to do  
15       any of that stupid stuff, that they will walk  
16       equal with us. And you don't have to be a woman  
17       to support women.

18                      I understand that women hold up half  
19       the sky. And I understand that if the sky hasn't  
20       fallen, it's because women have been holding up  
21       perhaps more than their share.

22                      So I just could not let the day go  
23       by without saying that all of us should be  
24       supporting -- not just in words, but through  
25       legislation -- to say that we believe in the

1 equality of the human family, equality of women.

2 And we can do it by voting on certain

3 legislation. And I'll be nice for the moment.

4 Thank you, Mr. President.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank

6 you, Senator Sanders.

7 The question is on the resolution.

8 All in favor signify by saying aye.

9 (Response of "Aye.")

10 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Opposed,

11 nay.

12 (No response.)

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The

14 resolution is adopted.

15 Senator Gianaris.

16 SENATOR GIANARIS: Now let's move

17 on to previously adopted Resolution 380, by

18 Senator Hinchey, read that resolution's title and

19 recognize Senator Hinchey.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The

21 Secretary will read.

22 THE SECRETARY: Resolution 380, by

23 Senator Hinchey, memorializing Governor Kathy

24 Hochul to proclaim February 15-22, 2025, as

25 National FFA Organization Week in the State of

1 New York.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
3 Hinchey on the resolution.

4 SENATOR HINCHEY: Thank you,  
5 Mr. President.

6 New York FFA was first founded by a  
7 group of young farmers, predating the  
8 establishment of the National FFA in 1928. Their  
9 mission was to prepare future generations for the  
10 challenges of feeding a growing population.

11 Throughout its history, FFA has  
12 expanded into a program that helps students  
13 discover their talents, serve their communities,  
14 and gain leadership experience across a variety  
15 of pathways. These are our future teachers,  
16 chemists, environmental scientists,  
17 veterinarians, and overall our future leaders.

18 This year is an incredibly special  
19 one, as it is New York's FFA celebrating its  
20 100-year anniversary.

21 New York FFA has seen significant  
22 growth in recent years. We actually had the Ag  
23 commissioner come to our committee meeting today,  
24 who shared with us that New York is the  
25 fastest-growing FFA state in the country. In

1 fact, in 2016 Commissioner Ball challenged FFA to  
2 increase its number of charters across the state  
3 by 100. And as of last year, FFA reached that  
4 goal with 103 new chapters, totaling over  
5 200 chapters across our state. That's 100 new  
6 chapters in time for 100 years.

7                   The FFA motto gives members 12 words  
8 to live by: Learning to do, doing to learn,  
9 earning to live, and living to serve. To me,  
10 that is a beautiful encapsulation of what we want  
11 to inspire and how we want to inspire all of our  
12 future leaders.

13                   I'm incredibly proud that FFA is  
14 such a strong organization in New York, and I'm  
15 very proud to vote aye on this resolution.

16                   Thank you, Mr. President.

17                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
18 Borrello on the resolution.

19                   SENATOR BORRELLO:    Thank you,  
20 Mr. President.

21                   I'd like to thank our sponsor, our  
22 chairwoman of the Ag Committee for bringing this  
23 forward.

24                   The FFA is truly about the future of  
25 agriculture here in New York State. It is our

1 young people getting involved in this  
2 organization that will ensure that agriculture  
3 remains strong here in New York State. And FFA  
4 is strong. As the chairwoman mentioned, it is  
5 growing here in New York State. Chapters are  
6 increasing.

7                   And this is truly a statewide  
8 organization. In fact, the largest chapter of  
9 the Future Farmers of America is in Queens. So  
10 that's a proud statement here, that this is truly  
11 a statewide organization.

12                   It is an organization that teaches  
13 leadership, strength, an organization that is  
14 truly making sure that we have a future here,  
15 that we can feed New Yorkers for the long term  
16 with food grown right here in New York State.

17                   As we move ahead in this chamber, we  
18 should understand that we have a tremendous  
19 impact on agriculture here in New York State, and  
20 understand that the folks, the young people that  
21 make up our FFA chapters across the state are  
22 committing themselves to remaining here and being  
23 farmers and protecting the future of New York  
24 State's ability to feed itself. It's an  
25 important thing for them, and an important thing

1 for us to remember.

2 So we're here to celebrate FFA.

3 Thank you all for that support. And God bless  
4 those who grow our food. No farms, no food.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
7 Oberacker on the resolution.

8 SENATOR OBERACKER: Thank you,  
9 Mr. President.

10 Mr. President, on the eighth day God  
11 looked down on this planned paradise and he said,  
12 I need a caretaker. So God made a farmer.

