

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate April 13, 2022

HILGERS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the fifty-ninth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Hilkemann. Please rise.

HILKEMANN: Thank you very much. This is now the 599th day that I've been a part of this legislative body, I've heard lots of prayers that have been said. I'm going to do this one just a little different. I'm going to ask that we make this a responsive prayer, and you'll know when the time is to respond. And so let's begin with an attitude of prayer. Good morning, Lord. We are so grateful to be able to come together in prayer again. We are at-- to our last two days of this session. We are in the final hours of the senate careers of some of those who've been a part of this 107th legislative body and over the last 8 to 12 years. It seems fitting, Lord, that we pray for each one of them and name them. So as I name them, I ask that you respond either verbally or silently and join me with either, "thank you, Lord" or "thank you". So we say thanks to Curt Friesen. Thank you, Lord. To Tim Gragert. Thank you, Lord. For Matt Hansen. Thank you, Lord. For Dan Hughes. We thank you, Lord. For Mark Kolterman. We thank you, Lord. For Steve Lathrop. We thank you, Lord. For Brett Lindstrom. We thank you, Lord. For John McCollister. We thank you, Lord. For Adam Morfeld. We thank you, Lord. For Patty Pansing Brooks. We thank you, Lord. For Senator John Stinner. We thank you, Lord. For Matt Williams. We thank you, Lord. And for Robert Hilkemann. We thank you, Lord. Oh, Lord, watch over each and every one of us, your servants. We thank you for our energy, the intellect, the friendships, the love, the hugs, the time, the service, the talents, and many more adjectives that we could use to describe these, your servants. Please watch over us as each one of us goes forward in our lives. We ask you, Lord, for good health, for energy and enthusiasm for continued service. And above all, Lord, that we all grow in our love for you and the traditions of our faith. Amen.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Hilkeman. Senator Wayne, you are recognized to lead us in the pledge.

WAYNE: 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.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. I call to order the fifty-ninth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

HILGERS: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Two items, Mister-- Mr. President. A report from the Rules Committee regarding proposed rules change, which they heard this morning. In addition, an announcement of the various agency reports are available through the Legislature's website. That's all I have at this time.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, we're going to be going into Final Reading, if you could please return to your seats. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following LR's: LR271, LR284, LR335, LR346 and LR435. Colleagues, I would like to announce some special guests here with us today in the north balcony. I have my dad, Dr. Tom Hilgers, my mom Sue Hilgers, my little sister, Dr. Teresa Hilgers and my big brother Paul. They're all seated in the north balcony. If you would rise and be welcomed by your Nebraska Legislature.

ARCH: Speaker Hilgers, you are recognized for an announcement.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I guess this is our end of the week announcement and it will be brief. Two notes, one for today, one for next week. Today we are going to do Final Reading and then we are going to have some remarks from senators. We are going to work through lunch. I had a few people ask me this morning, are we going to break for lunch? No, we're going to work through lunch. I anticipate we'll be done the first half of the afternoon, is my expectation. Secondly, next week, next Wednesday, day 60, we will start at 10:00 in the morning. We don't know how many, if any, vetoes we will receive from the Governor on the bills that we have passed so far. But we're going to accommodate enough time as needed to be able to ov-- to have the override motions heard next Wednesday. The only other item, besides farewells from departing senators and our traditional sine die motions to finish the session that we will have next week is, and I just was informed by Senator Clements the Rules Committee unanimously passed out this morning the proposed change to our permanent rules to accommodate the change from

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redistricting. So as you know, LB686 is on Final Reading today. We have to actually make two changes, one is in statute for the Exec Board, the second is a corresponding change in the Committee on Committees. And Senator Clements, I think will report out-- the Rules Committee is going to report out that change this morning. We will have that motion heard next Wednesday. So we're going to work through lunch today. And for day 60, we're going to start at 10:00 next Wednesday. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Clerk, we will move to Final Reading. Members should return to their seats in preparation for Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, the first bill is LB376. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor-- in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay.

HILGERS: Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 34 ayes, 6 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB376].

HILGERS: All provisions of all relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB376 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz and Williams. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Hughes, Lowe, Wayne, Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 42 ayes, 0 nays, 4 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB376 passes. We will now proceed LB376A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB376A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB376A pass? All those in favor

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of vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne and Williams. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Hughes, Lowe, Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 43 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB376A passes. I would like to welcome 37 fourth-grade students from Malcolm Elementary and from Malcolm, Nebraska in northwest Lancaster County. They're seated in the north balcony. Please rise and be welcomed by your Nebraska Legislature. We will now turn to LB598e. 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.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 35 ayes, 5 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB598].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB598E pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobsen, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne and Williams. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting.

HILGERS: LB598 passes with the emergency clause attached. We'll now turn to LB686.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB686 on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB686 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen-- that's Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz and Williams. Voting nay: Senators Blood, John Cavanaugh, Matt Hansen, McKinney, Wayne. Noting voting: Senators Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 40 ayes, 5 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB686 passes. We will now turn to LB792.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB792 on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB792 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. All those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne and Williams. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting.

HILGERS: LB792 passes. Next bill, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, first of all, I have a motion to bracket from Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, with a note that she wants to withdraw.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The first vote is the vote to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 3 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB805].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB805 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Jacobson, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne and Williams. Voting nay: Senator Hunt. Not voting: Senators Brewer, Machaela Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Kolterman, Lathrop, Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 39 ayes, 1 nay, 6 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB805 passes. We will now turn to LB805A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB805A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB805A pass? All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Jacobson, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne and Williams. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Machaela Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 40 ayes, 0 nays, 6 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB805A passes. We will now turn to LB843, and 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.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: 32 ayes, 3 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB843].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB843 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne and Williams. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB843 passes. We will now turn to LB876, and 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.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB876].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB876E pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Jacobson, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Vargas, Walz and Wayne. Voting nay: Senators Blood, Matt Hansen and Stinner. Not voting: Senators Machaela Cavanaugh, Hunt, Kolterman, Williams, Wishart, Briese, Lindstrom and

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Pahls. Vote is 38 ayes, 3 nays, 5 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB876 passes with the emergency clause attached. We will now turn to LB896.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB896 on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB896 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting.

HILGERS: LB896 passes. We will now turn to LB896A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB896A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB896A pass. All those in favor of vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Day, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB896 passes. We will now proceed to LB921, and the first vote is the vote to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB921].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB921 pass? All those in favor of vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senator Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting.

HILGERS: LB921 passes. We will now turn to LB921A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB921A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB921A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Erdman, Lowe, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 44 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB921A passes. We will now proceed to LB922, and the first vote is the vote to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 4 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB922].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB922 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: Senator Clements. Not voting: Senators Erdman, Lowe, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 43 ayes, 1 nay, 2 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB922 passes. We will now turn to LB922A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB922A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB922A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: Senator Erdman. Not voting: Senator Clements, Halloran, Lowe, Murman, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 41 ayes, 1 nay, 4 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB922A passes. Senator Matt Hansen would like to welcome 75 high school students from Lincoln Northeast. They are seated in the south balcony. If you would rise and be welcomed by your Nebraska Legislature. The next bill is LB927, and the first vote is the vote to dispense the at-large reading. I'm sorry, I'm-- Mr. Clerk, next bill.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB927, I do have a motion to strike the enacting clause from Senator Matt Hansen, but a note to withdraw.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. First vote is the vote to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 4 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB927].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB927 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Geist, Gragert, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: Senator Clements and Erdman. Not voting: Senators Friesen, Halloran, Hughes, Hunt, Lowe, Murman, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 38 ayes, 2 nays, 6 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB927 passes. Next bill.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next bill, Mr. President. Senator Matt Hansen has a motion to amend with a note he wishes to withdraw.

HILGERS: Colleagues, the first vote is a vote to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 4 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB984].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB984 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks. Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Friesen, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB984 passes. We will now turn to LB984A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB984A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB984A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Vargas, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Geist, Hilkemann, Stinner, Walz, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Senator Geist voting yes. Senator Hilkemann voting yes. Vote is 44 ayes [SIC-- 45], 0 nays, 2 present and not voting [SIC--1], 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB984A passes. We will now turn to LB1130.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB1130 on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1130 pass? All those in favor of vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting no, Senators Erdman and Halloran. Not voting: Senators Albrecht, Brewer, Clements, Lowe, Moser, Murman, Stinner, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 37 ayes, 2 nays, 7 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1130 passes. We will now turn to LB1144. The first vote is the vote to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 36 ayes, 5 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB1144].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1144e pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1144 passes with the emergency clause attached. We'll now turn to LB1144A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB1144A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1144Ae pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Morfeld, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Senator Morfeld voting yes. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1144A passes with the emergency clause attached. Next bill, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, on the next bill, Senator Matt Hansen has a motion to return to Select File to strike the enacting clause. It says here that he wishes to withdraw.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The first vote is a vote to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 5 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB1150].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB1150e pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senator Erdman. Not voting: Senators Halloran, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 44 ayes, 1 nay, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1150 passes with the emergency clause attached. We will now proceed to LB1150A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB1150A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1150A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting no: Senator Erdman. Not voting: Senators Halloran, Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 44 ayes, 1 nay, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1158A passes. We will now turn to LB1173e, and 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.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 5 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB1173].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1173e pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1173e passes with the emergency clause attached. We will now turn to LB1173Ae.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB1173Ae on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1173Ae pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1173Ae passes with the emergency clause attached. We will now turn to LB1218, and 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.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 4 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB1218].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1218 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1218 passes. We will now turn to LB1218A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB1218A on Final Reading].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1218A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1218A passes. Next bill.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next bill, Mr. President, there's a motion from Senator Matt Hansen with a note he wishes to withdraw.

