

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate April 9, 2026
Rough Draft

KELLY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the fifty-eighth day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Dorn. Please rise.

DORN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Many of you know that we do have a prayer breakfast every Wednesday morning. Some of us meet. And this week-- Arlen Hess leads that. And this week, his wife wrote us kind of a year in-- some of us that are leaving-- card, beautiful card. I had wrote another prayer. I decided, no, not, not that, this. This has some beautiful meaning in it, and it's really geared towards the whole body as I read this, so please join me. Today, we celebrate you. Thank you for being faithful through all the ups and downs of the Nebraska Legislature. Thank you for sacrificing time at home with family, to serve. Thank you for giving of yourself, in so many ways: mentally, physically, financially, and spiritually, day in and day out. Thank you for being grace-filled, while others were not. Thank you for preserving-- persevering and not giving up, though at times, you undoubtedly wondered if it was worth it. Today is bittersweet, as we are happy you will get a well-deserved respite from the heavy-- the heaviness of being a senator, but we are sad to be saying goodbye. Your constant presence and encouragement, since we began, and years ago, will not be forgotten. We have seen your heart for God and others up close, and you have greatly blessed us all. And that was really meant for all the senators, whether you're staying or leaving. But I have one last prayer, and this is for-- as the state is dealing with the fires out west. Lord, lend us your help. Oh Lord, makers of the heaven and earth, thank you for sending angels to help those who have fought the fires, and continue to be challenged with the aftermath of the fires. Calm the wind. Send rain, send rain, and send rain. Thank you.

KELLY: I recognize Senator Dover for the Pledge of Allegiance.

DOVER: Please join me. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

KELLY: I call to order the fifty-eighth day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence, roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

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KELLY: Are there any corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections this morning, sir.

KELLY: Any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: I have no messages, reports, nor announcements, sir.

KELLY: Please proceed to the first item on the agenda.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Health and Human Services Committee would report favorably on the gubernatorial appointment of Makayla Brockhaus to the Nebraska Rural Health Advisory Commission.

KELLY: Senator Hardin, you're recognized to open.

HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. President. The Health and Human Services Committee is reporting Dr. Makayla Brockhaus for confirmation by the Legislature for appointment to the Nebraska Rural Health Advisory Commission. Dr. Brockhaus is currently a family resident physician from Creighton, Nebraska. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State College and her medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Brockhaus has been a member of the Rural Health Opportunities Program at Wayne State College, president of a family medicine group, student ambassador for the American Academy of Family Physicians, and a volunteer for the Nebraska Rural Health Outreach Program. In addition, she's received scholarships through the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians, UNMC Family Medicine Department, and the Advanced Family Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Brockhaus was raised in rural Nebraska, and has a passion to give back and serve underserved Nebraskans, involving health care. The Health and Human Services Committee voted 7-0 to report favorably on the appointment of Dr. Makayla Brockhaus. I'd appreciate your green vote to approve Dr. Makayla Brockhaus for appointment to the Nebraska Rural Health Advisory Commission. Thank you.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Hardin. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close and waive. Members, the question is the adoption of the report from the Health and Human Services Committee. All of those in favor vote aye; all of those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee report, Mr. President.

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KELLY: The committee report is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee would report favorably on the gubernatorial appointment of Thomas Dargy to the Public Employees Retirement Board.

KELLY: Senator Ballard, you're recognized to open.

BALLARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, good morning, colleagues. Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee held a confirmation hearing on March 31, on the appointment of Thomas Dargy from the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Board. Mr. Dargy was appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy on the County Plan member, member seat of the board. His term will expire January 1, 2031. Mr. Dargy received his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Mr. Dargy had a 27-year career in law enforcement for the Bellevue Police Department, including stints as interim police chief and retiring as assistant chief of police in 2023. Following a career in law, law enforcement, Mr. Dargy joined the Sarpy County Administrator's Office as an assistant county administrator, where he oversees various county departments, including community corrections and veterans services. At his confirmation, Mr Dargy demonstrated experience in different types of retirement plans offered by the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee. Mr. Dargy was advanced to the full, full Legislature on a unanimous vote. I ask for your green light on the confirmation. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Ballard. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close and waive closing. Members, the question is the adoption of the committee report from the Retirement Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee report, Mr. President.

KELLY: The committee report is adopted. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, the General Affairs Committee report favorably on the appointments of Antonio Gomez and Dennis P. Lee to the State Racing and Gaming Commission.

KELLY: Senator Holdcroft, you're recognized to open.

HOLDCROFT: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I am pleased to present Dennis P. Lee for gubernatorial reappointment to the Racing and Gaming Commission. Mr. Lee appeared before the General Affairs Committee, where there were no testifiers in opposition to his reappointment, and the committee unanimously advanced his reappointment to the Racing and Gaming Commission. Mr. Lee has served on the commission since 1988 and has been elected chairman by his fellow commissioners each year since 1990. He brings nearly four decades of experience as an attorney and a deep understanding of Nebraska's racing industry, having worked in both regulatory and operational roles. In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Lee has served on numerous boards, including Racing Commissioners International, where he also served as chairman, as well as several other professional and community organizations. His long-standing commitment to the industry, combined with his leadership and institutional knowledge, making him well qualified to continue serving at a time when the commission's role remains critically important. On behalf of the General Affairs Committee, I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Dennis P. Lee's reappointment to the Racing and Gaming Commission. Also, I am pleased to present Antonio Gomez for gubernatorial appointment to the Racing and Gaming Commission. Mr. Gomez appeared before the General Affairs Committee, where there were no testifiers in opposition to his appointment, and the committee unanimously advanced his appointment to the Racing and Gaming Commission. As a new appointment to the commission, Mr. Gomez brings decades of experience in both public service and private enterprise. He served for 20 years on the Mexican-American Commission of the State of Nebraska and as an elected Dakota County Commissioner. In the private sector, Mr. Gomez built and led Gomez Pallets Company as owner and president for over three decades, following earlier work with Iowa Beef Packers. His background reflects a deep understanding of business operations, workforce issues, and economic development. Mr. Gomez has also been recognized for his service and leadership, receiving awards from multiple Nebraska Governors, as well as Siouxland Chamber of Commerce Deming Award, in 2023. The Racing and Gaming Commission requires individuals of integrity, sound judgment, and practical experience. Mr. Gomez's record clearly reflects these qualities. On behalf of the General Affairs Committee, I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Antonio Gomez's appointment to the Racing and Gaming Commission. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Holdcroft. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close and waive closing. Senators, the question

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is the adoption of the committee report from General Affairs. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report, Mr. President.

KELLY: The committee report is adopted. Mr. Clerk. Senators, please find your seat for Final Reading. All unexcused members are present for Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, the first bill is LB737.

CLERK: [Read LB737 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of the law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB737 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senator Armendariz. Not voting: Senator Hansen. The vote is 47 ayes, 1 nay, 1 excused not voting.

KELLY: LB737 passes. The next bill is LB753.

CLERK: [Read LB753 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB753 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Rabould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: Senator Hansen. Votes 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused not voting, Mr. President.

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KELLY: LB753 passes. The next bill is LB784. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 45 ayes, 0 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB784]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB784 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: Senator Hansen. Vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused not voting, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB784 passes. The next bill is LB788.

CLERK: [Read LB788 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB788 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: Senator Hansen. Vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused not voting.

KELLY: LB788 passes. The next bill is LB913.

CLERK: [Read LB913 on Final Reading]

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KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB913 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: Senator Hansen. Vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused not voting.

KELLY: LB913 passes. The next bill is LB952, with the emergency clause.

CLERK: [Read LB952 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of a law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall 9-- LB952 pass, with the emergency clause? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: Senator Hansen. Vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused not voting.

KELLY: LB952 passes with the emergency clause. The next bill is LB977. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 47 ayes, 0 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB977]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB977 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. All-- Record, Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: None. The vote is 49 ayes, no nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB977 passes. The next bill is LB998. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 46 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB998]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB998 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB998 passes. The next bill is LB9-- is LB1055.

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1055 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer,

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Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1055 passes. The next bill is LB10-- LB1108. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 45 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB1108]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1108 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1108 passes. The next bill is LB1195.

CLERK: [Read LB1195 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1195 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, DeBoer, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senator Conrad, Senator DeKay. Senator DeKay voting yes. Vote is 48 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1195 passes. The next bill is LB1216.

CLERK: [Read LB1216 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1216 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Vote is 49 nays, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1216 passes. The next bill is LB1256.

CLERK: [Read LB1256 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 1256 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1256 passes. The next bill is LB429.

CLERK: [Read LB429 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB429 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick,

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Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Machaela Cavanaugh and Guereca. The vote is 47 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB429 passes. Senator Raybould would like to recognize some guests under the north balcony. From California, her 2 granddaughters, Paloma Goldman and Valentina Goldman, her daughter, Clara Herrero, and her husband, Jose Herrero. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. The next bill on Final Reading is LB729-- LB721.

CLERK: [Read LB721 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB721 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Hol-- Hardin, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Holdcroft and Sorrentino. Senator Holdcroft voting yes. Vote is-- Senator Sorrentino voting yes. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB721 passes. The next bill is LB722.

CLERK: [Read LB722 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB722 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Dover and Juarez. The vote is 40-- Senator Dover voting yes. Vote is 48 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB722 passes. The next bill is LB727.