13 God said, I need somebody willing to  
14 get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in  
15 the fields, milk cows again, eat supper, then go  
16 down and stay past midnight at the meeting of the  
17 local school board. So God, Mr. President, gave  
18 me a son.

19 God said: I need somebody strong  
20 enough to clear the trees, heave bales, yet  
21 gentle enough to tame lambs, wean pigs, tend the  
22 pink-combed pullets, and who will stop his mower  
23 for an hour to splint the broken leg of a  
24 meadowlark. So God, Mr. President, gave me a  
25 son.

1                   Mr. President, if we had somebody to  
2 plow deep, straight, not cut corners; somebody to  
3 seed, weed, feed, breed, rake and disk and plow  
4 and plant, and tie the fleece and strain the milk  
5 and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard  
6 day's work with a five-mile drive to church --  
7 somebody who would be willing to bale a family  
8 together with the soft, strong bonds of sharing,  
9 who would laugh and then sigh and then reply,  
10 with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to  
11 spend his life doing what his dad does.

12                   So, Mr. President, God gave me two  
13 grandsons. And if there were ever two truer  
14 Future Farmers of America, it's two grandsons.

15                   So, Mr. President, I would like to  
16 thank our chair of Agriculture for bringing this  
17 resolution forward. And I proudly, as a farmer  
18 myself, vote aye.

19                   Thank you, Mr. President.

20                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
21 resolution was adopted on February 25th.

22                   Senator Gianaris.

23                   SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President,  
24 the sponsors of the various resolutions we took  
25 up today would like to open them for

1 cosponsorship.

2           ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The  
3 resolutions are open for cosponsorship.  Should  
4 you choose not to be a cosponsor, please notify  
5 the desk.

6           Senator Gianaris.

7           SENATOR GIANARIS:    Mr. President,  
8 there's a privileged resolution at the desk.

9           Please take that up, read its title,  
10 and recognize Senator Mayer on that resolution.

11          ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The  
12 Secretary will read.

13          THE SECRETARY:    Resolution 438, by  
14 Senator Mayer, Concurrent Resolution of the  
15 Senate and Assembly providing for the election of  
16 eight Regents of the University of the State of  
17 New York.

18          ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
19 Mayer on the privileged resolution.

20          SENATOR MAYER:    Thank you,  
21 Mr. President.

22                 And it's truly my honor to rise in  
23 support of this resolution as the sponsor,  
24 together with my colleague Senator Stavisky,  
25 chair of the Higher Education Committee here in

1 the Senate.

2 This is a resolution that we do here  
3 in the Senate as well as the Assembly does at the  
4 same time, providing for the election of eight  
5 Regents. And I do want to speak both about the  
6 process and the names of those we are electing.

7 In the first place, we continue to  
8 have a robust interview process where people who  
9 are interested in these positions came forward,  
10 were interviewed by a bipartisan group of members  
11 of the Senate and Assembly.

12 We spent a good deal of time asking  
13 tough questions and getting good answers. And we  
14 commend all those who came forward to volunteer  
15 for this incredibly important task of serving as  
16 a Regent of the University of the State of  
17 New York, not only with responsibility for the  
18 education of our younger children from  
19 kindergarten through 12th grade, but of many  
20 issues that involve the professions and higher  
21 ed.

22 And we're very, very fortunate to  
23 have a distinguished group that we elect here  
24 today. I want to go through who we are either  
25 reelecting or suggesting as new Regents.

1                   For the Second Judicial District,  
2                   which is Kings County in the City of New York,  
3                   Hasoni Pratts, of the County of Kings, to be  
4                   reelected Regent of the University of the State  
5                   of New York for a term of five years.

6                   Dr. Roger P. Catania, of the County  
7                   of Essex, to be reelected Regent for a term of  
8                   five years. And the County of Essex is in the  
9                   Fourth Judicial District, which includes Clinton,  
10                  Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery,  
11                  Saratoga, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Warren and  
12                  Washington counties.

13                  And in the Eighth Judicial District,  
14                  which includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua,  
15                  Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming  
16                  County, we are appointing Keith B. Wiley, of the  
17                  County of Erie, to be elected as Regent for the  
18                  Eighth Judicial District.

19                  And for the Ninth Judicial District,  
20                  for the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam,  
21                  Rockland and Westchester, we are reelecting the  
22                  current Regent, Dr. Frances G. Wills, to serve  
23                  for a term of five years.

24                  For the 10th Judicial District, in  
25                  Nassau and Suffolk County, we are electing

1 Felicia Thomas-Williams of the County of Suffolk  
2 as the Regent for the 10th Judicial District.

3 We are reappointing Dr. Lester W.  
4 Young, Jr., the current chancellor, from the  
5 County of Queens, to be reelected as at-large  
6 Regent for a term of five years.