HILGERS: Next bill is LB1261e, and the first vote is the vote to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 3 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read title of LB1261].

HILGERS: All provisions of law relevant a procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1261e pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams and Wishart. Voting nay: None. Not voting: Senators

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Briese, Lindstrom and Pahls. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

HILGERS: LB1261e passes with the emergency clause attached. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following LBs: LB376, LB376A, LB598e, LB686, LB792, LB805, LB805A, LB843, LB876e, LB896, LB896A, LB921, LB921A, LB922, LB922A, LB927, LB984, LB984A, LB1130, LB1144e, LB1144Ae, LB1150e, LB1150A, LB1173e, LB1173Ae, LB1218, LB1218A. Does that have an E clause? I didn't realize I was miked. I'm sorry-- LB1218A and LB1261e. Next bill, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, on the next bill, LB888, Senator Wayne has a motion to return to Select File for a specific amendment, that being AM2845.

HILGERS: Senator Wayne, you are recognized to open on your motion.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. So I want to talk a little bit. I initially said I was going to go two hours, and it would have been easier to take a half-hour on each bill. Could have been here all day. Senator Erdman actually lobbied me not to do that, and I agree with Senator Erdman on this. To me, this is a very simple principle. These next two votes are very principled. Sitting here and arguing for two hours or taking time the whole day ain't going to change where people are, because it's really that principled. And I know some people think, according to Speaker Hilgers, that there-- this was some kind of major change. But I'm going to read off a couple of bills. LB344, which was scheduled but not heard. Senator Friesen, actually, it was a Speaker priority, actually introduced an amendment that was so new, they literally had to have a new hearing. That was not brought up by the Speaker. LB436, Ben Hansen, had two amendments that substantially changed that we already passed. LB896, Senator Lathrop had amendment-- AM2502. Not a significant change, but I would argue from going from a regular basis to a specific eight years is a significant change. LB1016, Bostelman had an amendment, AM2239, that passed, and we already passed that through the bill-- through this Legislature. LB1102, these are all Speaker priorities, Bostelman had an amendment, AM2470, which we passed, that had significant changes, over two pages. Even Senator McKinney, LB1112, had AM2101, which passed, that significantly changed the requirements for computer programming. LB1246, Senator Slama had AM-- had an AM that completely added a new section. That was not objected to. But let's talk about the process here. On General File of this bill, I said I will move this to Select and I will bring an amendment. And I said what the

amendment was. It got on the floor, it was adopted. Nobody, including the Speaker, did not raise the issue of new material or new anything. It was literally adopted. That said, African-Americans lynching-- I mean, slavery, lynching and other racial massacres. We pulled it back. So once, once it gets adopted, it is a part of the bill. So people who are listening, it is part of the bill. We are saying: Holocausts, other genocides, slavery, lynching and other racial massacres. That is part of the bill. We pulled it off a Final Reading and we decided to remove slavery, lynching and racial massacres. I have been consistent that if we learn about Holocausts that happened in another country, at a minimum, we should learn about slavery and the injustices that happened to the Native Americans. At a minimum. We cannot whitewash our history. The second point I made is, when you start listing stuff, you have to list everything. Because if it's not listed, it's not as important. That's just the way it is. That's, that's belief. And the vote that we took, I have gotten tons of feedback is that we are saying our history doesn't matter. And you can't say it, it's a problem-- that's not true because it was already on the bill that this body passed. We decided to remove African-Americans and Native American history from what is required because it was already on the bill. And if you say it's not actually relevant or new, actually, the U.N. definition of genocide says: killing members of a group, deliberately inflicting a group's conditions. The difference between the U.N., and I can keep going through the four definitions which slavery meets, so it's not new. It's actually clarifying the definition. The difference is, according to Senator Bostelman's amendment, it has to be recognized. So now we're telling you that another foreign government entity can tell us what we've deemed to be genocide. That's interesting from a conservative standpoint. My point is, is when I heard the passion-- and I had last night, I had pictures that I was going to send out of slaves being whipped and all of that. But at the end of the day. It was my freshman year or sophomore year, Senator Morfeld, that there was a bill dealing with LGTBQ, and we ended up running more time to run it out because we were actually afraid of the vote and what it would send-- the message that would be sent across Nebraska. I remember the Chamber out there lobbying saying, don't do this, this is bad for business. We cannot take a vote on it, run the clock. And that was when we had the three-three rule. I know other people remember that because we didn't take a vote on it. What message are we sending right now? That this was part of the bill that we adopted and we removed it, really because somebody said they might veto it or somebody said they might not schedule it. So I'm not going to spend a whole lot of time rehashing what slavery is and how many people died compared to the Holocaust and everything else, but I

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am going to ask everybody to look up at the ceiling. And what you'll see is this Chamber represents when European and Spanish and Anglo-Americans came to Nebraska. Not one Native American is listed up there. Not one native is shown up there, because natives are shown in the Chamber we don't use on the east side. So people who come in here and look and depict what's going on in Nebraska and where we make our laws, Native Americans aren't even represented. And that's what happens when you start creating lists. If you leave somebody out, they're forgotten. And it's simple to say, we'll bring a bill next year. We have one now. So there is a problem that mathematically the bill probably won't go forward, but this is a principle vote. Do you believe that all children should learn at least slavery? And what my bill says is education of racial massacres for Native Americans. And I hope Senator Brewer will push this button and just educate us a little bit on Wounded Knee. Versus something that is a tragic, great tragedy in a different country that's not even really a part of our history, except for it helped facilitate us to get into the World War and it helped us build a huge connection with Israel. And the last thing I'm going to say on my opening is, I watched and gained a lot more respect for Senator Lathrop when he got up and said, I'm standing by my principles because this body is supposed to be the decisionmaker on LB920. That we shouldn't have to wait for somebody outside to make that decision. And many of the colleagues who are going to vote against this amendment got up and said, we should not be listening to people outside of this body. But they'll vote for this amendment in fear of a veto-- or against this amendment. So this is deeply personal to me. After going to Africa and really seeing the disconnect of my history, to when I got to listen to Senator Wishart and even Senator Brewer talk about their great, great, great, greats. To pick one over another, yes, this will change the way I operate. May not change anybody else. It may not change Senator McKinney or Senator Brewer. But when you go there and you can't have that conversation about where you came from. And this was a part of the bill--

HUGHES: One minute.

WAYNE: --and we voted to take it out. Yeah, it's personal. And I don't have to pass another bill for the next two years, but I can't not take the opportunity to say this is my history, what little I have left. Don't pick one over the other. We shouldn't have to, and this body should stand up and make sure that we don't. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Colleagues, Senator McDonnell would like to introduce 80 Jobs for America's Graduates from Nebraska. They are seated in the south balcony. If they would please rise to be

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recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Thank you for coming today. Debate is now open on AM2845. Senator Friesen, you're recognized.

FRIESEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Wayne. I won't be put in a position to choose between one or the other. I will oppose both. I still think that we have a State Board of Education that should be doing this. And when the Legislature starts to jump into the dictating what we're supposed to be teaching in our classrooms, I think we're either need to get rid of the State Board of Education or-- they're an elected board, they're publicly elected. This Legislature shouldn't be micromanaging. And from that standpoint, you know, I've in the past, I think a couple of years ago, when I think Senator McKinney had the financial literacy program, I voted for that. But thinking back, I made a mistake there too. I think a lot of schools already did that. But again, the State Board of Education should be asked to look at all of these things, whether or not they've been appropriately applied across the state. And the Legislature again shouldn't get into the middle of dictating exactly what they teach or what they don't. Our state board should be held accountable. And if you don't like what they're doing, and there has been, I think, a lot of interest in the State Board of Education recently, but this is their expertise. This is what they do. So therefore, I will be voting against both amendment and the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Friesen. Senator Brewer, you're recognized.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, this will be extemporaneous. The, the confusion and, and pain that I saw in Senator Wayne's face in Africa kind of turn the light bulb on for me, because I know that I'm part of the Oglala Sioux tribe, and that's part of the Sioux Nation that happens to have the Santee, the Brule. And of course, we know that we've got those that are part of the Crow, the Cheyenne. But when he got over to Africa and he had a chance to talk to some of the guides and they all had their ability to trace back, just like I did, their heritage, he didn't have that. And I think more than any of us on that trip, it was an awakening for him. And I wish I could have done something to help him, but he's in a unique situation where he was adopted. And so that did leave him in a kind of a quandary. As they would ask him questions, and he had no answers. They didn't fully understand why. Now, on the issue of Wounded Knee, I understand it is, it is just a small spot on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Much like the little town of Whiteclay, except it's smaller than Whiteclay. There's literally nothing there but a rundown church, a few rickety homes and a mass grave. So you understand the mass grave happened in 1890. At that point, the Sioux Nation was pretty much destroyed. There were a

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handful of old women and children. A few warriors left, but not many. When the Battle of Little Big Horn happened in 1876, the nations all came together, the Cheyenne and Arapaho, the Sioux, and 10,000 of them destroyed two squadrons of the 7th Cavalry. Now I got my own opinion on that, kind of think Custer had it coming. But I might be a little biased. But what happened next was the American government went on a rampage and killed every Indian that wasn't on the reservation. But what happened in, in 1890 was they were on a reservation. They herded them into a valley and put Hotchkiss guns on the hills. They were having them turn in their weapons. Boy, does that seem ironic. And in the process of turning in their weapons, a gun went off. No one knows whose it was, cavalry or Indians. But what resulted was a massacre of roughly 300, which was most of those that were left. And on that cold winter day, they stacked them in a grave and they covered it up. And that really has a very small marker. Now, a tribute to the state of South Dakota, this past year, they passed legislation to actually build a proper memorial there. And hopefully because of that memorial, people will actually come and visit and they'll get to see the location and some of the background information of what happened there. But that's a quick synopsis on the Battle of Wounded Knee, which was truly a massacre. And kind of why I got to tell you, I, I understand and appreciate Senator Wayne's situation. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Brewer. Senator Day, you're recognized.