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CLERK: [Read LB727 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB727 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senator Fredrickson. Senator Fredrickson voting yes. 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB727 passes. The next bill is LB743.

CLERK: [Read LB743 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB743 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB743 passes. The next bill is LB745.

CLERK: [Read LB745 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB745 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez,

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Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB745 passes. The next bill is LB748. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 2 nays to dispense with the at-large reading. 43 ayes, 2 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: [Read title of LB748]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB748 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Not voting: Senate-- excuse me. Voting no: Senators Machaela Cavanaugh, and DeBoer, and Guereca. Vote is 46 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB748 passes. Senator DeKay would like to recognize some guests in the north balcony. They are fifth graders from Creighton Elementary in Creighton, Nebraska. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Ballard would like to recognize guests in the north balcony. They are fourth graders from Malcolm Public School. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. The next bill is LB749.

CLERK: [Read LB749 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB749 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB749 passes. The next bill is LB758. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk..

CLERK: 46 ayes 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB758]

KELLY: All provisions of a law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB758 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not-- the vote is 49 ayes, no-- 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB758 passes. The next bill is LB768. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 44 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB768]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure, having been complied with, the question is, shall LB768 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB768 passes. The next bill is LB778.

CLERK: [Read LB778 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB778 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Lonowski and Moser. Senator Lonowski voting yes. Senator Moser voting yes. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB778 passes. The next bill is LB787.

CLERK: Read LB787 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB787 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senator Kauth. Senator Kauth voting yes. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

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KELLY: LB787 passes. The next bill is LB797. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB797]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB797 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senator Hardin. Senator Hardin voting yes. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB797 passes. The next bill is LB798. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 44 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB798]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB798 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

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KELLY: LB798 passes. The next bill is LB822. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 41 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB822]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB822 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Murman, Moser--Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Vote is 49-- voting no: None. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB822 passes. The next bill is LB365. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 45 ayes, 2 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB365]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB365 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern,

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Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Andersen, Clements, Hansen, Murman, and Riepe. Vote is 44 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB365 passes. The next bill is LB365A.

CLERK: [Read LB365A on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB365A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Clements, Hansen, Lippincott, Lonowski, and Murman. Vote is 44 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB365A passes. The next bill is LB823.

CLERK: [Read LB823 on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB823 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB823 passes. The next bill is LB834. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Raybould would move to recommit the bill to committee with M0583.

KELLY: Senator Raybould, you're recognized to open.

RAYBOULD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. You know, I wasn't planning to get up and talk on anything this morning, but it's been brought to our attention that Senator Hansen plans to introduce an amendment to regurgitate LB1219, which is on the subject matter of lids for our public schools, lids on our counties and municipalities. I'm really disappointed. And Senator Hansen and I have been exchanging notes back and forth. I said, hey, are you just planning to, you know, talk about your amendment this morning, and then are, are you just going to pull it? Or do you have your vote card showing you have 33 votes on, on this, and-- so that, you know, we can have a productive debate. And his response to me was no. So here I am, after a long day talking about these things yesterday, back at it again. So fellow Nebraskans, this is something that we all should be concerned about. Because in our State Legislature, we recently passed lids on the counties, on the municipalities, on our public schools, just not even 2 years ago. And now, we're back at it again. We want lids, we want lids, we want to control their spending. Their, their spending is so out of control. Well, you know what the reality is? That couldn't be further from the truth. I have served as a county commissioner. I have served on the Lincoln City Council. I can assure you that we are more than mindful of the obligation to our taxpayers to make sure that things are not overly burdensome. We have transparency. We have hearings. We have budget hearings. We encourage their input and feedback. Now that we have the pink postcard, there will be additional feedback in a more timely manner so that we can make adjustments, so that when the valuations come in, there's an opportunity to reduce our property tax levies. And I can tell you, the city of Lincoln has done it and the counties have done it, despite all the lids being on it. So the amendment from Senator Hansen that's coming forward is even more burdensome. With the lids that were passed just 2 short years ago, there has been no opportunity for it to go through a whole budget cycle, particularly for our public schools. And the one caveat that needs to be made very loudly and clearly on this matter is that the lids that were passed had an override, so that if you had a super majority, either in the municipality, the county, or the school boards, that they could, depending on the circumstances, increase that lid accordingly, and increase their budgets as well. We spent so much time yesterday cherishing public education, talking how our most important task is to invest in our children-- in their reading. We had a 4-hour long conversation about how important this is to the future well-being of our state of Nebraska to have an educated workforce. But I think we need to take this into consideration as well what we're facing in our state because of the wildfires. We have had,

certainly more than enough upheavals and consequences of uncertainties in our economy, and there's increasing financial pressures on the flexibility under the current lids. And here we are, being forced to look at more lids that will be more harmful to local control and local authority in the deliverance of their services that our constituents expect and demand. I'm going to read you something, an analysis from OpenSky. OpenSky is an independent, economic think tank. Here's what the testimony from Craig Beck was, back in February of 2026, to the Revenue Committee. OpenSky Institute writes in opposition-- may I have a gavel, please? Thank you. OpenSky Institute writes in opposition to LB1219 and LR317CA, because while it would limit increases in property taxes to 2% plus real growth, it harms the operation of local governments that rely on property tax revenue. And I'm going to put a pause in here. Property tax revenue. If we want to pass bills like this-- colleagues, could you just chat a little bit quieter? If we want to pass bills like this-- colleagues, can you take your conversations to the side? Thank you. If we want to pass bills like this, then we should have been having a mirrored version of unfunded mandates. There is no discipline in our state Legislature to stop passing on unfunding mandates to our schools, to our cities, and to our counties. Yet here we are, doing this again, telling them to do more with less, when there's inflation going on. How in the heck do-- are we expected to be able to retain and attract great teachers? How in the heck are we able to attract and retain police officers and firefighters to our communities if you tell us to put a lid on? There is no carve-out for public safety in this amendment being put forward by Senator Hansen. To me, that is unacceptable. That is one of the primary functions of our government. Public safety. Public safety. The other one, public education. Public education. The third one is public infrastructure. I can tell you that every city and county, municipality struggles with delivering on a commitment to pave roads or make improvements to their cities. This is another attempt to require them to buckle down. Well, OK. I, I agree. Everybody should be watching costs and I, I believe, as I have served, that the cities and counties are doing their jobs. They are doing a great job at this. But another lid, with no override from either the body-- the political subdivision, or an override from the voters? This is unacceptable. And at the last minute, too? I want to tell you some of the organizations that spoke out in opposition to this. It made it out of committee six in favor, one voted no, and one voted present not voting. These are the organizations that have spoke in opposition. Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, City of Omaha, City of La Vista, Nebraska Community College Association, Omaha Public Schools,

Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, Nebraska Association of County Officials, League of Nebraska Municipalities, Nebraska Association of School Boards. Greeter Nebraska School Association, Stand for Schools, et cetera. Why are we doing this? I would ask that Senator Hansen bring forward a vote card of 33 votes, because you're just wasting our time. You are just wasting our time dealing with this matter that is really unacceptable if you don't have a partner of unfunded mandates. This is what OpenSky continues to say. Property taxes pay for the salaries of local government employees, such as teachers, firefighters, and law enforcement. They also pay for things like road construction, park maintenance, and street repair. The cost of all these items rise from year to year, due to inflation, population growth, and planned maintenance. To replace lost property tax revenue, local political subdivisions, such as our cities and counties, would have no choice but to raise their local sales taxes, fines, and fees, in order to continue funding essential services. These revenue sources are all highly regressive and shift the responsibility of paying for services we all use onto low- and middle-income families. Establishing a 2% plus real growth cap on school districts in Nebraska would put further pressure on K through 12 state aid at a time when the state is facing a budget shortfall. The handout I gave you is from Dr. K out of Columbus. He showed exactly the impact it would have on the City of Columbus Public Schools. I urge you to read it. What they're seeing is that, that it would be a compounding loss, year after year, further putting them behind on getting-- hiring great teachers, instituting great programs. Extensive evidence shows that the tax caps do not reduce the cost of government services. A cap doesn't prevent employee health insurance costs, special education costs, or other costs beyond local government control from rising much faster--

KELLY: That's your time, Senator.

RAYBOULD: Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Raybould. Senator Arch would like to recognize some guests in the north balcony. They are fourth graders from G. Stanley Hall Elementary in La Vista. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Hughes would like to recognize guests under the south balcony, the Husker 2025-2026 men's basketball team, the best Nebraska basketball team in history of Husker basketball. Speaker Arch, you're recognized.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. President. With the basketball team here, I would like the Legislature to stand at ease for 5 minutes.

KELLY: The Legislature is at ease for 5 minutes.