7 And Roger B. Tilles, currently a  
8 Regent, to be elected an at-large Regent for a  
9 term of one year.

10 All of these individuals give of  
11 their time, give of their energy, give of their  
12 experience to help work with us to craft  
13 constructive ways to deal with the challenges of  
14 education and the professions in New York State.  
15 We are fortunate to have them be willing to come  
16 forward.

17 We look forward to their hard work.  
18 We look forward to engaging with them when we  
19 agree and disagree. But as a state, we are  
20 incredibly fortunate to have these individuals be  
21 willing to achieve and take on these  
22 responsibilities and to serve on the Board of  
23 Regents.

24 So I encourage all my colleagues to  
25 vote aye on this resolution, and I'm very, very

1 honored to be the sponsor of this resolution.

2 Thank you.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
4 Stavisky on the resolution.

5 SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you.

6 Thank you, Mr. President, and Senator Mayer.

7 It's interesting, when people hear  
8 the term Regents, they assume it's an exam. But  
9 it's not. It's much more than that. There are  
10 17 people with the title Regent, and we are  
11 electing eight of them today.

12 But the Regents, interestingly,  
13 are -- they go back to our colonial period. And  
14 I love to cite one of the most famous Regents was  
15 Alexander Hamilton. He was I guess in the room  
16 where it all happened originally.

17 And the Regents are unique. They  
18 are the policymaking body, the educational  
19 policymaking body of the State of New York. And  
20 in most states the commissioner of education is  
21 either appointed by the governor, it's a  
22 gubernatorial agency, or in some states they're  
23 elected by the people in a general-election vote.

24 New York is unique because the  
25 Commissioner of Education is elected by the

1 Regents. And the Regents are elected, as you  
2 know, by the Legislature.

3 So I can congratulate the Regents  
4 who have come forth through the interview  
5 process. We are proud of the work that you do,  
6 and continue to make New York State a leader in  
7 the education process.

8 The chancellor is a constituent of  
9 mine, and I congratulate him. He has a long  
10 history of service, starting as a teacher,  
11 frankly, and then rising through the ranks to  
12 become a superintendent and I think a deputy  
13 commissioner in Albany and now, since 2008, a  
14 Regent.

15 But all of the Regents have  
16 excellent credentials, and we congratulate them.  
17 And I urge a positive vote today.

18 Thank you, Mr. President.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
20 Murray on the resolution.

21 SENATOR MURRAY: Thank you,  
22 Mr. President.

23 Again, I'm going to rise and -- when  
24 I was down the hall in the Assembly and I was the  
25 ranking minority member on the Education

1 Committee, I sat in on all of the interviews.  
2 And it is an interesting prospect. You meet some  
3 great people and get some great information. And  
4 you really dig deep into background and pick the  
5 good candidates.

6           Unfortunately, that process doesn't  
7 allow every one of us -- I mean, I guess it does,  
8 it's open, but with our busy schedules most don't  
9 get the opportunity to participate like that.

10           And so you don't really get to know  
11 the individual candidates like maybe you could or  
12 should. And in fact we'll be voting on  
13 candidates that directly affect my area today --  
14 two, in fact. One is at-large, and the other one  
15 will be directly in our judicial area.

16           But once again, and I rise and say  
17 this multiple times in the process, there are  
18 eight individual people that we are voting on  
19 today. Unfortunately, we're voting with one  
20 vote. Does that mean we support every one of the  
21 eight? We don't know, if you haven't looked into  
22 their background. But we have one opportunity to  
23 vote up or down on eight individual candidates.

24           I think the process is not good. I  
25 think we should have the opportunity to vote up

1 and down on each individual candidate based on  
2 each individual candidate's merits, so we are  
3 assured that we are getting the best candidates  
4 to serve us in such an important position.

5 So for that reason, I will be voting  
6 no.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
8 question is on the resolution.

9 The Secretary will call the roll.

10 (The Secretary called the roll.)

11 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
12 the results.

13 THE SECRETARY: In relation to the  
14 resolution, those Senators voting in the negative  
15 are Senators Ashby, Borrello,  
16 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo,  
17 Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker,  
18 O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco,  
19 Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

20 Ayes, 41. Nays, 20.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
22 resolution is adopted.

23 Senator Gianaris.

24 SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President,  
25 there is a report of the Rules Committee at the

1 desk.