DAY: Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. I appreciate Senator Wayne and Senator Brewer standing up and discussing what this amendment means to them. I understand how important it is to them. And I think it puts us all in kind of an uncomfortable position where we are faced with choosing between Holocaust education and this amendment. I will say that once I got word that the Holocaust education bill would not get scheduled on Final Reading if we did not remove the amendment, I had discussed it with Senator Wayne, because Senator Wayne was the first person to come up to me and tell me that that was the situation. We talked about it up until the last minutes before the bill came up on the floor for debate. I stood with him, with the amendment when he wanted to introduce it onto this bill. I was happy to do that. I support him and I have supported him the entire way. However, I was not willing to let this bill die. Because ultimately, to me, this is not my bill. This is not a bill about Senator Day, and it never has been. This is a bill that was introduced by Sara Howard years ago and has been the culmination of several years of work from literally hundreds of people. There was some handouts that were distributed this morning that I feel help emphasize the

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purpose of this bill and why I was not willing to let it die. This bill is-- this bill is about Marcel Brokowitz [PHONETIC] who was born in Paris. She arrived in Auschwitz on August 26, 1942, in a transport of a thousand Jews deported from Drancy. After selection, she was murdered in a gas chamber. This bill is about Witold Sulejewski, born in Warsaw, a train conductor in Auschwitz from October 16, 1941. Prisoner number 21758. He perished in Auschwitz on the 20th of January, 1942. This is all in the packet, which is one of the handouts that I gave you. And what I want to emphasize is if you vote for the motion to return this bill to Select File, we are essentially killing the entire bill. Because of the need for a layover day, we can vote to return it to Select File, attach the amendment that we know will guarantee it a veto. We will not have time for the extra layover day--

HUGHES: One minute.

DAY: --and we will not have time for a veto override. So while I stand with Senator Wayne in what he's saying, I am not willing to let this bill die without a fight. Because this bill is not about me. I would ask for your no vote on the motion to return to Select File. If you don't want to get involved, a present not voting is fine with me too. And from there, a green vote on LB888. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator McKinney, you're recognized.

McKINNEY: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise because I support Senator Wayne's amendment. And I support it because when these students came in and I was looking up there, I saw many kids that looked like me. And I strongly believe that all kids should learn the true history of America, and a part of the history of America is slavery. And we can't hide away from that. And this is not about a theory, this is about just facts. We had chattel slavery in the United States. Many of our founding fathers owned enslaved Africans. How can we not teach that? I just don't-- I don't know, I just don't agree with it, because I have a daughter who will be 12 tomorrow that I would hope when she goes to school, she's able to learn about the history of our ancestors, the ones that we can learn about. Be-- but because of slavery, very few of us could go back and figure out who are great-great-grandfathers and grandmothers were. I think it's also important to learn about the history of America to change America. I think the less we know about the true history of this country, the less we will ever get to a better space, a better space to fully understand each other and where we come from and our different perspectives. I think kids should learn about the Holocaust as well because it was horrible and it should have never happened. But slavery should have never happened. And that

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wasn't the only massacre against black people in America. You had Tulsa, you had stuff that happened in Georgia. Then you had the lynchings. Then you had the Jim Crow laws and things like that, it's so much. And I just can't say let's wait, you know? I, I don't know, it's tough because they put us in a place where we're either going to agree to add, you know, teaching about slavery and massacres against Native Americans or we're not. And then we're going to get to a vote on this bill. And if one of us votes no, somebody might post on-- post somewhere Senator McKinney is anti-Semitic. And I'm not. But I, I strongly believe the history of my ancestors, those that were enslaved by some of our founding fathers and others that, you know, agreed with the practice of slavery in this country, it should be taught. And this is not against anybody. It's, it's just personal. It is personal, because I believe my history should be taught. And if anybody disagrees with that, then we could just disagree. But this is a tough position I know some people may be in. But for me, it's not necessarily tough because I think all should be taught it: the Holocaust, the massacres against Native Americans and slavery and the massacres that happened postslavery. We should learn about it all. And if that makes you uncomfortable, then you need to be uncomfortable. Because until we choose to be uncomfortable, this country will never change.

HUGHES: One minute.

McKINNEY: Finally had a lynching bill get passed in Congress this year, which is crazy. We have to be cool with being uncomfortable if we ever want to get to a place where this state and this country is in a better space. And until we're willing to be uncomfortable, then we're going to continue to see the craziness that we see across this country. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator McKinney. Senator Gragert announces the following guests visiting the Legislature: We have 22 fourth-graders from Plainview Elementary in Plainview, Nebraska. They are seated in the north balcony. If they would please rise to be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Thank you for coming. Also, Senator Friesen would like to recognize his wife, Nancy, and son, Neil, who are also seated in the north balcony. If they would please rise to be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Thank you for coming. Returning to debate, Senator Hunt, you're recognized.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. President. I feel compelled to share some words, and I haven't jumped into this. And I scribbled some notes and I hope I can read them. The Legislature and the people of Nebraska have

obviously absolutely benefited from having Black and Native American state senators, and this conversation just proves to me how much we would benefit from having a Jewish state senator, right? You know, when I have more children, they will be Jewish because their ancestors will have come to this country as refugees from the Holocaust. The legacy of the Holocaust is something that we still live with in the United States. There have been and there continue to be white supremacist-motivated, anti-Semitic massacres in this country. And that is a legacy of the racism and the anti-Semitism of the Holocaust. So we cannot say that this isn't something that happens in our country or something that affects our country. When I have more children, this will affect them, but I don't believe that we need to personalize these battles to have compassion and empathy for what the question is that we're actually debating. When we were debating the gun bill, David Pringle, who is a avowed anti-Semitic white supremacist, was up in the balcony watching the whole thing. Do you think that his children are learning the things that LB888 would be teaching in schools? We have a white supremacist problem in Nebraska, and that doesn't just affect black people or people of color or Jewish people. It affects white people too. It affects all of us, and it poisons the culture for all of our children. When we weigh the value of cultural oppression between different groups, we are doing what the white supremacists would like us to do. We have to stop bunching together all of the oppression and all of the atrocities that groups have experienced into one single issue. It is not. It is more complicated than that, it's more culturally nuanced than that. And killing this bill would not be a win, colleagues and my dear friends, in the battle for justice. Killing this bill would not be a win in the fight against white supremacy. I don't know why we aren't bringing this smoke to our colleagues who are actually fighting critical race theory like Senator Ben Hansen, who introduced the bill to ban the teaching of critical race theory. But maybe we're killing this bill because Jen wasn't up on the mountain, right? Bring smoke where smoke needs to be. We are united in the fight against white supremacy, and bunching all of our battles together and weighing the value of the struggle of different groups of people is exactly where white supremacy would like us to be and exactly what it would like us to be doing. I wish that we could benefit in this body from the voice of a Jewish state senator, because for all of the education and information that we've gotten from the increased diversity in this body, whether that's, you know, that's on several different verticals, not just race--

HUGHES: One minute.

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HUNT: --we still obviously need a lot of education in Nebraska and in our bodies where laws are made about the Jewish experience in this country. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator Jacobson, you're recognized.

JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I'm the state senator who's been there the least amount of time. And over the last 30 days, I've watched and observed a lot here in this body. I've learned a lot. I've grown to know a lot of people and gotten to build some really close relationships. I can tell you that there are no two people I don't have-- there are two people who I have tremendous respect for, and that would be Senator Wayne and Senator Brewer. They're really wonderful people. They have strong convictions, they speak their mind. And I think they bring a lot to this body and I have the utmost respect for both of them. Senator Day, I appreciate you bringing this bill. I continue to be mind-boggled how people-- there are still people out there that deny the Holocaust, and I appreciate the passion that you bring to this. I've talked before on the mike about things not being personal and then have to define what not being personal means. That not being personal means that we don't personally attack each other. But the things we bring here, we bring personal experiences. And you shared a very personal moment this morning about just how personally you feel about things, and I appreciate that and I respect you for that. If I've got a problem at all with what we're doing right now, it's really the feedback I'm getting from schools, small school superintendents that are in my district who are concerned about what do we do in terms of how do we teach this? Where do we get the curriculum? It's an unfunded mandate, and try to avoid that to the extent that you can. And that's probably where I've had some pause in all of this is I want to be sensitive to that, no matter what the subject is we're trying to teach. You have to go back to Senator Friesen's comments about the State Board of Education and what their role is. As I di-- di-- dissect all of this, I have to come back to the idea that if we do return this to Select File, it kills Senator Day's bill. And I think everybody understands that and we recognize that, that by killing the, the motion to return this to Select File, we give Senator Day's a chance-- bill a chance to be passed today. And if we move back to Select File, we kill everything. And so I'm going to vote not to return it to Select, and I'm probably going to vote for the bill simply because this is one of those unique exceptions, and I would be supportive really of what Senator Brewer and Senator Wayne are bringing. But this year, we're just out of time to get there. So again, this is a tough issue for a lot of reasons, but I think everything that's been said today about the issues are things that we

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need to know about. We need to be educated about those things. So again, Senator Day, thank you for bringing the bill. Thank you for sharing your emotional testimony. I really respect what you're trying to do here. So that's where I'm at on it. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Jacobson. Senator Flood, you're recognized.

FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President. and members. I'm going to vote no on the motion to return to Select File and I think Senator Day's most compelling argument is that it kills her bill. And this is a bill that went through a committee process, went through General File, an amendment was adopted, that language was stricken and on Select File. And here we are in Final Reading, and the question is, do we want this policy choice or not? And she's right, there isn't a chance to return it to Select. I think, as you know, from where I sit, the African-American community in Nebraska has never had better representation. From the standpoint of what I've heard in the last two sessions and the goal of getting opportunity and growth in certain areas of the state, especially in census tracts that don't have it. And that's why I supported LB1024, that's why I supported the Juneteenth holiday, because we have very effective state senators in here that are getting serious work done. And I can tell you, it is a pleasure to watch them work. They are focused on building a community and building it strong and resilient. What Senator Day has brought forward is significant enough to stand on its own. Anti-Semitism in America is on the rise. Recently, there have been crimes committed and vandalism committed at a Lincoln synagogue. Vladimir Putin is using the "Nazification" allegedly of Ukraine as a reason to run in there, when in fact, that's all a hoax. This is being manipulated. This is being malip-- manipulated by a killer running Russia to accomplish his goals. And that in itself underscores the reason why we need to teach the facts about what happened, about the systemic killings, about the fact that under the Nazi Party in Germany, yes, they were criminals and sadists that ran those concentration camps, but there were also lawyers and doctors and bankers and butchers that thought they were fulfilling an obligation. And they were trained and tricked, some of them, into thinking that this was appropriate. That's why we have to teach young people about the Holocaust, so that it never repeats itself again. Why does the State of Israel exist? It exists because of the Holocaust, because the Nazis tried to exterminate the Jews, an entire state because of that. And so I guess my point here is that the choice is-- it's a false choice for two reasons. One is Senator Bill-- Senator Day's bill dies if we return this to Select and adopt the amendment on Select. I have every confidence that Senators Justin Wayne and Senator Terrell McKinney will be able to make this policy

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change given their competent, effective and proven leadership in the Legislature. And I will end with this, why are we doing this in Nebraska schools? Because we must understand and we must--

HUGHES: One minute.

FLOOD: Not understand, we must teach our children what systemic evil looked like during the Holocaust. We have to teach our children what state-sponsored evil looked like during the Holocaust. And we have to teach our children, unfortunately, about a chapter in world history that involved industrialized killing so that it never happens again as crimes against Jews in this country are on the rise. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Flood. Senator John Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. So I've been thinking about this one since we voted on it a couple of days ago and talked to a few people, and I do regret what we did in terms of the vote to take out Senator Wayne's amendment. I think we would have had another path forward if we hadn't done that. But where we stand right now, this bill will fail if we, if we change it at this point because of the number of days that are left. But the reason I rose to speak today is I'm-- in reading the material here about this bill and this subject matter of the law, I came across 79-719, which is a section about what's the definition section of where-- what material schools have to teach. And so this section that this bill amends comes after this portion for social studies lessons. But it's: multicultural education which includes, but is not limited to, the studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. And I bring that up because as Senator Wayne correctly pointed out, when you start listing things and you do not become exhaustive, it becomes a statement about what you are not listing becomes considered less valuable than those things that you are listing. And so in this list, we are not including Jewish Americans and their culture and their history and their contributions. And that's how we got to this point where Senator Day and I think others before her have brought this bill to amend the statute to include Jewish Americans who are not enumerated, who are not listed in this section. And so I agree that this bill, imperfect as it may be because it does not list out all of the other genocides, Holocaust, slavery, uses of state to cause great harm to individuals, it is a, it is a step, it is progress. And I've talked to several individuals who have fought for justice and progress in this country

and in this body itself and they have told to me-- talked me off the ledge a number of times when I wanted to go farther and said you try to get as much as you can, but you can-- you sometimes you have to settle for less than, less than perfect to get progress. And that's ultimately the question that is presented here is we're trying to get another enumeration listed to include people who have been-- had the instruments of state used against them. And so what Senator McKinney said spoke to me as well about that we need to teach history and we shouldn't be having this fight. This is a fight that-- this should already be-- schools should be teaching this both slavery and the Holocaust without us being involved. But apparently that's not happening. And we're having a push around this country and in this state to say that schools shouldn't be teaching this because we think that children can't handle the truth and that everyone should look at the country, this country and assume that it is perfect all the time and assume that our history is pristine. It's not. It's not perfect today in what we're doing today. A number of these bills that we all voted for were imperfect themselves, including this bill.

HUGHES: One minute.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. But the point is, we should not shy away from that and we should look critically at our past and reflect on that, and we should teach the true history of the United States. So I bring up 79-719 because it says history of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans, and we should be including their history in all of our classes. The good and the bad, not just their contributions, because that sets it aside as a separate, but the things that society has done to groups to malign them and to hold them back. But we need to make sure that we are not letting the perfect be the enemy of the good. And so I will ultimately be voting against Senator Wayne's amendment and for Senator Day's bill. But I will continue to fight with others to include genocide and slavery in our statutes to make sure it is being taught properly in our classes. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Albrecht, you're recognized.

ALBRECHT: Thank you, President. I rise in support of LB888 and against the amendment. When people at this point in time want to just attach something without a hearing, without direction, without the committee trying to figure out exactly how it needs to read so that we know what we're sending to the Department of Education because that is our role here in this room, a little bit too late. Happy to take a look at it

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next year. And with that, I'll return my time to the President. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you. Senator Aguilar, you're recognized.

AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President. I think I need to get up and speak about where I'm at on this issue. First of all, I can safely say that Senator Wayne, Senator McKinney, Senator Vargas, and Senator Brewer, like myself, grew up fighting prejudice. I don't think anybody else in this body can say that. And that being said, that's why we understand this issue a little more. Also, I don't want to see Senator Day's bill die. And just as well, I don't want to see Senator Wayne's amendment die. I would rather see it come back next year and stand on its own. And I, for one, would be proud to cosponsor that legislation with him hoping that it will succeed because it needs to succeed. Our kids need to know the truth about what this country was about. So, Senator Wayne, I publicly ask you to withdraw your amendment at this time and I'll yield you the rest of my time.

HUGHES: Senator Wayne, 3:45.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. And colleagues, just so you know, I would have done that on Select File, Senator Aguilar. I would have withdrawn it. But once we adopted it, this body said this is something we should do it. And once we removed it, Senator Flood, we brought it back from Final already once. We sent the wrong message to the wrong-- to, to at least my community. So let me be clear about what this bill does, and then I'm up next in the queue and I'm going to-- to answer Senator Albrecht's question, I think we should have a conversation about what the underlying bill actually does and some of the problems with it. But what my amendment does is says financial literacy, education on the Holocaust and other acts of genocide that is recognized by Congress or the United States or, or of the United States or United Nations as of January 1, 2022. My amendment adds education on slavery in America and education on massacres of Native Americans. So just, just those two last lines. But here, here is the-- when people say there's a super big rush, and I hope, colleagues, please listen to me on this. If this bill dies, it does nothing. Here's why. Will Senator Day yield to a question?

HUGHES: Senator Day, will you yield?

DAY: Yes.

WAYNE: When does this bill take effect?

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DAY: It has to be in effect in schools, I believe, before 2024.

WAYNE: Where is that at in your bill?

DAY: I don't have the bill in front of me. I'm not sure.

WAYNE: It's not in your bill. There's no implementation date, which is completely different from Senator McKinney's LB552 [SIC--LB452] which set out a date down the road. Senator Jacobson, there's no implementation date. It just says the department should create-- or the department should do things around this and make it a requirement. But if it starts in July, colleagues, when the effective date of this law, there's no way a senior right now is going to have to meet this requirement because they might not have already been taught the Holocaust, so they got to go back and add a new class their senior year? No, colleagues, we are a year out, if not two years out, for implementation. So we need to bring the right bill. And that's what happens on the floor, Senator Albrecht, there was no hearing on the United Nations or Congress definition, we adopted that. But my understanding when I read the final rule or the final bill of LB888 and I went back and looked at the introduction bill, there's no implementation date, so that means there's not a E clause on there. It doesn't get done until July 20 at best when it becomes effective and you expect a school district to make it a requirement--

HUGHES: One minute.