[AT EASE]

KELLY: The Legislature will resume. Senators, please return to your seats for Final Reading. Turning to the queue, Senator von Gillern, you're recognized to speak.

von GILLERN: Thank you, Mr. President. Congratulations. This is so cool, having the basketball team here. Congratulations to the Huskers. We could not be more proud of you guys. Knowing full well that came off of my time, I'm going to get started here. I don't want to drag us down from one of the highest moments we've had in a long time here, in the Chamber, but I've got to drag us back to reality. I stand opposed to the recommit motion. I stand in favor of LB834, but opposed to the AM3142, which is coming, which is roughly representative of LB1219. In consideration of LB1219 being a potential Revenue Committee bill, I worked over a period of about 2 months to do the following: I met with county officials to learn what impact it would have on the counties. I met the League of Municipalities. I researched the impact on bonding for communities. I looked at the impact on TIF projects, both existing and the future. I met with representatives of the Association of School Boards to find out what impact this would have on schools. I had lengthy conversations with all three of the school districts in my district. I met with representatives of the community colleges. And then, I met Senator Hallstrom to learn how LB1219 might dovetail with or possibly conflict with LB575, which was recently advanced as part of LB803. My staff reviewed what changes we made in 2024, via LB34, and how those might be both positively and negatively impacted. I met with Senator Brandt on February 10, and related all of this information that I had collected at that point, and asked whether he wanted me to continue with the bill as part of a Revenue Committee bill, or whether he would take it on his own. And he decided he would take it on his own and work with Senator Hansen. I handed over a manila folder about "yea" thick, full of information that I had gathered on this. A story ran last week, indicating that we, as a Legislature, had not done much to address property taxes this year. I just want to take a minute to remind us: this is a year where approximately \$1.6 billion was provided in direct property tax relief within the budget. We provided approximately \$160 million in homestead exemptions, funded entirely by the state, which is entirely property

tax relief, for localities. Including the direct property tax relief, we funded approximately \$2.5 billion in school funding, direct property tax relief, which represents about 40% of our state spending. It's easy to complain about property taxes. It's going to be real easy today to punch in, make noise about this, say how excited you are about it. It'll be easy to say how important it is to you and your constituents and get credit for that before we all go home. And it is important. It is what I have spent more time working on here in the past 4 years than any other topic. And to take it as lightly as we're taking it today, with an amendment that, in my mind, is running with scissors in-- right down the hall, and not taking into account the potential negative impacts, is irresponsible. You know what's not easy? It's not easy getting in the trenches and making structural changes. And that's why it hasn't happened, to a great degree, in the last 4 years. It's not easy to get 33 of you behind a plan that actually makes a difference. It's not easy, but it's worth it. And that's why, again, I have spent more time on this topic in my years here than any other topic. I believe it's disrespectful and it's disingenuous to those in the body who have worked hard to bring actual property tax reform and relief, while ensuring the services that are important to all Nebraska's-- Nebraskans are not decimated. If you're not concerned about the services that are happening in your counties, in your communities, if you're concerned about school class sizes, if you are not concerned about any of that, then let's just run down the road and we'll do an offset of levies and valuations, and we'll fix the rate, and then we'll find out what the negative impacts are. I would rather do the homework up front, which is what I did this session, and find out what those impacts are, and build a bill that actually works. Again, I stand opposed to the pending amendment, but in support of the underlying bill, LB834. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator von Gillern. Senator DeKay would like to recognize guests in the north balcony, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from Chambers Elementary in Chambers, Nebraska. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Bosn, you're recognized to speak.

BOSN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit, in support of LB834, and I believe, in support of the underlying amendment proposed by Senator Hansen. While I appreciate and very much respect the work that Senator von Gillern has done, and certainly don't mean this in any way to be disrespectful or to demean work that he's done. I think the concern here, and something all of us talk about is property taxes and the

work that needs to be done. I agree. We did some very positive things this session, but I also agree there's a lot more to be done. And when I look at AM3142-- which I know it's not on the board, but I think that's obviously why all of us are in the queue, is to talk about that in some capacity. I think the proposal in that is what we're hearing from our constituents, and that is we-- this is not sustainable, property taxes are too high, and you are going to force people to leave our state, by virtue of the fact that things just keep going up. I did a quick-- because I wasn't aware that this was coming up in time to prepare thoughts in a way that I would like to of. I did a quick search for top 10 reasons for why hard caps are a benefit to state, in terms of property taxes. And the number one thing that comes up is predictability for taxpayers. Hard caps create stable, predictable tax bills. Homeowners and businesses can better plan long-term finances without worrying about sudden spikes driven by local budget increases. I agree with that one. (2) Protection against rapid tax increases. They prevent local governments from sharply increasing property taxes in a short period, which can otherwise strain household budgets. How many of you heard that when you were knocking doors or hearing from constituents? Espec-- it goes on-- especially for retirees and fixed-income residents. Also something I heard a lot about. These are individuals who are in their retirement, they're on a fixed income, they've done everything right. They've paid their property taxes. They've paid their mortgage. Most, most of the time, they've paid it off-- but we're now continuing to tax them at a rate that they-- it's just not sustainable. And it is our obligation to continue fighting to do something. Third: encourages fiscal discipline. Caps force local governments to prioritize spending, reduce inefficiencies-- we talk about that all the time in here-- cutting wasteful government spending. It goes on-- justify budget decisions more carefully, instead of relying on tax increases to cover gaps. We-- those are things we talk about, and we should be doing as well. (4) Improves affordability and housing stability. By limiting how much property taxes can rise, caps can help keep home ownership more affordable and reduce the risk of people being priced out of their homes. This is exactly what we're talking about in AM3142. I could go on. There are a number of reasons here. I recognize this is polarizing. I think that having the conversation is worthy, because all of us are going to hear about it. And so ultimately, if this doesn't have the votes to get over the finish line, I still think it's something we need to keep striving to do. So I appreciate the discussion and Senator Hansen's attempt to try to get something accomplished here. And with that, I would remain-- yield the remainder of my time to Senator Hansen.

KELLY: Senator Hansen, you have one minute, 42 seconds

HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to reiterate something Senator Bosn said. I think Senator von Gillern has done a remarkable job as chair of the Revenue Committee. And he has a very difficult task ahead of him, when it comes to trying to figure out not just property taxes, but what our state does with taxes in general, with the revenue that we bring in, and how we spend it, and everything else, and so I think he's done a great job. I know he's maybe not in favor of the process about how we're trying to accomplish this right now, But colleagues, I feel we're giving our constituents a disservice for not even talking about property taxes this year. Conversations we have now only improve our chances next year of coming forward with a, with a good, comprehensive, tax reform bill, which this bill does. I'm going to touch on this a little bit more next time I get up-- a chance to speak. Because I'm going to explain exactly what the amendment does, because this is not just what-- how LB1219 was introduced. There have been some changes in here to address first responders, to address biennium budgets, and so there's, there's a lot of different ways that this bill has changed from LB1219, but it still kind of keeps the core idea of caps in place, which I think are almost a necessity now. And so, I can touch on that a little bit more next time I talk. But colleagues, I think we do need to have a discussion about this. This will help us, not just maybe now, but also next year, when we have to bring this up and do something about it. We've kicked this can down the road way too much, but it's difficult. And I'm going to agree with Senator von Gillern. It's very difficult. But I think we need to start somewhere. And with that, Mr. President--

KELLY: That's your time.

HANSEN: I will plan-- I'm planning on pulling this amendment down the road, but I just think we need to talk about it first. Thank you.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Moser, you're recognized to speak.

MOSER: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues, and Nebraskans, following us along. So it's Senator Hansen's right to raise the issue. He has, multiple times, brought bills trying to control property tax. The problem with property tax is caused somewhat by the state's failure to follow the constitution and provide for the K-12 common school education of our children in Nebraska. Right now, state aid to schools is higher than it's been in quite a while, but

there were some times in the not too distant past where we had budget problems, and so we weren't funding schools. And property taxes give the schools some certainty. They know what they're going to get. And, and so I understand, but that doesn't make it any easier to pay my property tax bill. And property tax bills are high. Mr. President, could I ask Senator Clements a question or 2?

KELLY: Senator Clements, would you yield a question?

CLEMENTS: Yes.

MOSER: Senator, in the current budget, how much money have we put into the Property Tax Credit Fund?

CLEMENTS: The total for property tax credits is \$1.5 billion per year. That's increased \$137 million in this two-year period.

MOSER: So our credits are up \$137 million?

CLEMENTS: Yes.

MOSER: So would you call that doing something about property tax?

CLEMENTS: Yes. In a, in a budget shortfall year, we prioritized \$137 million of our budget, and did not reduce the amount of credits-- in fact, increased them a little over 5% per year.

MOSER: How do those credits go out to the citizens in the counties? Are they affected by the valuation of the county or the levy of the county?

CLEMENTS: The school property tax, yes, is-- depends on what your school property tax is. The other credits for Tier 1 property tax and community college tax is more distributed evenly.

MOSER: OK. Thank you very much, Senator. I appreciate it. You need to blow your horn some more. So, Senator Hansen's bill attempted to crank down the levies, and it's kind of like putting your finger on the pressure cooker weight-- you know, the one that goes "chh, chh, chh, chh, chh," like that, when your soup is cooking? And he's trying to keep that from boiling, and, and that might have some effect. And I don't blame him for bringing it up. I do appreciate the work of the Revenue Committee and the Appropriations Committee. Those committees work really hard. But in the end, it takes 49 of us-- well, or at least 25 of us to do something. And we have addressed property taxes

in this session. We haven't talked a lot about it, but we've talked about a lot of other things that, that didn't do anything. But with property taxes, we've gotten a lot accomplished. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Moser. Senator Storer, you're recognized to speak.