2 Let's take that up, please.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
4 Secretary will read.

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

8 Senate Print 172, by Senator Ramos,  
9 an act to amend the Workers' Compensation Law;

10 Senate Print 372, by  
11 Senator Gianaris, an act to amend the Labor Law;

12 Senate Print 1235A, by  
13 Senator Comrie, an act to amend the New York  
14 State Medical Care Facilities Finance Agency Act;

15 Senate Print 1514, by  
16 Senator Harckham, an act to amend the Labor Law;

17 Senate Print 2236, by Senator  
18 Gounardes, an act to amend the Labor Law;

19 Senate Print 4515, by Senator Ramos,  
20 an act to amend the Labor Law;

21 Senate Print 4587, by Senator Mayer,  
22 an act to amend the Education Law;

23 Senate Print 5442, by  
24 Senator Krueger, an act to amend the  
25 State Finance Law.

1 All bills reported direct to third  
2 reading.

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

6 (Response of "Aye.")

7 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Opposed,  
8 nay.

9 (No response.)

10 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
11 report of the Rules Committee is accepted.

12 Senator Gianaris.

13 SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you for  
14 recognizing my motion to accept the report of the  
15 Rules Committee, Mr. President.

16 (Laughter.)

17 SENATOR GIANARIS: At this time  
18 let's take up the reading of the calendar.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
20 Secretary will read.

21 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
22 203, Senate Print 363, by Senator Gianaris, an  
23 act to amend the General Business Law.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
25 last section.

1                   SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside for  
2     the day.

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:   The bill  
4     will be laid aside for the day.

5                   THE SECRETARY:   Calendar Number  
6     364, Senate Print 4188, by Senator Comrie, an act  
7     to amend the Penal Law.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:   Read the  
9     last section.

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

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:   Call the  
13     roll.

14                         (The Secretary called the roll.)

15                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:   Announce  
16     the results.

17                  THE SECRETARY:   Ayes, 61.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:   The bill  
19     is passed.

20                  THE SECRETARY:   Calendar Number  
21     368, Senate Print 2497, by Senator Gounardes, an  
22     act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:   Read the  
24     last section.

25                  THE SECRETARY:   Section 2.  This

1 act shall take effect immediately.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
6 the results.

7 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
8 Calendar 368, those Senators voting in the  
9 negative are Senators Borrello,  
10 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Lanza, Rhoads,  
11 Tedisco and Weik.

12 Ayes, 54. Nays, 7.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
14 is passed.

15 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
16 370, Senate Print 4611, by Senator Ramos, an act  
17 to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
19 last section.

20 THE SECRETARY: Section 11. This  
21 act shall take effect on the 30th day after it  
22 shall have become a law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
24 roll.

25 (The Secretary called the roll.)

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
2 Ramos to explain her vote.

3                   SENATOR RAMOS:    Hey, thank you,  
4 Mr. President.

5                   I today want to tell you about a  
6 worker who inspired this bill. Sandra Mejia  
7 worked for years disinfecting clothes at a  
8 laundry on the Upper West Side. Her employer  
9 paid 25 percent less than the minimum wage and  
10 never paid her the overtime she was owed.

11                  During the pandemic, they made Mejia  
12 buy her own PPE without compensating her and  
13 required her to work in an unventilated basement.  
14 When another worker tried to ask why they weren't  
15 paid minimum wage, she was fired.

16                  All in all, her employer stole a  
17 million dollars from its workers over the course  
18 of six years. Mejia is just one of countless  
19 workers whose experiences show how rampant and  
20 unchecked wage theft is in our economy.

21                  Whether working in restaurants, nail  
22 salons, construction, home care or other  
23 industries, New York workers are robbed of, at  
24 minimum, \$3 billion every year. Many of these  
25 workers are immigrants who are more vulnerable to

1 exploitation. I have a member on my team who  
2 focused exclusively on filing wage-theft claims  
3 for my neighbors in my district office.

4 Wage theft's ubiquity is the result  
5 of New York's weak labor enforcement and  
6 collection laws. Bosses know that even if  
7 workers do win in court, they can still get away  
8 without paying a single cent by using a variety  
9 of tactics to evade payments, ranging from  
10 shutting down their businesses, transferring  
11 their assets, declaring bankruptcy, or simply  
12 never showing up to court.

13 So the Wage Theft Attachment Act  
14 we're passing today steps up to face this  
15 problem, and that is why I proudly vote aye, so  
16 that workers can have a tool and they can finally  
17 get their money.

18 Thank you.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
20 Ramos to be recorded in the affirmative.

21 Announce the results.

22 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
23 Calendar 370, those Senators voting in the  
24 negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello,  
25 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, 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, 39. Nays, 22.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
6 is passed.