WAYNE: --by graduation for the upcoming seniors. That's just not going to happen. So there is no sense of urgency to do it this year. And so you don't have to vote against the Holocaust, you vote to return it, you vote to bring a comprehensive bill. And if it dies, it just-- will it die? Yes, it dies. And then we come back with a comprehensive bill if we're going to add it. I kind of agree with Senator Cavanaugh, John Cavanaugh, we can probably just tighten the language in 79 with the other section. But regardless, Senator McKinney's financial literacy had an implementation date of 2023-2024. They will read this bill, the State Board and NDE and say there is no implementation date. It could be four years from now. It could be five, but it damn sure ain't going to be next year for seniors who are already going into it. We're going to have kids not graduate, not be taught something--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: --next year?

HUGHES: That's time. But you are next in the queue, you may continue.

WAYNE: That's why, Senator Flood, it is a false choice. It is not let it die now and it never comes back. It's not going to be there next year. And here's the reality, the reality is it was a bad vote last round when we decided to pull it off. And we've all done it. I've had committee bills that I pushed, the land bank the first year. Every time that I choose to keep something in a Christmas tree or not and there's a bill and it gets adopted, I run the risk of what could happen on this floor. I can run the risk of veto. And when I make a choice, I got to live by it. And there are plenty of bills that I had on principle that have died on this floor. I have some sitting on General File. Colleagues, my first year, I had the felon voting right, got vetoed. Hard work over six years, that bill came out 8-0 out of Government. I didn't prioritize it because I didn't see a path forward, but I couldn't compromise on it and just say, OK, I'll do one year. That's what was offered my first year, a veto override, I won't say who, by multiple senators to, to create a list of if it's violent and it still has to be two. And I had, I had 40 votes to override if I would have just said violent offenders are the only ones who have to wait two, everybody else has to wait one. And that could have been progress. But I fundamentally believe when you are done with your time, you are done and you should be able to participate as a full citizen who is paying taxes and be able to vote. Senator Day fundamentally believes that we got to move this bill forward. But I am telling you there is no sense of urgency. The timeline is the timeline. We have seniors who are sitting up in that balcony who are-- or juniors who are going to be seniors who are not going to have to meet this requirement. That's why Senator McKinney had an implementation date two years out so you can make the transition. It doesn't-- if we pass it today, it could be three years from now. You know how I know, Senator McDonnell had a bill where we passed and we had to come back and say we really, really want you to do it this year because we didn't have strong enough implementation language on dates. And that was a pretty significant bill. So there is no rush, colleagues. But we do know this, it was in the bill. We voted to take it out. This is how we correct that vote. This is how we correct the image that we have sent to many African Americans and Native Americans who are fleeing this state and you look at every chamber survey that says we can't keep minorities here. And the number one reason is we feel it's a little racist, not a lot of opportunity. There's boycotts right now for the Governor's family to buy a soccer team because of statements that are racist. And here we are saying, yes, we like it, put it in a bill. Now we thought about it, no, I don't know if we like slavery being taught. That's literally what happened. This is not about the Holocaust to me, it's about a comprehensive approach. If

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we're going to teach things, one, we should at least teach about what happens here in America. And, two, we should teach about all genocides and racial massacres because genocide and the Holocaust, technically Holocaust is not a racial, is not a racial massacre. So don't believe that if this bill dies today, it's the end of the world. And don't believe that if you pass it today, next year everybody's going to learn. There is no implementation date, at least when I pulled up the bill on the introduction. So if there's no implementation date, there is no rush. And what we can say to everybody out in Nebraska is we are going to bring a comprehensive bill,--

HUGHES: One minute.

WAYNE: --comprehensive bill dealing with the Holocaust, genocide, racial massacre, and slavery. We had an entire war, the biggest war in this country over slavery. We should at least be able to teach it. So don't feel like if you vote against this, it's gone forever. And even if you vote for it, it somehow dies. They're false, they're false choices. Absolutely. This will not even be implemented for at least two years, if not longer, because there's no implementation date required. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Lowe, you're recognized.

LOWE: Thank you, Mr. President. Sunday, May 1, at 2:00 in the Capitol Rotunda, the Nebraska State Holocaust Commemoration will, will be there, here in Lincoln. It will take place in the Rotunda. Each year, people gather to remember the tragedy of the Holocaust and honor those who survived by coming together for commemorative and educational events during the week of remembrance. Recognized by the U.S. Congress this week gives survivors, their families, and our communities the opportunity to remember those who were killed and honor those who survived and the legacies of all who fell victim to the Holocaust. It also gives us an opportunity to learn and to inspire students to take action to create more, just and equitable society. Remember, that's May 1, just outside these glass doors at 2:00. I'd like to yield the rest of my time to Senator Day.

HUGHES: Senator Day, 3:45.

DAY: Thank you, Senator Lowe. I appreciate that. Senator Wayne is correct. And looking through the bill, there is no implementation date. And the reason that there is no implementation date is because through the process, through the committee process, through the process of, of introducing this bill and working on it over several

years and working with stakeholders, we moved the statute that this would be included in to make it easier for schools to implement. So sitting on the Education Committee, we hear bills like this all the time and we know how difficult it is for schools when the Legislature passes this type of infor-- this type of legislation. And so because I am supportive of those schools, we worked really hard to make sure that we were implementing it in the most palatable way so that schools could easily work it into their curriculum. That's why the implement-- implementation date was removed. However, we are literally minutes away from passing this bill that, again, has been worked on for years. It's not fair to say, oh, it's not a big deal. If we don't pass this bill, nothing's going to happen. It's not a big deal, we'll just come back next year. It's literally the opposite of the argument that he's using for the amendment. There's urgency for the amendment, but there's no urgency for the Holocaust bill. And the Holocaust absolutely was a racial massacre. Being Jewish is not just a recognized religion, it is also a recognized race that can be traced back through lineage over centuries. And that was the root of why the Holocaust started in the first place. The Holocaust was absolutely a racial massacre. And to say that it wasn't is incorrect and offensive. Again, I will go back to, this bill has been worked on for years by several people,--

HUGHES: One minute.

DAY: --and we're literally minutes away from passing it. I don't see this as a zero-sum game. I don't see racial justice as we need to pack it all into one bill. I have been working on this bill all this session. It has gone through a committee hearing, it went through General File, it went through Select and now we're minutes away, literally minutes away, from passing it as the very last bill of the session. I also hope that the exclamation point on this session will not be killing a bill about the Holocaust. Literally, the last bill on--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

DAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator DeBoer, you're recognized.

DeBOER: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, we're in a-- we're in kind of a bad position here. I'd really like to know why we are in this position, why we've had it set up as a place where either we're teaching about the Holocaust and not teaching about lynching racial

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massacres and slavery or we're doing nothing. I want to know why we didn't hear about any procedural concerns on Select File. I wonder if Senator Hilgers would yield to a question?

HUGHES: Speaker Hilgers, will you yield?

HILGERS: I would.

DeBOER: Speaker Hilgers, why didn't we hear about the concerns about the procedure on Select File when we added the amendment?

HILGERS: Well, I was, I was busy doing some other things when it came up, Senator DeBoer.

DeBOER: OK. When did you first notice that there was a procedural concern?

HILGERS: I don't remember.

DeBOER: OK.

HILGERS: I mean, truly, there's been so much going on over the last couple of weeks, Senator DeBoer. We have tried to treat everyone fairly. Senator Wayne, treat him fairly. Try to treat every person in this body fairly on process and procedure from the jump. So we can go through the timeline of when I knew or when I didn't know, and I'm happy to do it, what I remember, can talk to my staff. The idea that we'd done anything but try to treat Senator Wayne and every other senator in this body as fairly as humanly possible from the beginning of the session, I just think is, is wrong.

DeBOER: Well, I wasn't actually accusing you of anything, I'm just trying to figure out--

HILGERS: Well-- but I will say there's been-- that's been the implication of this line of discussion, in general, Senator DeBoer.

DeBOER: I'm just curious when we-- because the time-- my concern is just that we're at this, this last-minute timeline so I wanted to know when we knew. All right, thank you. Well, I do know that in the past, when I've asked to be included onto a bill as an amendment, I've always told the introducer that if my amendment causes their bill to find some friction or to be slowed down or to not pass that I will pull my amendment. So there is that piece procedurally that I wonder if, if that might happen. I voted against taking the amendment out last time. Even though I knew that that was a risky proposition, I

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voted against it. And I see the problems of pulling this, pulling the amendment out after you've put it in. But the problem now I have is that same concern about pulling the amendment off and therefore excluding lynching racial massacres and slavery is that if we now kill this bill, now we've taken an action to kill a bill about teaching about the Holocaust, which has the same negative implication about how we feel about the Holocaust as taking something out about slavery suggests that we feel about slavery. So I think we can't now say by negative implication, I'm not going to let this bill pass because I think that speaks loudly--

HUGHES: One minute.

DeBOER: --about our Jewish brothers and sisters. And I think that John Cavanaugh's point suggests that, in fact, we need to say something about our Jewish brothers and sisters because that makes it comprehensive. So I'm going to vote against this amendment even though I agree with Senator Wayne that we ought to have a comprehensive teaching and I hate that we're in this position. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator DeBoer. Senator Flood, you're recognized.

FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Again, I rise in opposition to, to return this to Select File. I wouldn't have gotten up and talked again, but looking at my notes here I didn't accurately credit my comments last time to Michael Berenbaum. He is a columnist that wrote a piece that I think it was titled: Why Must We Remember the Holocaust? Because Democracy is Precious. I think it's an inspiring piece. I'm going to send it around. One of the statements that he makes in here, in addition to others that I shared: We must understand the indifference of neutrality. In the struggle between powerless victims and an overwhelming powerful killing machine, neutrality is anything but neutral. Indifference is a death sentence. The bystander is also an enabler. I think those are pretty prophetic words, and his essay on January 25, 2018 was inspiring to me as I made my notes on today, so thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Flood. Senator Pansing Brooks, you're recognized.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President. So I am totally 100 percent in favor of teaching about Juneteenth, about teaching about the hideous history that we have in how we treated our native brothers and sisters. Totally in favor of it. But what we have today is more of a

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procedural issue, and I've had to bring a number of different bills where people wanted to add an amendment or not add an amendment. And the problem is it hasn't gone through the whole-- the process. And so that's my issue. I'm totally in favor of teaching about Juneteenth. When we had the hearing in Education, there were no testifiers on either native issues or issues about people of color. Nobody came to talk about that at our hearing. So that doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. We shouldn't bring it forward. But the one thing that I've learned in this body is you can't get everything you want every single time you want it. And I have, I have tried to bring a number of juvenile justice bills that I had to pick apart once it hit the floor and I had to take off parts that I wasn't happy about. And then I came back the next year to try it and to bring it back. Absolutely, Senator Wayne and Senator McKinney are correct. The Juneteenth, you should go to the celebration if you haven't in June. It's a wonderful celebration and it's, it's historic. And, and if anybody can get up to Wounded Knee, I've been fortunate to, to be on Wounded Knee at sunrise and it was one of my most moving experiences of my life. But I have a concern about the fact that we all know that it's been said that the Governor is going to veto this. And whenever I've had something like that and I added an amendment to somebody's bill, I've agreed that I will pull it off if it's going to take it down and then come back the next year on it. That, that doesn't mean I don't support people of color, that I don't support our first people. I support each, each group. We know that there's great hate towards people of color and that we have overrepresentation of people of color in our prisons and, and that they're being treated unfairly. We know that our first people have been ravaged by disease, by our sale of alcohol, by so much. We know that people of the Jewish faith have been subject to terrorist attacks in their synagogues. We know all that. We're in this position where all of a sudden we're supposed to say either everybody gets included, and there are other groups, by the way, too. There are other groups we could be including in this. There could be LGBTQ people, there could be a number of different Nebraskans. The problem was we didn't go through our process. And Senator Day agreed to bring this bill and it has hit a buzz saw on the floor. But what I want to say is choosing one over the other, that is not what we are choosing Nebraskans. However, anybody wants to frame it, we're not choosing one over the other. We're taking what we can. We're doing the best we can at this moment. I don't believe there's been another attempt to celebrate Juneteenth. In my whole eight years in the Legislature,--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

PANSING BROOKS: --nobody's brought that bill. I've brought a number of bills like Indigenous Peoples' Day. I brought a whole number of bills to help protect missing and murdered indigenous women. There are a number of those bills I brought, but I have never once seen Juneteenth come before the Education Committee in my eight years on Education or Judiciary. So, yeah, it's not a perfect thing here today. We have to do what we can to protect all of our people here. But if it's going to go down, why are we better off with, with everything going down versus taking what we can get? And I, I'm in favor of taking what we can get at this point and coming back wholeheartedly for Juneteenth next year and to protect and, and educate about the atrocities to the Native American people, our first people. And so thank you. With that, I'm going to sit down. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator Hilkemann, you're recognized.

HILKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise-- I will not be supporting the amendment and I will be supporting LB888, and I want to see that come to conclusion. It's very-- Senator Day, you talked about Senator Howard had brought this bill before. I also have brought this bill before. We chose to work-- when Senator Howard and I were working on it, we thought that she was probably in a better position to move that bill through. This is a very important bill to me. I don't like that-- I, I, I have to say that I'm leaving this body and I'm very sad about one thing, a bill that was very, very important to me was LB496, the felony arrest DNA, which was my priority bill a year ago. And that bill was sabotaged early on by an amendment that took the momentum away from LB496. I'm short-- I had to go through, through cloture votes and after getting a cloture vote, there was another-- a year ago they turned right around and were going to do a filibuster on the A bill and we ran out of time. And this year with one of our senators not here, I ran out of cloture votes. And that's why we don't have that on Final Reading. I did the vote count and I was short. I don't want to be short on something that's very important to me. Folks, Senator Wayne has-- just as I don't have a chance to bring back felony DNA, and I, I suspect someday that will be a law in Nebraska as it is in 34 other states now. But this is one opportunity, something that's very important to me is this Holocaust bill and therefore, Senator Day, I hope we can get it across for you today. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Hilkemann. Senator Walz, you're recognized.

WALZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to stand up and clarify a couple of things for the body. The memorandum to the members of the Education Committee states: LB888 changes the definition of multicultural education to add studies relative to the Holocaust and other acts of genocide. Multicultural education is currently defined as including, but not limited to, studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. School districts are presently required to incorporate a multicultural education program into all phases of curriculum in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. There is no requirement to implement this. They actually already teach this. This bill essentially is ensuring that it stays in our curriculum. It says the concepts must be taught, which they are. This is not a specific course requirement. This is not a graduation requirement. Students are taught this in high school and in middle school. The reason Senator Day brought this bill is to ensure that we never, ever lose this from teaching it as part of our curriculum. This bill is important to ensure that the important topics of genocide and Holocaust are included in our curriculum today and in the future. Based on the current standards, genocide education is introduced in grade six. The Holocaust would be grade seven and both again in high school world history. This bill requires that the topics be included in the standards. Senator Day was correct when she explained that there wasn't an implementation date. It's important to note, however, that agencies will report annually to the Performance Audit Committee if they are compliant with requirements enacted in the statute. If after three years they haven't complied, the hearing of jurisdiction has to hold a hearing to determine the progress on such. The Education Committee will be aware if there isn't progress on the requisite changes to the statute based on this process. This can and will happen without an implementation date. I want to make it clear that it is important to solidify for now and forevermore that we are guaranteed that this is taught in our curriculum. This isn't a graduation requirement. It's a standards' requirement within the curriculum that we already have. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Walz. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I stand because I wanted to say publicly how I regret voting to remove Senator Wayne's amendment on Select File. I think it's important to honor the work of a senator and the work that they have on their bill, and I understand why Senator Day asked that to happen. I am disappointed in the reach of the Governor in this building and in this room and I should have

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stood up to fight back for it because that was the right thing to do and I didn't do that. I can't change that. I can't fix that. And I also feel like I can't hurt LB888 today, and so I'll probably be present not voting. And it is breaking my heart because it's not what I want to do. But-- and I know I'm disappointing friends in this body by not voting for it. But that is how I feel like I need to proceed forward, and I am always going to regret having voted to remove it in the first place. It's become this ridiculous hyper partisan talking point of CRT that any time we want to do anything that's related to black and brown people in America, we are trying to say all white people are racist. And it's just this ridiculous strawman argument of where we should be really treating our history as what it is and acknowledging the mistakes of our past and our present so that our future can be better. And our future is never going to be better as long as we allow people in positions of authority to say that we can't teach about how we've oppressed people. So I'm not happy with myself today, I'm going to regret this for a very long time, if not forever. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Wayne, you're recognized. This is your third opportunity. You still have an opportunity to close.

WAYNE: Thank you. Thank you. So first, I just want to point out we had a hearing on slavery and we had a hearing on teaching slavery. We had a hearing on, on the history of slavery in the Juneteenth hearing that was held this year in Government, which came out unanimous in which we passed yesterday. So we actually had a hearing on talking about this issue. It doesn't have to be a hearing in Education. It just has to have a hearing. So it's interesting now is Senator Walz stood up and said it's a standard, we're already doing it. But clearly we are trying to enshrine something, you know, she said make sure it's never removed, that's why we're putting it in statute. So on one hand we're, we're passing a bill that does nothing, but in case somebody wants to try to stop teaching it we'll have a statute that says that they can't. OK. But when we voted to remove it from this bill and you voted to remove it from this bill, you are saying that isn't have the same value. That is exactly what that vote was. And we can feel comfortable and try to feel comfortable, but that is exactly what happened when you said I'm taking this out. That's the problem that I have. When the door is open for amendments, yes, you can talk to people and you can talk about it. There were actually 31 votes on that amendment with people not, not even in the room who would support it. There are people who will say they would override the Governor who normally wouldn't override the Governor. We are here today because the path

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that was chosen by this body to remove it so you don't get a second pass by not voting to move it back and putting it back in. To me, you just doubled down on your original vote. See, the reason it was put in there is because all these stats about increased anti-Semitic behavior and how kids aren't learning, learning things, I can say the exact same thing about slavery and Native American massacres. And you thought it was important enough to vote yes to include it, but now there's a little political pressure that we don't even know if it's true or not, you voted to remove it. So that tells me bluntly that my history matters when you just-- when you're comfortable. But when you get uncomfortable, it doesn't matter anymore. That's what-- that's exactly-- and nobody can tell me different. The vote was to put it in. And specifically, a whole bunch of Democrats put it in, but don't put a Facebook post up. Don't say how you're down for the cause because of a rumor or a threat of not being scheduled, you decided to vote to remove history to feel comfortable to save a bill. I'm going to ask a question in my closing, and we're going to see who's really going to be honest about what this is in my closing. And it's a very simple question. It'll be interesting to see this vote. It will be interesting to see who's actually going to be true to who they are and who when the going gets tough--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: --disappears. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Pansing Brooks, you're recognized.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President. So I, I did talk to Senator Wayne off the, off the mike and just, just a couple things. I, I do not like how this has all happened. I agree with him about his aggravation about having it voted on and then pulled off because the branches are getting mixed in together, which we should work very hard to keep separated. So what I'm, what I am concerned about, though, is the legislative record, and I want to ask a few questions of some people just so that if there's ever a case in the near future before they add Juneteenth on, if it doesn't by chance make it, I want to clarify that no one that I, that I have talked to in this body feels that it should not be taught. So first, Senator Walz.