STORER: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the fact that Senator Hansen has added this-- is attempting to amend this to LB834. And certainly, as you heard him say, he intends to probably pull that amendment soon, but giving this body a chance to show, I guess, in my mind, some respect for the property taxpayers of Nebraska, and give this issue just a little attention before we sine die in a few days. And I appreciate Senator von Gillern's comments. I-- he does work very hard in, in-- as Revenue chair, as do I think, most of us, in our respective positions here, representing our constituents in the body. This, this is something that I have been involved with directly in some way, shape, or form for some time, quite frankly. You start to pay attention to property taxes when you start paying them. So graduating college and moving home and writing those first checks is when people-- I think, brings a lot of people's attention to the issue. But after spending 11 years on a school board, 8 years as a county commissioner, and now here, I have had the opportunity to look at this-- and, and as a property taxpayer, particularly in agriculture-- had the opportunity to look at this from a variety of seats. And it is not an easy issue to fix. I would agree with that. The challenge with property taxes is we are, at this level, at the state level, you're dealing with hundreds-- the result of the total property tax growth as a result of hundreds of boards across the state, thousands of elected officials, quite frankly. Even at a county-- as a, as a Cherry County-- for me, Cherry County taxpayer, there's several boards that pull into that, as there are with many of us. It's your school, it's your county, it's the ESU, it's the NRD, it's the fire district. And so, you're relying on all of those boards to be paddling in the same direction, and they all face different perhaps challenges in a given budget year. You know, years ago, Senator-- or Governor Heineman used to say, well, it's a local problem. He wasn't all right, and he wasn't all wrong, because it is, it is your local boards who ultimately levy those, those dollars, but it is this body who decides what dollars, what, what expenses those individual tax entities are responsible for. And even, even yesterday, there was the long discussion about an issue that, ultimately, was going to be an unfunded mandate. And so, one of the approaches-- we've

talked about that on a couple of issues this year. And I've stood in opposition to things that were going to put additional cost onto those local taxing entities without the state providing the means to pay for that. So as a, as a county commissioner, we were able to reduce our tax ask over an 8-year period by 17%, so, so I-- I've been in the seat to know it's possible. Can't do that forever. I get it. But it's possible. So when I go home and people will say-- to, to Senator Moser's point and he's right, we have done a lot. This body has done a lot to try and address property taxes. And when I go home and I hear people say, what are you, what are you going to do about property taxes? I say, well, the Legislature's done about 1.6 billion things about property taxes, with the property tax credits, and the Education Future Fund, and the foundation aid, and taking the community colleges over-- all of which are good things. But at the end of the day, it's not working. It's not working. And in my world, to continue to do the same thing and expect a different result is the definition of insanity. And that's not making a-- being disrespectful or an accusation that the actions taken were wrong or ill-intended. They were not. And there's been a lot of good things done and a lot of progress, but I appreciate this conversation because we have got to continue to have an open discussion about how we work on the property tax issue and slowing the growth, because we are, we are not slowing the growth. Property taxes continue to march up. I think we've only had one year where they were flatlined in about the last 15, so we have got to have open discussions about how to continue to address this issue. So thank you, Senator Hansen, for bringing this to--

KELLY: That's your time.

STORER: --the attention of the body.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Storer. Senator Kauth, you're recognized to speak.

KAUTH: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of this discussion on this amendment, and I thank Senator Hansen for bringing it so that we can have the, the tough talk, because it is a difficult discussion. We have been working very hard on it. I sit on the Revenue Committee. Senator von Gillern has done yeoman's work corralling all of the different bills-- and we brought so many bills trying to figure out how to fix this, and we put them in lots of different committees. One of the things-- LB834 actually cuts regulations that are no longer necessary in county government. We're doing that. That's one thing we can do, to start cutting the regulations, make it less expensive for

those taxing entities to do their business. As legislators, we hear our constituents all the time, asking for property tax relief. We want property tax relief. But we are limited in what we, here in this body, can do about it. Really, all we have is the ability to place constraints on the authorities that can levy. We can modify the conditions, but we can't modify the spending. That does have to be at the local level. Budgets are set locally by the taxing authorities. And Nebraska has over 2,300 local taxing subdivisions that levy property taxes. That's among the highest in the nation. These entities include school districts, cities, counties, various special districts like NRDs. This is just a very-- it's convoluted and it's time-consuming. So when I hear people say, well, we just want you to fix it because you're at the Legislature. We'd love to be able to push that "easy" button and, and make it happen. But these are very, very local decisions. So we need our constituents helping this. We need you to show up at these meetings. Talk to your elected officials at the local level. Tell them what, what you think is important to spend money on. I also want you to check your property tax statements and look at all of the different subdivisions that are actually taxing you, and how much are for bonds. Every time you say yes to a bond-- it could be a really well-meaning-- and when they put them on the ballot, it's like, oh, it's just a little bit of money. Those little bits of money add up. And if you're not choosing to vote on one of those, those bonds are usually voted the majority of those people who vote. So if you don't say no, then your vote isn't counted at all. We need to make sure that if you think that's not something you want, you say no. But you understand that when you say yes, you are adding cost to your tax bill. I'd also like you-- when you look at that statement, check the property tax credit from the state. And this is something that we've worked very hard to give relief to property tax owners. When I looked at mine, it looks like it's at about 22%. I didn't even realize how high it was. That is a significant amount of money that the state is doing, but sometimes it feels like we're putting money in a bucket that has a hole in it, because there are so many other ways that that property tax can rise. One of the things that I've talked about and I will probably introduce a bill next year, is giving local entities the ability to raise fees on their own. I didn't realize this when I started here, but talking with Jon Cannon with the NACO group, counties are not allowed to raise their fees. The Legislature has to do that. So that's why a marriage license costs \$25 still. That's why things have the same price that they did 20 or 30 years ago. The costs of implementing those services has gone up. So I'd like to suggest that we allow those taxing entities to set their fees to reflect the

actual cost of doing it, and then the person who is choosing to have that service will be the one who bears that cost, rather than spreading it out among every taxpayer. Because I'm done getting married. I don't need a, a marriage license, so me subsidizing somebody else's marriage license with my taxes doesn't make much sense. So that's, that's about it. There are so many things that we want to do. And here in this body, again, we are constrained by what we can do. We have some little things, I'll be bringing that bill next year-- to try to give those taxing authorities the ability to make more changes. But we need the citizens of Nebraska to start showing up at those meetings, to start calling your elected officials and letting them know how you feel, and paying attention. And I know it takes a lot of work. I know it takes a lot of attention, but this is, this is how it has to work unless the state is taking over everything, and nobody wants that. We need local control. But again, I appreciate that we are getting the discussion on this.

KELLY: That's your time.

KAUTH: Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Kauth . Senator Andersen, you're recognized to speak.

ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I do not support the, the recommit motion. I will support LB834. And the reason I don't support the recommit notion is because the amendment that has been submitted is only a portion-- a very small portion of it is LB1219, which was actually voted out of committee. So it has a lot of other language in there that really has not been-- had due diligence. But I do appreciate Senator Hansen and what he's done in bringing the conversation to the floor and giving people the opportunity to actually talk about property tax, property tax relief, what we've done, what we haven't done, and what still needs to be done, so I, I thank Senator Hansen for having done this. As a freshman senator, when I was campaigning, this was the number one issue. Property tax was the number one issue, bar none. We need to find a way to stop the bleeding. We have to quit punishing people for owning a home. We have to stop people from being taxed out of their homes. We have to stop giving people a reason to leave Nebraska- why retirees are leaving-- because it's too damn expensive to live here now. And why young people graduating college with, with great promise are leaving to go to other states, because they're going to be relegated to an apartment and they don't really want to be in an apartment to raise a family. They want

to buy a home. They want to have the American dream, and we are keeping them from, from doing that. So this is a passionate issue for me for the, the last 2 years. I have submitted constitutional amendments. Last year, it was LR12CA. I submitted it. And basically, what it was going to do was it would freeze the property tax so it could only go up with the rate of inflation. I did some refinement and it didn't make it out of committee. So I did some refinement over the interim and worked with the Revenue Committee, worked with the Chambers, the different associations, did a lot of socializing of is this the right approach? And LR292CA basically froze the valuations at what the current level was, and then put in place the cap on the increase of your annual property taxes to the rate of inflation. Part of the rate of inflation is, one, it's practical because that's just the increase in cost of goods and services every year, but two, it is understandable by people. So when they get their card in the mail, they look at it, and they go, oh, OK. I understand. The rate of inflation was 2%, and that's why my taxes went up 2%. Did all the extensive coordination, she said, great, you have a constitutional amendment. It would be a foundational change. It would be long term. It, it would be something that would be amended into the Nebraska Constitution. What happened? Why, why are we not talking about that? Why has that not been the discussion? That did not make it out of committee, either. That was voted down in, in Revenue Committee. So the last 2 years, I brought constitutional amendments to try and fix the problem, to try to help my constituents, and so far, that's not ended up being successful. But as a fiscal conservative here in the Legislature, this is the number one issue. This is what we should have been spending all of our time upfront on, is figuring out-- doing the hard work to figure out how are we going to fix the property tax problem, because the people need it. It's affecting the economic development of our state. It's affecting the, the workforce development of our state. It affects everybody's life on a daily basis, and we really needed to find a solution. So again, Senator Hansen, thank you very much for bringing the discussion to the floor. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Andersen. Senator Hansen, you're recognized to speak.

HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I do want to thank Senator Kauth for allowing me to attach AM3142 to LB834. This amendment does have content from Senator Brandt's bill, LB1219. What I'm looking to do with this amendment is to bring uniformity to the property tax request process. Currently, there are many variables within the Property Tax

Growth Limitation Act, and other statutes, defining how counties, cities, and schools work in the confines of soft caps, limits, and levies. We are told that there is controlled spending, that property tax requests have limitations, yet between the year 2000 and 2024, property taxes nearly quadrupled, growing 241%. I did change a few things in the language from LB1219, to ensure this amendment is feasible for political subdivisions and effective in setting a hard cap, in consideration of the taxpayer. This amendment moves the 2% cap in LB1219 to 2.5%, plus a real growth percentage. This real growth percentage allows improvements or expansions made by the cities, counties, and schools for updates. It also implements a biennium average. Over the course of the biennium, which is 2 years, a political subdivision will be limited to a total increase of 5%. If they don't utilize the full 2.5% in the first year, they can access the remaining amount in the second year. I know hard caps can cause heartburn, but this biennium average is a reasonable compromise. With AM3142, political subdivisions can exceed the hard cap only after it goes to a vote of the people and receives 60% of the votes in favor, similar to how we do with school bonds. The board and city councils still have the responsibility to figure out specific details of the budgets, levies, and growth. They would just need to be within the allowable growth cap created by this amendment. For instance, natural disasters in recent years might necessitate increased funding to repair communities. Floods and tornadoes have devastated large parts of the state, and this year, this year, already, fires in western Nebraska have forced evacuations and road closures. In these times of emergency, or when a political subdivision undertakes large projects, taxpayers will have the opportunity to determine whether the situation warrants a greater property tax increase or not. The amendment also ensures that community colleges are not included, with the understand-- understanding that a 2.5% cap could affect their sustainability and the chance that the state is not able to fulfill their funding commitments. And it also addresses TIF and bonds as well, to make sure we don't negatively impact those. Something that this doesn't do is address valuation, something my colleague, Senator Andersen just touched on. Our time is limited this year, but in future years, the next step would be to evaluate the valuation methods. Until then, this is a simple change, with significant impact for the taxpayers of Nebraska. The uniformed approach will bring consistency. So here, we're treating all political subdivisions the same. It seems like we kind of now have-- we have this hodgepodge of caps and soft caps and, you know, levy limitations, and all this other kind of stuff that we have implemented over the years. This would bring uniformity

to all the political subdivisions. Everyone is treated the same, and the taxpayer has a voice on whether they want to go above the cap. From 2000 to 2024, Nebraska's median income household growth was an average of 3.06% per year. Average increase in CPI for the Midwest region was 2.55% per year. When you compare those numbers with recent property tax increases of 6.19%, in 2022, and 5.7%, in 2023, you have to wonder, when do we say enough is enough? A 2.5% cap falls in line with the limitations everyday Nebraskans are facing and gives an additional allowance for real growth. Colleagues, this is a workable solution. I know we may not be able to get to it this year, but when I say this is constructive criticism-- constructive conversation, this is what we can have right now, to hopefully bring something next year. I am interested to hear the direction this conversation will take. I value the work of our political subdivisions. It takes money to build communities and provide education. We appreciate the upgrades to parks, roads, water, businesses, and schools. Actually, in consideration of fire, corrections, and law enforcement, I have included an option to exceed the 2.5% cap by CPI amount, in order to fund these necessities. AM3142 does not diminish their purpose. It does demand intentional spending habits, innovative problem solving, and accountability. So when I say this seems like a reasonable solution to a huge problem, that's what this bill does. I'm just a little disappointed we couldn't get to it this year. I ran a vote card. I tried to talk to all of my colleagues multiple times, and we always ended 1 or 2 votes short. We are close, colleagues, close to real property--

KELLY: That's your time.

HANSEN: --tax reform, and that's what this can do. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Brandt, you're recognized to speak.

BRANDT: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, if I'm known for one thing beside being the last bill every year on the docket, it's for property tax. And over the course of 8 years, I have tried to attack this from increasing sales tax, increasing other revenues, sponsored a CA in the special session so that owner-occupied housing would get a break like ag land does. This year, I had a bill to drop ag land valuation from 75% to 50%. And I don't know if my urban colleagues are aware of the crisis that's unfolding in agriculture in the state-- and agriculture is 50% of the gross domestic product of the state of Nebraska. In the

last month, fertilizer has gone up 20 to 25%, and there's a fear there will be a shortage on some liquids out there. We anticipate that chemicals will go up-- a lot of those are petroleum-based, and the price of our products has stayed the same. The only bright spot right now are those of us that have livestock. So it's somewhat unfolding, for those of us that remember 1981. And I certainly hope we aren't going to go there. I was really disappointed that, that the bill I sponsored this year didn't make it out of the Revenue Committee, to drop ag land valuations from 75 to 50%. That really would have helped the core of, of my district. Thank you, Senator Hansen, for prioritizing LB1219. This is the first time I have ever proposed caps, because God knows I've tried everything else, and I've always come up 1 or 2 votes short. When I started in the Legislature in, in 2019-- when you combine all of our taxes, the 3 main taxes-- property tax was 50%, state income tax was 25%, state sales tax was 25%. Here we are, 8 years later. Guess what? Property tax is 50%, state income tax is probably going to be about 30%, and state sales tax is about 20%. Those 2 have moved a, a little bit, but it has not had an income on our property tax. If I were to ask everybody in this room that owns some form of property, whether it's a house or ag land or a business, that first week in December, they're going to know, to the penny, exactly how much they've got to pay in property tax. And people are usually pretty cranky that week, by the way. Can anybody in this room tell me how much they paid in sales tax last year and where it went? Because when you go into the Walmart, you're paying more than 5.5%. You're usually paying 7.5%. 5.5% goes to the state of Nebraska. Where's the rest of it going? Income tax, a lot of us-- at least a lot of us, like myself, that are self-employed, that is a moving target. But property tax, the reason that political subdivisions like property tax is because it is the crutch that they can rely on, year in and year out. I do believe there's a lot of validity to capping the growth. The growth on property tax, and we did hand out-- a handout from-- Farm Bureau put together, and this is based on 2%. The amendment, if we get to it, is 2.5%. But over a 10-year period, it would reduce the annual growth of property tax \$1.25 billion. And that's money that goes right back into the pockets of our people and our local communities. A large part of that is schools. And we've done a lot with schools. We've done the Education Future Fund. But if you've heard Senator Clements say, and some others, the Future Fund's going to run out of money here, in a year or two. Then what? Well, you take the \$1,500 away from the 13 school districts and District 32, and that's going to go right back on property taxes. I listen to people, my fellow ag senators, and I have constituent meetings, and people

complain, and I remind them, we've put \$1.6 billion into property tax. If that's gone tomorrow, everybody's property tax in the state goes up 30-35% overnight. So the state has tried. But we're going to have fiscal challenges after my class is gone. Good luck. You're going to have to raise some sales tax revenue or income tax revenue, or a new revenue stream, and figure this out. So I would encourage everybody to support the amendment when it comes up. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Brandt. Senator Dover, you're recognized to speak.

DOVER: Thank you, Mr. President. This may not be a popular statement, but the problem with property taxes is a local problem. It is a result of local budgets set by locally-elected officials. Property taxes were given to local governments to fund them in 1967, when the state began funding itself with sales and income taxes. If landowners want lower property taxes, they need to elect officials who will not increase their budgets and levies, causing taxes to outpace incomes. This means that local officials need to sharpen their pencils and quite probably choose to do less. For those passionate citizens who are upset, you should run for local office and/or boards. I think they will find that it is much easier to criticize than to find a workable solution to lowering property taxes. And don't forget, around 60% of property taxes increase is due to public schools. City and county taxes account for around 40% of the total property tax bill. The state should be taking our limited sales and income tax and focus on growing our state, not subsidizing local property tax. We need to grow our population, thereby growing our income tax revenues and our sales revenue basis. This is done by building one more house and filling it with one more new job. There are solutions we can take, and I will be bringing a bill in the next session that pays property tax credits only to Nebraska residents. Novel idea, I know. Why are we giving tax credits to nonresidents? Do Ted Turner and Bill Gates need Nebraskans to pay to reduce their property tax? I don't think so. This new bill will bring in anywhere from \$40 to \$100 billion in additional funds to lower property taxes for Nebraska residents without raising them. There are things that we can do that will not raise taxes. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Dover. Senator Murman, you're recognized to speak.

MURMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I do appreciate the amendment being brought forward to give us a chance to discuss the

property tax situation in the state. I don't think this session-- you know, I've been here 8 years. I don't think property taxes were discussed-- the problem with property tax has been discussed enough in this session. We need to modernize our whole tax structure in this state. I, I don't know exactly what would be the best way to do it going forward. I know we've used a Speaker major proposal in the past, maybe a bill that's prioritized out of the Revenue Committee, but somehow, we need to get to a modern-- more modern tax structure, and that would be lowering our property taxes, especially. Because that is the tax that we are the most out of line with the rest of the nation and the tax it really hurts people the most, because it is not-- property taxes are not based at all on the person's ability to pay, whether it be-- whether or not you have a profit in your farm to be able to pay the property taxes on your farmland, or if you live in your home, or the business and, and-- or have a business and are not able to pay the taxes-- the property taxes on your home or business. So that's the tax that we need to-- has the most urgency to address. And also, to modernize our tax structure, we need to broaden our sales tax base. And this, like I said, needs to be tied in with a more comprehensive plan, somehow. And to broaden our sales tax base, we definitely need to put sales tax on pop and candy. That should really be simple. And also, putting a, a increase in our taxes on so-called sin taxes, such as cigarettes and vapes, if we can increase revenue from the state that way and provide more revenue to our local units of government, especially schools, and then have-- I know we have caps now, but perhaps have to tighten those caps with the increased revenue from the state-- just somehow, we need to tie all that together to have a, a tax structure that will be more inviting and put us more in line with other states, so that we are not known as a high-tax state. I, I don't think we need to raise our sales tax, but we do need to broaden the base and increase revenue from the state so that property taxes can be lowered, especially for schools, because that's where the bulk of our property taxes are spent. So I've, I've been here 8 years, and I, I don't think all of this has been ever tied together in one piece of legislation, or with a, a major proposal. I know parts of it has been, but we need to get that done somehow. And if we don't tie everything together, we're just piecemealing, and that won't provide long-lasting relief. So I guess I should mention, too, our TEEOSA formula. It does not work very well. Either we've got to really change a lot of the factors that are a part of the TEEOSA formula, or completely eliminate it and replace it and, and have some other kind of formula for taxing schools. I think foundation aid works well. That would be a good avenue to increase revenue towards schools from the

state, to increase foundation aid or aid per student. I really, again, appreciate all the work that's been done by the Revenue chairman, von Gillern, and Senator Hansen and, and Senator Brandt, for bringing this issue up one more time, in this session of the Legislature. And I hope in the next few years, quickly, we can get all this done so that our, our state does not continue to be known as a high-tax state and force people to move out, or not inviting for people to move in, as Senator Dover has, has mentioned that-- our, our state needs to grow. And by modernizing our tax system, we can do that. Thank you.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Murman. Senator Raybould, you're recognized to speak.

RAYBOULD: Thank you, Mr. President. Thanks, colleagues. I do support this recommit motion. I think we need to go back and look at history. And I appreciate Senator Storer's comments, certainly, with Governor Heineman. You know, how did we get in this predicament? And I'll try to just review it really quickly. The state of Nebraska has allowed our public education funding to be flat for almost 3 decades, despite even in-- increase in our growth of population, increase in inflationary costs for, for schools. We rank 49th, the low-- one of the lowest in the entire United States about funding per capita of population towards our public education. Senator Heineman, along with Sen-- I'm sorry. Governor Heineman, along with Governor Ricketts, was very clear that they were not going to allow any fees to be increased by counties, because that would be an unfair tax burden and an increase in taxes to our fellow Nebraskans. So they clamped down on counties increasing any fees, and it was the same for the cities. Whatever fees they had, they cracked down on them. As you can tell by this year, we are all in on fees. Let's increase fees, all, all across the board. Every single department has increases in fees that impact people disproportionately, of modest incomes. The tragedy is that everybody has been complaining about property taxes. And yet, what did we do? We focused on income taxes. We lowered income taxes. And just as Senator Brandt clearly said, nobody knows, you know, how much they've paid in sales taxes. But if you ask them, you know, how much do you pay in your income taxes? I happen to know, because I pay a lot of-- in income taxes, but people don't know. I've knocked and talked to thousands of people all across our state. No one ever said to me, our income taxes are too high and we're not competitive. We are competitive in our Midwest region. Our consultants have clearly told us time and time again, you can't cut your way to prosperity, but guess what, here-- we're doing it right now. Again. We're handcuffing municipalities in their efforts to deliver on services. So back when

Governor Heineman was doing it, they did away with state aid to cities and counties. They said, we're not going to pay you the 3 years of jail reimbursements they owed us. Not just to the Lincoln and Lancaster County, Omaha, Douglas County, all across our state. These are the predicaments that we're facing. Unfunded mandates, unfunded mandates. That's been a chronic call and, and actually, kind of a cry for relief, from municipalities and counties. Stop with unfunded mandates. Provide a fiscal note. Provide the funding to allow us to execute on all these great ideas that the legislators come up with. I love what Senator Dover said. You know, he got to the heart of the problem. There's market-rate influences on the cost of our housing stock and inventory out there. Those are beyond our control. What drives up the cost of housing and the valuation that we see is limited inventory. We see lack of new construction, lack of a, a variety of housing available for people to transition into different housing. That is what has increased our valuations. And I can talk specifically about the city of Lincoln and Lancaster County. In the last 10 years, when we have had a valuation increase from what our levy is-- and so, you have, technically, that surplus of funding-- guess what the cities and counties have done? They've gone back to all the deferred maintenance. I can tell you, in the city of Lincoln, we had 10 years of deferred maintenance on our sidewalks. 10 years, 10 years it would take us to get caught up on that. With our fire department, we had, approximately-- our fire trucks, our ladder trucks, were 30-40 years old. And what did we do with that valuation surplus that people call a windfall? We took and reinvested it in public safety. We reinvested it in getting fire trucks that wouldn't conk out on our firefighters on their way to respond to an emergency. That's what cities and counties do, despite the fact that, right now, we already have budget lids. We have levy caps. We have revenue lids. And yet, you want to cripple and handcuff them even more in our ability to do it, without any additional funding from the state? I applaud, and the next time I get on the mic, I want to talk about our property taxes and the good work that has been done that we don't get credit for. But the point is we have to be more judicious about just throwing out these suggestions. It's not done in a vacuum. And I love the conversation. We have to look in a totality of--

KELLY: That's your time, Senator.

RAYBOULD: --revenue. Thank you.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Raybould. Mr. Clerk.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate April 9, 2026

Rough Draft

CLERK: Mr. President, a couple items for the record. New LR, LR508 from Senator Guereca. That'll be laid over. And a priority motion, Senator Armendariz would move to recess the body until 1:00 p.m.

KELLY: The question is the motion to recess. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, nay. The Legislature is in recess.

[RECESS]

ARCH: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. The afternoon session is about to reconvene. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you have any items for the record?

CLERK: I have no items at this time, Mr. President.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator DeBoer, for what purpose do you rise?

DeBOER: Point of personal privilege.

ARCH: Please state your point.

DeBOER: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, you may have noticed that in the original programming of what was going to happen this week, Senator Arch-- or Speaker Arch had indicated that we were going to talk about my rules proposal and the rules debate. We did a little talking with folks yesterday. And you may have noticed that some vote cards went around. And it looks like we do not have enough folks who are interested in, at this time, pursuing the rules change. So being short on time, we decided not to do the formal discussion of the rules change, but we have spent some significant amount of time talking about the committee structure in the body. And last year, you may recall, I had an LR over the summer, which created a committee that talked about committee structure in the body. My staffer, Brian Murray, did an unbelievable amount of work, going through the committee structure for the last-- as long as the Legislature has existed, and has compiled that information. I think we all understand that there are issues with the committee structure that need to be addressed. I will say that when I came in as a freshman, in '19, that summer, we had a "committee about committees" committee. And we said

much the same things that we said this time, which is that there are issues that need to be addressed. So I would like to take just a minute to kind of save our work that we did over this summer and that has happened in the 8 years that I have been here, so that you all kind of understand where we're at, because for the good of the body, we do probably need to address these issues. And I know that there's a variety of differences of opinion about how. I don't know that we will ever get it perfect. And I would like to just give you a few minutes of information. I did have the Pages pass out to you, something this morning that you can refer to. Additionally, if and as you have questions, Brian Murray, in my office, has a lot of information that he can share with you, and I'm happy to answer questions, as well. But let me give you a little bit of my prepared comments, so that you can get kind of where we were. As a body, we have not considered a rule change to modify our committee structure since we adopted our current structure in 1986. There have been multiple examinations of our committee structure since 1986. 1995, 1998, 2005, 2017-2019 featured various levels of attention, leading to their inclusion in the legislative history. And for the complete list of the record, I would note that the Retirement Committee became a standing committee in 1989, previously being a special committee, but that change was via legislation, not a rule change. Since 1986, Nebraska state senators have not weighed in to our committee structure. Forty years have passed since we last considered a modification. And even though we're not taking it up this year either, I would like to briefly discuss the importance for the modification of, of this committee structure to our institution, which is, by the way, the only policymaking body for the entire state of Nebraska. So this is a serious discussion and one that I hope that future generations of senators, many of you in here, will continue to do. The rules change that we brought were based on 2 rule changes, in order to get all the pieces done: a change to our standing committee structure so that Agriculture Committee and the Natural Resources Committee are combined and become Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, a 3-day committee. The current Transportation and Telecommunications Committee is split into Transportation Committee, a 2-day committee-- there may have been some papers going around yesterday that said 3-day, that's an error. So the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee was intended to be split into a 2-day committee, Transportation Committee, and a new Telecommunications and Technology Committee, which would be a one-day committee that took the place of the Ag Committee. This rule change is not intended to be a question about what we value in Nebraska. We have been and always will be a proud agricultural state.