7 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
8 372, Senate Print 4999, by Senator Hoylman-Sigal,  
9 an act to amend the Estates, Powers and Trusts  
10 Law.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
12 last section.

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

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
16 roll.

17 (The Secretary called the roll.)

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
19 the results.

20 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
21 Calendar 372, those Senators voting in the  
22 negative are Senators Martins, Rhoads and Weik.

23 Ayes, 58. Nays, 3.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
25 is passed.

1                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
2     374, Senate Print 1678, by Senator C. Ryan, an  
3     act to authorize the Board of Trustees of the  
4     Village of East Syracuse to permit that the  
5     Office of Village Justice may be held by a  
6     nonresident.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Read the  
8     last section.

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

11                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Call the  
12    roll.

13                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

14                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Announce  
15    the results.

16                  THE SECRETARY:     Ayes, 61.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     The bill  
18    is passed.

19                  THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
20    376, Senate Print 4483, by Senator Mayer, an act  
21    to amend the Village Law.

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Read the  
23    last section.

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

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Call the  
2    roll.

3                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Announce  
5    the results.

6                   THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 61.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The bill  
8    is passed.

9                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
10   407, Senate Print 2708, by Senator May, an act to  
11   amend the Public Service Law.

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Read the  
13   last section.

14                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 3. This  
15   act shall take effect on the 90th day after it  
16   shall have become a law.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Call the  
18   roll.

19                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

20                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
21   May to explain her vote.

22                  SENATOR MAY:    Thank you,  
23   Mr. President.

24                  As we see a lot of economic  
25   development in this state, as we see transitions

1 of buildings and transportation to using more  
2 efficient electric energy, we are also seeing  
3 pressure on the electric grid to be able to  
4 transmit the amount of energy that we need.

5 And it turns out that the  
6 solutions are not all big, expensive new grid  
7 infrastructure, but there are actually solutions  
8 that come from just technical efficiencies in the  
9 grid system itself. You can move electrons  
10 faster if you are testing the temperature of  
11 different parts of the grid system. You can make  
12 a lot of really dramatic increases in efficiency  
13 on the grid with just very clever sensors and  
14 other technical interventions.

15 And so I'm excited that we in  
16 New York are passing this bill to help us take  
17 those kinds of measures that are smart, they are  
18 cost-effective, and they are truly efficient and  
19 can make our whole grid system more efficient.

20 So I'm grateful that this bill has  
21 come up for a vote, and I vote aye.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
23 May to be recorded in the affirmative.

24 Announce the results.

25 THE SECRETARY: In relation to

1 Calendar 407, those Senators voting in the  
2 negative are Senators Griffo, Lanza, Martins,  
3 Oberacker and Stec.

4 Ayes, 56. Nays, 5.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
6 is passed.

7 There is a substitution at the desk.

8 The Secretary will read.

9 THE SECRETARY: Senator Gonzalez  
10 moves to discharge, from the Committee on  
11 Elections, Assembly Bill Number 5834 and  
12 substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 5101,  
13 Third Reading Calendar 412.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
15 substitution is so ordered.

16 The Secretary will read.

17 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
18 412, Assembly Bill 5834, by Assemblymember  
19 Walker, an act to amend the Election Law.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
21 last section.

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

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
25 roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
3 the results.

4 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
5 Calendar 412, those Senators voting in the  
6 negative are Senators Borrello, Griffo,  
7 Oberacker, O'Mara, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weber  
8 and Weik.

9 Ayes, 52. Nays, 9.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
11 is passed.

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

14 SENATOR GIANARIS: Please take up  
15 the supplemental calendar.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
17 Secretary will read.

18 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
19 441, Senate Print 172, by Senator Ramos, an act  
20 to amend the Workers' Compensation Law.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
22 last section.

23 THE SECRETARY: Section 17. This  
24 act shall take effect immediately.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the

1 roll.

2 (The Secretary called the roll.)

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
4 Mayer to explain her vote.

5 SENATOR MAYER: Thank you,  
6 Mr. President.

7 And a special thank you to  
8 Senator Ramos for her leadership on this bill.

9 This bill is incredibly important  
10 because it provides urgently needed reforms to  
11 the TDI system in our state, but also it includes  
12 a provision that will provide families with paid  
13 leave following a stillbirth.

14 In New York 3,000 families  
15 experience a stillbirth every year, and  
16 unfortunately one in four families know the pain  
17 of child loss. And yet these parents are  
18 ineligible for New York's program.