WILLIAMS: Senator Walz, would you yield?

WALZ: Yes.

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PANSING BROOKS: If by-- Senator Walz, thank you for yielding. If by chance, Juneteenth doesn't make it into the bill today of Senator Day's, do you still expect that the issues of, of the, the-- sorry, I'm just am losing it-- no, sorry-- the issues of, of the Native Americans, the, the-- and also the issues of Juneteenth would be taught to people in the schools?

WALZ: Yes, I do.

PANSING BROOKS: OK, thank you. Senator-- now may I ask Senator Linehan?

WILLIAMS: Senator Linehan, would you yield?

LINEHAN: Yes, certainly.

PANSING BROOKS: Senator Linehan, do you believe that even though we voted to pull that amendment of Senator Wayne's out, do you expect that people would be teaching about--

LINEHAN: When you say we, you mean as a body, we, not you and me, we.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes, as a body. Sorry.

LINEHAN: Right.

PANSING BROOKS: I'm sorry, I did not mean you specifically. Sorry.

LINEHAN: Yes, I would expect and hope, and I hope that this is taught already.

PANSING BROOKS: That they're talking about. Yes. Thank you. OK. Yes. So the, the-- you would hope that they are teaching about the massacre and the mistreatment of Native Americans--

LINEHAN: Yes, I would. Yes.

PANSING BROOKS: --and of the slavery and the celebration of Juneteenth. OK, thank you. I'm trying to go through the members of the Education Committee. Senator Geist, if you would please?

WILLIAMS: Senator Geist, would you yield?

GEIST: Absolutely.

PANSING BROOKS: Again, for legislative intent, if this does not make it into Senator Day's bill today, is it, is it your intention that,

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that we-- that the schools would still teach about the, the massive killing of, of Native American people and of Juneteenth?

GEIST: Absolutely. Yes.

PANSING BROOKS: OK, thank you. Senator Sanders, you're also on Education.

WILLIAMS: Senator Sanders, would you yield?

SANDERS: Yes.

PANSING BROOKS: Senator Sanders, I think you heard the question that if by chance Senator Wayne's amendment does not make it into Senator, Senator Day's bill, will-- do-- is it your intention that the schools will still be teaching about Juneteenth and the slavery of African American people and also about the annihilation of Native American people in our country?

SANDERS: Thank you for the question, Pansing Brooks. Absolutely, yes, my answer. And even more so families, parents would teach it at home.

PANSING BROOKS: OK, thank you, Senator Sanders. Senator McKinney, would you?

WILLIAMS: Senator McKinney, would you yield?

McKINNEY: Yes.

PANSING BROOKS: Senator, Senator McKinney, I know that you support this amendment wholeheartedly and-- but what I want to make sure is that the legislative record is clear that the schools are-- if by chance Senator Wayne's amendment doesn't make it into Senator Day's bill, do you still expect that they'll be teaching about slave--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

PANSING BROOKS: --slavery and torture and bringing the, the Native American or the, I'm sorry, African American people here and also the, the annihilation of our first people?

McKINNEY: I would say-- I mean, I would hope so, but I wouldn't be surprised considering the current climate of our society that some people decide not to.

PANSING BROOKS: I would agree with that, but I want to set it clear for judicial records as people look at this for cases in the future to

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make sure that that doesn't happen. That's, that's why I'm doing this. Senator Morfeld, would you answer a question, please?

MORFELD: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Senator Morfeld, would you yield?

PANSING BROOKS: Senator Morfeld, you've heard the question, do you believe that, that we-- that the schools still should be teaching about the annihilation of the first people and the torture and slavery that occurred with the African American people?

MORFELD: Yes.

PANSING BROOKS: OK, thank you. How much more time?

WILLIAMS: Your time is up.

PANSING BROOKS: OK, thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator Day, you're recognized.

DAY: Thank you, Mr. President. It looks like we're coming to the end of the queue here. I just wanted to mention as likely my last time on the mike today that I wholeheartedly agree with Senator Wayne. Even-- I mean, I've known this for years as someone who comes from a family of educators and who comes from a family of history educators, particularly U.S. history and U.S. government educators, how poorly the history of the United States is taught in certain places and how inaccurate our descriptions and teachings of slavery, lynching and racial massacres is in the United States. It is in desperate need of updating to be more accurate and I absolutely agree that we need to fix that problem. But what we're looking at today is essentially killing a bill that would require Nebraska schools to teach the Holocaust. That's what we're looking at. The-- he's-- Senator Wayne is correct in that the amendment was attached with no problems. He did agree when we discussed it before to pull the amendment if it were to draw any fire. It did not on Select. It was attached very easily and we were like, great, you know, we can do both this session. Unfortunately, that was not the case when it came to Final Reading. So I had to make a choice of what-- how I wanted to proceed because I knew that the bill would not get scheduled on Final Reading. It would not get scheduled on Final Reading. So let me repeat, I would not have had the opportunity to override the veto because it just wasn't going to get scheduled. The entire bill would have automatically died and I

decided that I was not comfortable with that. I was not comfortable after all of the work that we have put into this bill over the course of several years, after all of the work that other senators and stakeholders have put into this bill after several years, and sitting and listening to the absolutely heartbreaking stories from Jews here, that live here in Nebraska, I was not willing to let this bill die. And the last thing that I want to mention in terms of something that's a little more recent was-- again, this is not my bill. It's not about me. I have a mother who emailed us yesterday-- oh, no, I'm sorry, back in February, she-- her name is-- I'm reading this with her permission. Her name is Jennifer Frasier-Davison. She's a constituent of Senator Bostelman's from Ceresco. She says: Senator Day, I am so relieved to read about LB88 [SIC LB888] in the Lincoln Journal Star and the Nebraska Examiner today. Our child attends a high school where students jokingly tease each other with comments such as into the gas chambers you dirty Jew or proudly stating they are Nazis. This is offensive to our child, and as I discuss further the horrors of Nazi Germany, I find myself crying. I can't believe this is happening in any Nebraska school system. I'm a lifelong Nebraskan, one who attended a rural school, never would I have heard such comments from any of my schoolmates. Those comments were unheard of. I'm-- I mostly learned of my World War II history at UNL in independent studies, as well as making a visit at Dachau, Germany concentration camp.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

DAY: Thank you. But I learned enough in elementary and high school that nothing about innocent people being murdered, murdered is any kind of laughing matter. I feel these young people at this school are absolutely uneducated and will grow up to be uneducated adults, some who will pass these same opinions onto their own children. History will repeat itself again. Side note: This is our final year at the school system as we are enrolled elsewhere. The same school is losing a high number of staff. I believe it's due to a changing culture in Nebraska. This email emphasizes why this bill is important now, in particular at this moment when we're minutes away from passing it. Please vote no on the motion to return to Select. Please vote green on LB888. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Day. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Wayne, you're recognized to close on your motion to return to Select File.

WAYNE: Colleagues, I, I don't need an email. If you'll recall, there were some kids out here just two years ago who called me a n*****.

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There were some kids out here just three years ago who thought I was Hispanic and told me to go back to where I came from. Yeah, it was senator-- it was from North Platte one time. And actually Senator Groene went there and actually ended up writing a-- the teacher ended up writing a, a letter and so did the superintendent apologizing. I don't need to hear about discrimination and racism. I get it. So I'm just going to ask you guys to, to just walk with me real quickly through a small journey. Imagine that a bill was introduced on slavery and massacres of Native Americans and this body decided to adopt an amendment to include Holocaust and genocide. Then after whatever reason, political pressure-- and let me, let me be real clear, that amendment was introduced by a Jewish senator. Then after a little political pressure, I came back and said I got to take that out, and we voted to take it out. And we're on Final Reading and we got a right, the chance to-- yeah, the the bill will die, but next year bring a bill that covers everything. And by the way, if you studied the history of this bill, you would have studied this amendment has been adopted every time this bill was introduced on the floor, so you would have known to maybe include that in the bill to not run into this issue. But nevertheless, if it was reversed, Senator Flood, you would vote to take this back. Because of everything you said about the Holocaust and the Jewish relationships we have and the importance of it, you would vote to send it back if this was reversed. Senator Hunt, you would too. Everybody in here would vote differently. But what we said on the mike today is profound, especially when it comes from Democrats. That we worked so hard on a bill, we just couldn't fight hard enough for your community and your history. I get why Senator Chambers was Independent. Because it's nice to come down to Juneteenth parade or Florence Day Parade, but when it gets tough, it seems like people always disappear and justify it in your head. If this was reversed and we did this to the Holocaust, one, I would have pulled my bill. And many of you know me on the floor, I have. If I don't got it right, I bring it back next year. That's me. Maybe it's because I'm biracial, maybe because I hear both sides from all my family. But I believe in trying to get it right. This isn't criminal justice reform you've got to take years to move the dial. This is a policy decision about teaching history in our schools.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: If this was reversed, we wouldn't even had this long of debate. It would have already been pulled for me if I was the introducer or it would have already been voted back and you would have fixed it and you would have told me next year bring a comprehensive bill that covers it all. Because we're not going to pick winners and losers when it comes