But I will remind everyone that quantity does not always equal importance. There was a bill I was asked to consider earlier this year that I was told was a very simple bill, a one-word bill. It was a bill to insert the word "not" into a statute-- a simple bill that fundamentally alters the statute. That's a pretty important change, even though it was just one word. Quantity does not always equal importance. The Agricultural Committee and the Natural Resources Committee have had fewer bills in the last decade or so, not because of lesser importance, but just fewer changes to the law are needed. And maybe that's because our farmers do not want government regulation or oversight. They are independent and excellent at feeding the world and managing our natural resources. This independence is reflected by the amount of bills we introduce. It's common knowledge that the Agriculture Committee and the Natural Resources Committee have the lightest bill loads of our standing committees. And of course, their subject matter is inextricably intertwined. If we are not good stewards of our natural resources, our agriculture will suffer. If we do not have good agricultural practices, our natural resources will suffer. It seems fairly logical to combine these committees, and ensures that the left-hand and the right-hand are talking to each other, so to speak. But of course, that isn't the lone reason for this change. I will note that this discussion of merging these 2 committees has been in place since at least I got here. There was wide consensus, at that time, among senators, that you should not have a 3-day committee and a one-day committee, that combined, have fewer bills than your other one-day committees. The other reason for the change comes from the relative bill loads of our committees, and these 2, specifically. I'm going to give you some numbers now. You might want to follow along in the thing, because it might get kind of boring. In the past 5 long sessions, one-day committees have seen an average of 4.43 bills per day-- per-- that's of hearing days. The Agricultural Committee, meanwhile, has seen 1.61 bills and 1.4 bills per day in long and short sessions. A similar contrast exists between Natural Resources compared to other 3-day committees. The other 3-day committees in a long session have seen an average of 3.94 bills per day, and in a short session, they see 4.12 bills per day. This is, I think, on the second page of your, of your handout. The Natural Resource Committee sees between-- sees 1.09 and 1.35 bills in a long and a short session, so roughly 4 or more in short and long sessions for the other committees with the same number of days, and 1.6, 1.4, 1.0, 1.35 for Natural Resources and Ag Committee. Both the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, on average, see 3 fewer bills per day than their peer committees. Combining the 2 committees

per this rule change would have resulted in 1.69 days-- bills per day in a long session and 1.91 in a short session, which is still well below average for the other 3-day committees. The other committee that was purported to be-- or was proposed to be changed is the telecommunications and-- Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. While there is some similarity between the 2 areas, for instance, in their usage of right-of-way, our review of the past 10 years-- in the last 10 years-- showed only 2 introduced bills which were referred to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, which could reasonably be considered a bill about both subjects. Otherwise, the past 10 years of bills were either transportation bills or telecommunications bills. This makes a split logical, but of course, isn't the only reason for the change. Creating a new Telecommunications and Technology Committee is to ensure we, as a body, have members. And importantly-- and this is something we sometimes forget-- we would have staff, committee counsels, generating expertise in complex technological issues. These are currently issues which get referred to various committees. Some bills have more to do with the underlying subject area rather than the technology utilized in those bills. Those bills, I would advocate, ought to remain with the subject matter committee. But when the technology is the fundamental aspect of the bill or the technology is delivered via telecommunications infrastructure or relates to such infrastructure, it would be the jurisdiction of this new committee. There are a lot of complex and interrelated legal issues with telecommunications and new technology. There are a variety of constitutional issues at play. And every day, there is a new decision in a different circuit creating a different legal framework to look at for these advanced technologies. In response to these complicated issues, to the rising number of bills introduced regarding telecommunications and technology, and to prepare our state for new and advanced telecommunications and technology, I think it's time that we ought to consider whether this change is necessary to ensure the success and security of our state. Now I'll say something about the general proposal. It was a relatively simple proposal on purpose. Efforts in years past have stalled out because they tried to make it too complicated. As you all are thinking about these changes in the future, I will say it is important for those of you who are sticking around to think about creating the most simple changes that you can, in order to get them done. And I understand now the mistakes that I made, where I didn't spend enough time with each and every one of you throughout this session, talking about the importance of these changes and why we ought to do this. So whoever will take on this work in the future, be ye warned. You will need to

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spend a lot of time talking through these issues with all of your colleagues. And I also had promised to folks that these rule changes about committee structure need to be something that we look at more than every 40 years. It ought to be something we done-- we do quite a bit more frequently to make sure that our committee structure is reflective of the needs of our state and of our institution, and to make sure that if you see a group of constituents not getting your voices-- their voices heard, you should address that need. So we're not going to have time to do this today. This is on me. I should have done a better job of talking to everyone about it. But the Speaker has told me that he will consider and might probably have us come and talk to Leg Council at the end of this year about the way in which committees are structured, so that the new folks coming in and all of you who are here have a sense of what the issues are. And of course, the great imbalance of the number of bills is part of it. There are a number of potential solutions. This is not the only one. I think this one-- I obviously think this is one that would work well. But if you have others that you can think about, if you have others that you think might work well, please do come and talk to me. You can also get a hold of Brian in my office, and let us know what you think those are. And as we are preparing for Leg Council this year, where we will talk to all of you about them, we'll see if, if we can figure something out. But I do not-- my personal opinion, and that's not going to matter in about 2 days, but my personal opinion is that if you try and take on every single problem with the committee structure at once, you're not going to be able to get it done. If we had just said, OK, let's merge Ag and Natural Resources, that would have given us enough problem. But then, when we tried to say, let's divide out Transportation and Telecommunications and add the Technology portion, that pushed some more people into the pushback category, and I think that's where we went wrong. So here we are. I want to thank Senator Lippincott for holding the hearing and being very helpful in this process to us, as Senator of the Rules Committee-- or chair of the Rules Committee, and all of you who participated in the discussion, and participated over the summer in the LR. And I wish you all luck. I do think that finding a way to sort of even out the responsibilities for senators will be in the best interest of everyone, long run. And with that, if you have questions, I will be sitting over there, and my staffer, as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARCH: Thank you, Senator DeBoer. Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: Mr. President, turning to the agenda, Final Reading, LB834. When the Legislature left, pending was Senator Raybould's motion to recommit.

ARCH: Senator Raybould, you are recognized for a one-minute refresher on your recommit motion.

RAYBOULD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. I want to thank Senator Hansen for withdrawing his amendment. I do appreciate the conversations that have been started. I hope these important conversations will continue throughout this year and that you will also take time to review some of the handouts from Dr. Kay on the impact to public schools, and the handout from NACO on the fiscal impacts to counties. And at this time, I do ask the Clerk to please withdraw my motion to recommit.

ARCH: Without objection, so ordered. Senators, please return to your seats for Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB834]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB834 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: Senators Armendariz, Dover, and Murman. The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused not voting, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB834 does pass. We will now pursue to L-- pro-- proceed to LB835. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All

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those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB835]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB835 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: Senators Dover and Murman. Vote is 47 ayes, 2-- 0 nays, 2 excused not voting, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB835 does pass. Senator Fred Meyer would like to recognize some special guests. There are 25 fourth grade students from Amherst Elementary in Amherst, Nebraska, and they are seated in the north balcony. Students, if you would please rise and be welcomed by your Nebraska Legislature. We will now proceed to LB883, and the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB883]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB883 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad,

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DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting: Senators Dover and Murman. The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused not voting.

ARCH: LB883 does pass. We will proceed to LB894. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 45 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB894]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB894 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Arch, Armendariz, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Andersen, Ballard, Machaela Cavanaugh. Not voting: Senators Dover and Murman. Vote is 44 ayes, 3 nays, 2 excused not voting, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB894 does pass. Mr. Clerk, please proceed to LB900.

CLERK: [Read LB900 on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB900 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Arch, Armendariz, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Clements, Clouse, DeKay, Dorn, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders,

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Sorrentino, Storm, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Andersen, Ballard, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Conrad, DeBoer, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hunt, McKinney, Spivey, Storer, Strommen. Not voting: Senators Dover and Murman. Vote is 33 ayes, 14 nays, 2 excused not voting.

ARCH: LB900 does pass. Mr. Clerk, please proceed to LB903.

CLERK: [Read LB903 on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB903 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senator Moser. Not voting: Senators Dover and Murman. Senator Moser voting, voting yes. Vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused not voting.

ARCH: Elbow-- LB903 passes. We will now proceed to LB924, and the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 41 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB924]

ARCH: All provisions of law relevant to the procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB924 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen,

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von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senator Hunt. Not voting: Senators Dover and Murman. Senator Hunt voting yes. Vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused not voting, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB924 does pass. Mr. Clerk, please proceed to LB940.

CLERK: [Read LB940 on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB940 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not voting Senators Dover and Murman. The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused not voting, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB940 passes. Please proceed to LB954.

CLERK: [Read LB954 on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB954 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Machaela Cavanaugh, Conrad, Hunt. Not voting: Senators Dover and Murman. Votes 44 ayes, 3 nays, 2 excused not voting.

ARCH: LB954 does pass. We will now proceed to LB979, and the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB979]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB8-- LB979 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Arch, Armendariz, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Clements, Clouse, DeKay, Dorn, Fredrickson, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Andersen, Ballard, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Conrad, DeBoer, Dungan, Guereca, Hunt, McKinney. Not voting: Senators Dover and Murman. Vote is 37 ayes, 10 nays, 2 excused not voting, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB979 does pass. We will now proceed to LB985, and the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB985]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB985 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB985 does pass. We will now proceed to LB1067, and the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 44 ayes, 2 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB1067]

ARCH: All provisions of law are relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1067 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Arch, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clouse, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Andersen, Armendariz, Ballard, Clements, Conrad, DeBoer, Hansen, Hunt, Kauth, Riepe, Storer, Storm, and Strommen. Votes 36 ayes, 13 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB1067 does pass. Mr. Clerk, please proceed to LB1127.