19 Many years ago I spoke with brave  
20 mothers who came to share their stories of  
21 stillbirth and their disappointment with the lack  
22 of support from the state during the toughest  
23 moments of their lives. They felt ignored at  
24 every level in state policymaking, ignored by the  
25 lack of paid leave, ignored by the lack of

1 research into stillbirth, ignored by the stigma  
2 of talking about it and advocate for it at a  
3 policy level.

4 We have an obligation to do better  
5 for them. Any parent who has experienced the  
6 loss of a child understands there's an obligation  
7 to take these stories out of the shadows and into  
8 the halls of chambers like this, to make the  
9 policy changes that these parents deserve and to  
10 insist that there are more to be done.

11 I'm pleased to be voting yes on this  
12 bill. Again, thank you to Senator Ramos for her  
13 leadership. And thank you to the brave  
14 advocates, the women who have come forward to  
15 make sure this issue is addressed.

16 I vote aye.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
18 Mayer to be recorded in the affirmative.

19 Senator Borrello to explain his  
20 vote.

21 SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you,  
22 Mr. President.

23 We continue to burden our small  
24 businesses here in New York State with more and  
25 more costs. And TDI here is now going to go up a

1       whopping 600 percent over the course of four  
2       years.

3                       For those of you that don't know,  
4       temporary disability is for an injury -- not an  
5       injury that you sustain at work, but rather a  
6       sickness that is not work-related. So this is an  
7       insurance policy, like any other insurance  
8       policy. We don't mandate that businesses pay for  
9       car insurance or anything else, but we're going  
10      to mandate this, and this increase.

11                      Sixty percent of that premium is  
12      paid by the business, 40 percent by the  
13      employees. With this massive increase, many  
14      small business organizations and advocates like  
15      NFIB are certain this is going to increase those  
16      that are participating in the program, and in  
17      some cases in a questionable manner.

18                      We continue to drive businesses out  
19      of New York State, employers. You know, the  
20      problem is that this is continuing to burden and  
21      put really a heavy, heavy pressure on the people  
22      that really employ the most people here in  
23      New York State, and that's New York's small  
24      businesses. A 600 percent increase in this cost  
25      is going to be yet another reason to drive a

1 business out of New York or out of business  
2 altogether. So I can't support this bill.

3 You know, it's easy to spend  
4 somebody else's money. The problem here in  
5 New York State is we're starting to run out of  
6 other people's money. We're seeing that in the  
7 declining revenue, in income tax and all other  
8 taxes -- sales tax, payroll taxes, you name it.  
9 We have to stop this, and this is just one more  
10 unnecessary burden on New York State businesses.

11 Thank you.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
13 Borrello to be recorded in the negative.

14 Senator Ramos to explain her vote.

15 SENATOR RAMOS: You know,  
16 Mr. President, heaven forbid that a small  
17 business owner care about its workers. If  
18 there's anything we hear from small businesses  
19 right now it is that they're dealing with heavy  
20 turnover, and we need more incentives, not less,  
21 in order to help our small businesses be able to  
22 retain their workforce.

23 This is why the Small Business  
24 Majority came out in favor of temporary  
25 disability reform. It's because the increase is

1 coming from a lack of movement since 1989, when  
2 the insurance was set at \$170 per week. In 2025,  
3 it's impossible for anybody to get by on \$170 a  
4 week. I don't think that's even what we spend on  
5 lunch within a week, much less being able to keep  
6 up with the cost of living.

7 I mean, had you wanted the increase  
8 to be much more modest, perhaps when the other  
9 side of the aisle was in charge of this chamber  
10 they could have cared to make some improvement in  
11 order to help our workers. But that is  
12 unfortunately not true.

13 So now here we are, being able to  
14 bring stakeholders together and make this  
15 monumental change in order to help our workers.  
16 I mean, imagine trying to navigate a cancer  
17 diagnosis or ALS or experiencing a stillbirth or  
18 a mental health crisis while losing your wages  
19 and only taking \$170 per month. What you're  
20 doing is driving workers further into poverty.  
21 And then you're going to need a whole other set  
22 of services in order to help that worker and that  
23 family get by. But that other side of the aisle  
24 won't vote for that, either. They just want  
25 workers to die, essentially.

1 (Reaction from members.)

2 SENATOR RAMOS: So in February of  
3 2023, A Better Balance issued a report with  
4 recommendations for the modernization of  
5 New York's TDI program, many of which are covered  
6 in this bill. The report explains that the TDI  
7 system, as it currently stands, is deficient in  
8 its ability to support veterans and military  
9 families, women, New Yorkers with disabilities  
10 and Long COVID, and New Yorkers dealing with  
11 substance abuse issues.

12 It's inhumane. It's contrary to the  
13 interests of public health. It's in direct  
14 conflict with our efforts to fight poverty and  
15 help New Yorkers find stability in this turbulent  
16 world.

17 I want to thank all of the  
18 advocates, so many of them, from NYCLU to  
19 A Better Balance and many others, who shared  
20 their stories about their efforts to heal while  
21 facing extreme financial stress, who bravely told  
22 personal stories about the most vulnerable time  
23 in their lives and helped us advocate to bring  
24 this bill to the floor.

25 The work continues to patch the

1 holes in the safety net, and I proudly vote aye,  
2 Mr. President.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
4 Ramos to be recorded in the affirmative.

5 Senator Martins to explain his vote.

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

8 I rise to support this bill, as I  
9 have in the past. But I rise also to point out  
10 what everyone in this chamber should realize,  
11 that this side of the aisle, the side of the  
12 aisle that I stand on and stand in, has not been  
13 in the majority in this chamber for now seven  
14 years.

15 As a matter of fact, Mr. President,  
16 that side of the aisle that the sponsor  
17 referenced has had a supermajority in this  
18 chamber for a number of those years, as well as  
19 having a supermajority in the chamber on the  
20 other side of this building and also having the  
21 benefit of having a Governor that is also of the  
22 same party.

23 So here we are, into the seventh  
24 year of a majority on that side of the aisle, on  
25 the sponsor's side of the aisle -- and again,

1 remember, Mr. President, I rise to support this  
2 bill. But I will not sit here and listen to  
3 people complain about what happened on this side  
4 of the aisle when after seven years and here we  
5 are, you still haven't gotten there.

6 So hopefully that side of the aisle,  
7 along with this side of the aisle, can get this  
8 through and we can actually do the right thing  
9 for working people and working families in  
10 New York State and stop pointing fingers.

11 Mr. President, I vote aye.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
13 Martins to be recorded in the affirmative.

14 Senator Gianaris to explain his  
15 vote.

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

18 Let me begin by thanking my  
19 colleague Senator Martins for pointing out how  
20 thoroughly defeated his side of the aisle has  
21 been over the last several years. There's a  
22 reason for that. Because the people of this  
23 state have chosen to reelect our majority by  
24 strong numbers.

25 And part of the reason for that is

1 it has taken us quite some time to unravel the  
2 tremendous damage that has been done to this  
3 state under the leadership of the other side of  
4 the aisle -- which, prior to the last seven  
5 years, had the majority for almost a century, for  
6 the most part. Including, I know, the landmark  
7 achievement that Senator Martins supported of  
8 Tier 6, which we have been trying to peel apart  
9 for the last several years. And we have already  
10 taken steps to do that.

11 So I don't need to be lectured by  
12 Senator Martins. I served in the minority here  
13 for longer than I've served in the majority, so I  
14 know what it was like when he and his colleagues  
15 were governing. And Lord knows I and the people  
16 of this state don't want to go back to that.

17 I want to thank Senator Ramos for  
18 this tremendous bill. I'm so happy to support  
19 it. And I'm glad that we have the overwhelming  
20 majority to pass it today.

21 Thank you, Mr. President.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
23 Gianaris to be recorded in the affirmative.

24 Announce the results.

25 THE SECRETARY: In relation to

1 Calendar 441, those Senators voting in the  
2 negative are Senators Borrello, Helming, Lanza,  
3 Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rolison, Stec,  
4 Walczyk and Weik.

5 Ayes, 50. Nays, 11.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
7 is passed.

8 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
9 442, Senate Print 372, by Senator Gianaris, an  
10 act to amend the Labor Law.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
12 last section.

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

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
16 roll.

17 (The Secretary called the roll.)

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
19 the results.

20 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
21 Calendar 442, those Senators voting in the  
22 negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello,  
23 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo,  
24 Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker,  
25 O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco,

1 Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

2 Ayes, 41. Nays, 20.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
4 is passed.

5 There is a substitution at the desk.

6 The Secretary will read.

7 THE SECRETARY: Senator Comrie  
8 moves to discharge, from the Committee on  
9 Corporations, Authorities and Commissions,  
10 Assembly Bill Number 3224 and substitute it for  
11 the identical Senate Bill 1235A, Third Reading  
12 Calendar 443.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
14 substitution is so ordered.

15 The Secretary will read.

16 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
17 443, Assembly Bill 3224, by Assemblymember  
18 Braunstein, an act to amend the New York State  
19 Medical Care Facilities Finance Agency Act.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
21 last section.