CLERK: [Read LB 1127 on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall 11-- shall LB1127 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB1127 does pass. Mr. Clerk, please proceed to LB1127A.

CLERK: [Read LB1127A on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1127A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

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CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Not--the vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB1127A does pass. We will now proceed to LB1155. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 44 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB1155]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1155 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB1155 does pass. Please proceed to LB1205.

CLERK: [Read LB1205 on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1205 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate April 9, 2026

Rough Draft

Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB1205 does pass. We will now proceed to LB1236 with the emergency clause attached, and the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 46 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

ARCH: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB1236]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1236 pass, with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB1236 passes, with the emergency clause attached. We will now proceed to LB1236A, with the emergency clause. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: [Read LB1236A on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1236A, with the emergency clause attached, pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez,

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Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB1236A passes with the emergency clause attached. Mr. Clerk, please proceed to LB1240.

CLERK: [Read LB1240 on Final Reading]

ARCH: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1240 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Bos-- Bostar, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeBoer, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Jacobson, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: None. The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB1240 does pass. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB834, LB835, LB883, LB894, LB900, LB903, LB924, LB940, LB954, LB979, LB985, LB1067, LB1127, LB1127A, LB1155, LB1205, LB1236 with the emergency clause, LB1236A with the emergency clause, and LB1240. Mr. Clerk, please proceed to the next item on the agenda.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR293A, introduced by Senator Kauth. It urges members of the United States Congress to swiftly enact legislation to provide for veterans' access to treatments for traumatic brain injury and, and post-traumatic stress disorder that include hyperbaric oxygen therapy, such as the Veterans National Traumatic Injury Treatment Act, and any other legislative-- legislation improving or authorizing access to other important therapies and counselings, and legislation fostering research and development of additional therapies. The resolution was referred to the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee. That committee reported the LR to the Legislature for further consideration.

DeBOER: Senator Kauth, you are recognized to open on LR293.

KAUTH: Thank you, Madam President. As Brandon mentioned, this is the Veterans National Traumatic Injury Treatment Act. What we are doing, as a Legislature, is requesting members of the United States Congress to swiftly enact legislation to provide for veterans' access to treatments for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder that include hyperbaric ox-- oxygen therapy, such as the Veterans National Traumatic Injury Treatment Act and any other legislation that will improve or authorize access to other important therapies. This was brought to me by a veterans group. Their-- they have had success with hyperbaric oxygen treatment. It's not covered under the VA, because the FDA has not approved it. So what the veterans groups are doing is pushing Congress to actually enact legislation, so that they can do a pilot program and get this treatment approved. I would appreciate your green vote on this matter.

DeBOER: Thank you, Senator Kauth. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Kauth, you're recognized to close. Senator Kauth waives her closing. The question before the body is the adoption of LR293. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the resolution.

DeBOER: The resolution is adopted. Mr. Clerk, for the next item.

CLERK: Madam President, LR296, from Senator Hallstrom.

DeBOER: Senator Hallstrom, you are recognized to open on LR290--

CLERK: Madam President, it urges the President of the United States and the members of the United States Congress to make permanent changes to the Child and Adult Food Programs to reimburse all participating family daycare homes at Tier I rates and provide additional reimbursement for each meal and supplement provided. The resolution was referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. That committee reports the LR to the Legislature for further consideration.

DeBOER: Senator Hallstrom, you're recognized to open on LR296.

HALLSTROM: Thank you, Madam President. As the Clerk has indicated, this legislative resolution would urge the President of the United States and Congress to change the federal Child care and Adult Food Program to reimburse all participating family day care homes at the same rate. This had been done during COVID. And we have a system that

is set up that, based on the location of the childcare provider, you may be serving the same low-income families, you may be serving the same meal, you may be buying your groceries at the same grocery store, and yet they are paid differential reimbursement rates. This legislative resolution was advanced from the committee on a vote of 7-0. It had 36 original co-sponsors. And there currently is pending legislation in Congress, in the form of HR 2859 and Senate 1420, that if this resolution is approved, we will send a letter to all the members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation, encouraging them to support the pending legislation. And I would request and appreciate your green vote. Thank you.

DeBOER: Thank you, Senator Hallstrom. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Hallstrom, you're recognized to close. Senator Hallstrom waives his closing. The question before the body is the adoption of LR296. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, on adoption of the resolution-- 43 ayes, 0 nays, on adoption of the resolution, Madam President.

DeBOER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LR296 is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Rountree, LR422. It urges Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The resolution was referred to the Education Committee and reported to the Legislature for further consideration.

DeBOER: Senator Rountree, you are recognized to open on LR422.

ROUNTREE: Good afternoon, and thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon, colleagues, and those that are watching online. LR422 urges Congress to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, also known as the EHA, in 1975, to support states and localities in protecting the rights of, meeting the individual needs of, and improving the results of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and their families. This landmark law's name changed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, in a 1990 reauthorization. The law was last reauthorized in 2004, and the department has periodically issued new or revised regulations to address the implementation and interpretation of the IDEA. Before this law was enacted, only one in five children with disabilities went to

school, and many states excluded children with disabilities, including the deaf and blind. Since then, we have made great strides in special education in this country. Thankful that we now realize the importance of providing every student with an education and how every student can thrive when given the opportunity. LR422 asks to build upon that success and to meet the promises that were made by IDEA and the federal government to states. The program is currently underfunded, leaving states with a larger bill for special education, which in our state, fall-- falls to the property taxpayer. And we just had a great discussion on that. We had a great hearing in the Education Department, so we appreciate that hearing. We appreciate what our Education Department has done, as well as our state, in providing the funds and making up the shortfall for our special education. I've passed out a letter to you, from Congressman Don Bacon, as they have gone forward in this before. I won't read all that is in that, but it's for your reading. And so, we have-- a great hearing. But at this time, I just ask that-- this resolution was advanced by the Education Committee unanimously. And I ask for your green vote on LR422. Thank you, Madam President.

DeBOER: Thank you, Senator Rountree. Senator Clements, you're recognized.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Madam President. Would Senator Rountree yield to a question?

DeBOER: Senator Rountree, will you yield?

ROUNTREE: Yes, I will.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Senator. In the second paragraph, it says, Congress has not made its pledge to cover 40% of the national average per-pupil expenditure. What percent are they funding?

ROUNTREE: It has been significantly less than the 40%. I just say that for us in Nebraska. And I think Senator Murman can come on board and support that, if asked a question. But they've been at 80-85%-- 75, 80, 85% of our state has been picking up the cost on that. So I don't have the number that is less than the 40%, but it is less than 40%.

CLEMENTS: Do you think Senator Murman has that answer?

ROUNTREE: He can probably attest to the fact of how much we in Nebraska have spent.

CLEMENTS: All right.

ROUNTREE: Making up the [INAUDIBLE].

CLEMENTS: Thank you. Would Senator Murman yield to a question?

DeBOER: Senator Murman, will you yield?

MURMAN: Yes.

CLEMENTS: Senator Murman, do you know how far below the target that Congress is, on that funding?

MURMAN: I believe the federal funding is at 14%, if I'm not mistaken.

CLEMENTS: 14 instead of 40%?

MURMAN: I think that's right.

CLEMENTS: Well, OK. Well, I, I thought 40% was really not that high of a target, but very good. Well, I was very curious about that. That's interesting to see. I think that's-- just want to thank Senator Rountree for bringing this resolution. Thank you, Madam President.

DeBOER: Thank you, Senator Clements. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Rountree, you're welcome to close on your LR.

ROUNTREE: Thank you so much, Madam President. And just to finalize that question, it is 10-14%. So Senator Murman, thank you so much. Thank [MALFUNCTION] the senators, and I do ask for your green vote on this resolution as it goes forward. Thank you so much.

DeBOER: Thank you, Senator Rountree. The question before the body is the advancement-- or is the adoption of LR422. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 47 ayes, 0 nays, on adoption of the resolution.

DeBOER: The resolution is adopted. Senator DeKay would like to recognize 2 special guests underneath the south balcony, Bryan and Conrad Balvan from Scouting America. Please stand and be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Mr. Speaker, for an announcement.

ARCH: Thank you, Madam President. I don't think it will come as a surprise to anyone, but I'm officially announcing we will be returning for the 60th day on April 17. If there are any gubernatorial vetoes on

any of the bills that we pass today or tomorrow, I want to provide the body with an opportunity next Friday to override, if they so desire. Tomorrow, we have about 2.5-3 hours of Final Reading, and in addition to some time for prearranged tributes to our departing senators. The, the final goodbyes, the opportunity for the senators that are leaving to speak for themselves, that will be next Friday, the 17th. So given that we have about 2.5, 3 hours tomorrow, we will convene tomorrow morning at 10:00, and it should be a short day. Thank you, Madam President. Oh, yes. And rest up from your basketball game.

DeBOER: Thank you, Speaker Arch. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, bills read this afternoon on Final Reading were presented to the Governor at 2:35 p.m. Finally, a priority motion, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh would move to adjourn the body until Friday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m.

DeBOER: Colleagues, you've heard Senator Machaela Cavanaugh's motion. All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay. We are adjourned.