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

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
25 roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)  
2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
3 the results.  
4 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.  
5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
6 is passed.  
7 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
8 444, Senate Print 1514, by Senator Harckham, an  
9 act to amend the Labor Law.  
10 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
11 last section.  
12 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
13 act shall take effect on the 180th day after it  
14 shall have become a day.  
15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
16 roll.  
17 (The Secretary called the roll.)  
18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
19 the results.  
20 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.  
21 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
22 is passed.  
23 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
24 445, Senate Print 2236, by Senator Gounardes, an  
25 act to amend the Labor Law.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Read the  
2    last section.

3                   THE SECRETARY:       Section 6.  This  
4    act shall take effect immediately.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Call the  
6    roll.

7                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Announce  
9    the results.

10                  THE SECRETARY:        Ayes, 61.

11                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The bill  
12    is passed.

13                  THE SECRETARY:        Calendar Number  
14    446, Senate Print 4515, by Senator Ramos, an act  
15    to amend the Labor Law.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Read the  
17    last section.

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

20                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Call the  
21    roll.

22                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
24    Ramos to explain her vote.

25                  SENATOR RAMOS:        Thank you,

1 Mr. President.

2 You know, Black History Month just  
3 ended, and now we are in Women's History Month,  
4 so it's only appropriate to celebrate a labor and  
5 civil rights leader who inspired this bill.

6 Dr. Martin Luther King had a  
7 neighbor whose name was Dorothy Lee Bolden. She  
8 was a domestic worker in Atlanta, Georgia, and  
9 had been a domestic worker since the age of  
10 9 years old.

11 With the encouragement of her  
12 neighbor, Dr. King, Dorothy began to organize  
13 nannies, housekeepers, and elder-care providers  
14 to make demands of their employers. Domestic  
15 workers, like farmworkers, are some of the  
16 original excluded workers. The sectors are  
17 explicitly carved out of the National Labor  
18 Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

19 This workforce, made up  
20 predominantly of Black and immigrant women, make  
21 the rest of our economy possible by providing the  
22 care work needed to allow the rest of us to go to  
23 work.

24 In 1968, Mrs. Bolden founded the  
25 National Domestic Workers Union of America, which

1 eventually represented more than 30,000 domestic  
2 workers in 10 cities and was the longest  
3 surviving union of domestic workers throughout  
4 the United States.

5 Organizing domestic workers is a  
6 unique challenge. Their employer's home is their  
7 workplace, where a union organizer cannot reach  
8 them and where they are isolated from the company  
9 of coworkers that they may organize with.

10 Dorothy Bolden solved this problem using tactics  
11 she learned in the Civil Rights Movement. She  
12 used public transit.

13 The shared bus rides that domestic  
14 workers would take from their neighborhoods to  
15 their employers' neighborhoods became an  
16 organizing meeting. Like any good union  
17 organizer, Dorothy knew you have to meet people  
18 where they are, sometimes quite literally.

19 She would ride the bus for hours,  
20 sitting next to domestic workers, striking up  
21 conversations and registering them to vote.  
22 Public transit became her union hall.

23 In 2010, New York became the first  
24 state to win a Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights,  
25 and today this body is passing my bill to grant

1 domestic workers across the state the security of  
2 paid sick leave. And I thank my colleagues who  
3 are voting for this, because we are correcting a  
4 deep injustice, a historical injustice, and one  
5 of the last vestiges of Jim Crow in our state.

6 Thank you, Mr. President.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
8 Ramos to be recorded in the affirmative.

9 Announce the results.

10 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
11 Calendar 446, those Senators voting in the  
12 negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello,  
13 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo,  
14 Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker,  
15 O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec,  
16 Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

17 Ayes, 40. Nays, 21.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
19 is passed.

20 There is a substitution at the desk.

21 The Secretary will read.

22 THE SECRETARY: Senator Krueger  
23 moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules,  
24 Assembly Bill Number 5833 and substitute it for  
25 the identical Senate Bill 5442, Third Reading

1 Calendar 448.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
3 substitution is so ordered.

4 The Secretary will read.

5 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
6 448, Assembly Bill Number 5833, by  
7 Assemblymember Pretlow, an act to amend the  
8 State Finance Law.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
10 last section.

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

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
14 roll.

15 (The Secretary called the roll.)

16 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
17 the results.

18 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
20 is passed.

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

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

25 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: There is

1 no further business at the desk.

2 SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to  
3 adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 5th, at  
4 12:00 noon.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: On  
6 motion, the Senate stands adjourned until  
7 tomorrow, Tuesday, March 5th, at 12:00 p.m.

8 And even though he's a Net and a  
9 Yankee fan, Happy Birthday, Dad.

10 (Laughter.)

11 (Whereupon, at 5:26 p.m., the Senate  
12 adjourned.)

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