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to our most tragic events across this world. But that's what we're doing today. We decided to be the people who whitewash history. It's probably one of the most disappointing votes that I'm going to see. And I've had a lot of votes get killed-- bills get killed. But don't tell me that Nebraska is for everybody after this. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Members, I would remind you, we are on Final Reading. I would ask that all members return to their seats and check in, please. Members, would you please check in. Senator Walz, Wayne, Blood, would you check in, please. Senator Albrecht, would you check in, please. All unexcused members are now present. Members, the question is the adoption of the motion to return LB888 to Select File. There's a, there's a request for a roll call vote in reverse order. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Wishart. Senator Williams voting no. Senator Wayne voting yes. Senator Walz voting no. Senator Vargas voting yes. Senator Stinner voting no. Senator Slama voting yes. Senator Sanders voting no. Senator Pansing Brooks not voting. Senator Pahls. Senator Murman not voting. Senator Moser voting no. Senator Morfeld not voting. Senator McKinney voting yes. Senator McDonnell voting no. Senator McCollister voting no. Senator Lowe voting no. Senator Linehan voting yes. Senator Lindstrom. Senator Lathrop not voting. Senator Kolterman voting yes. Senator Jacobson voting no. Senator Hunt voting no. Senator Hughes voting no. Senator Hilkemann voting no. Senator Hilgers voting no. Senator Matt Hansen voting no. Senator Ben Hansen voting yes. Senator Halloran. Senator Gragert voting no. Senator Geist voting yes. Senator Friesen voting yes. Senator Flood voting no. Senator Erdman. Senator Dorn voting no. Senator DeBoer voting no. Senator Day voting no. Senator Clements voting no. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh not voting. Senator John Cavanaugh not voting. Senator Briese. Senator Brewer voting yes. Senator Brandt voting yes. Senator Bostelman voting no. Senator Bostar not voting. Senator Blood voting no. Senator Al-- excuse me, Senator Arch voting no. Senator Albrecht voting no. Senator Aguilar not voting. Senator Pansing Brooks voting yes. Senator Walz not voting. Senator voting yes: Senators Brandt, Brewer, Friesen, Geist, Ben Hansen, Kolterman, Linehan, McKinney, Pansing Brooks, Slama, Vargas, Wayne. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Gragert, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Moser, Sanders, Stinner, Williams. Not voting: Senators Aguilar, Bostar, John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Lathrop, Morfeld, Murman, Walz, Briese, Erdman, Halloran, Lindstrom, Pahls, and

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Wishart. Vote is 12 ayes, 23 nays, 8 present not voting, 6 excused not voting, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: The motion to return to Select File is not adopted. Back to the bill, LB888.

ASSISTANT CLERK: [Read LB888 on Final Reading.]

HILGERS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB888 pass? All those in favor aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Aguilar. Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Geist, Gragert, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lathrop, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams. Voting no: Senator Friesen. Not voting: Senators McKinney, Wayne, Briese, Erdman, Halloran, Lindstrom, Pahls, and Wishart. Vote is 40 ayes, 1 nay, 2 present and not voting, 6 excused and not voting.

HILGERS: LB888 passes. Colleagues, the next item on the agenda is the recognition of departing senators. I ask that you remain in your seats. Mr. Clerk for items.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Bills read this morning were presented to the Governor (LB376, LB376A, LB598e, LB686, LB792, LB805, LB805A, LB843, LB876e, LB896, LB896A, LB921, LB921A, LB922, LB922A, LB927, LB984, LB984A, LB1130, LB1144e, LB1144Ae, LB1150e, LB1150A, LB1173e, LB1173Ae, LB1218, LB1218A, and LB1261e). Additionally, communication from the Governor, engrossed legislative bills, LB873, LB1014e, LB1083e, and LB1084 received in my office April 7, 2022. These bills were signed and delivered to Secretary of State on April 13, 2022, signed Pete Ricketts, Governor. Mr. President, your Committee on Transportation and Telecommunications, chaired by Senator Friesen, reports LB520 to General File with committee amendments. LR462 introduced by Senator Briese. That will be laid over. And name adds: Senator Vargas, name add to LB921; Pansing Brooks, LB960; Lathrop, LR427; Pansing Brooks to LR451 and LR458. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Brewer, you're recognized.

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BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, now is our chance to recognize the outgoing senators. I was given the opportunity and I believe it is a great opportunity to do-- say farewell to someone who I really don't want to see leave. We have spent a lifetime together and he is one of those who is leaving of his own free will. I questioned that decision a few months ago when he told me, but after the last few days, he seems like a very wise man. The Speaker asked me to kind of keep it short, but it's hard if someone who has lived a full life and has done a lot to shorten that somehow. But I'm going to try and run through real quick, quick and tell you about Tim Gragert's service to both Nebraska and to his nation. Tim graduated from Creighton High School in 1977, and within a few weeks he was off to basic training for the United States Air Force. He was a loadmaster on a C-141, and for you guys who don't know what that is, that's a large transport aircraft. If you're a loadmaster on one of those, that means you go over where the plane goes. And he went to every continent, even Antarctica. When he finished that service, he went to the University of Nebraska, studied natural resources, got his degree, and immediately went to flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. That's special to me because him and I were at Fort Rucker, Alabama at the same time. We took different paths. He flew the UH-1 Huey. I did too at one point and then I went to the AH-1 Cobra helicopter. The big difference is his mission was to go and help people. My mission was to go and kill people. Seems fitting that we got those roles. That was supposed to be humorous, but you're not taking it that way. He flew the UH-1 Huey helicopter for ten years and transitioned to UH-60 Black Hawk. For those that went out to the flight facility and took the ride the other day, that's what you rode on was the UH-60 Black Hawk. He flew the Black Hawk and the Huey, both in combat. He served in Desert Storm. He served in 2006 and 2007, Iraqi Freedom. And I've said this before on the floor, he's very unique amongst military pilots in that he volunteered to go to Afghanistan not as a pilot, but in a ground role with Nebraska's ag team. And for you guys who don't know what an ag team was, that was a team of specialists from everything from veterinarians, to in Tim's case, a specialist with water. And they were integrated into helping the Afghan communities better understand how to do agriculture. It was a great mission for Nebraska. But it was a dangerous mission, and he didn't have to do it. He was a pilot. He could fly everywhere he needed to go and they'll still shoot at you, but it's not quite as impactful. So just remember that when you volunteer to do those kind of missions, you put yourself at a lot more risk. And he was willing to do that. He was integrated in the team and liked by everyone who worked with him. Well, then he turned around in 2016, 2017, volunteered to go back to Iraq. He is one of those few

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people that have had an aircraft shot up while they're flying it and was able to get it back home. And for some, that may not mean a lot, but it isn't just your life, it's those that are on board. And again, he was a medevac pilot. His job was to save lives. He served 40 years. Just pause for a second and think about that, 40 years. Now, I served just short of 37, but I did it all in one service. He was both Air Force and Army. And he basically served as long as they let you serve at the point that he was a Chief Warrant Officer 5. So if you guys don't understand what that means, you have enlisted that can go up to the rank of Sergeant Major. You have officers that can go up to a four-star and then you have warrant officers that can go up to a CW5, highest rank that you can hold. He held that before he left and decided to come here and serve. But so you understand he wore, he, he wore two hats and lived two lives in that he served in the military, but also was a full-time employee with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, put in 31 years there. And while he was working in his community flying helicopters on the weekend, he was also a volunteer fireman and served on the school board. So this is true service. This is when you give all that you have to your community and to your nation. So we're going to bid him farewell and I, I will miss having him here, but I am envious. He'll go back to Creighton, his son, Brent, daughters Megan and Jessica, five grandkids, Braxton, Mason, Ashlynn, Owen [PHONETIC], and Creed [PHONETIC]. And I asked him, I said, well, what's the plan, Tim? And this part kind of stuck with me because his goal in life now is his grandkids. And the really important goal is he's teaching them to fish. So he's going to be sitting beside that stream or lake. He's going to have Maggie [PHONETIC] his dog and he's going to be teaching these kids the values in life. So I'm going to miss you, Tim. Thank you for your service.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Brewer and Senator Gragert. Senator DeBoer, you're recognized.

DeBOER: Mr. President. I will now open on my bracket motion on this farewell speech bracket until April 20 in 2026, and I have the next 1,632 amendments so you can't change it Lathrop and you've got to stay. When I first walked into this room the first time it was with Senator Lathrop, we were walking into our orientation. And Senator Hunt wasn't there yet, Senator Cavanaugh wasn't there yet, and Senator Ben Hansen wasn't there yet. And I remember walking in and thinking, huh, so Senator Lathrop and I are the diversity. I because I'm a woman and he because he's an old white man who still has hair. There are several things that I used to hear about larger-than-life Lathrop that first year. The great golden sun from Omaha. Lathrop, Lathrop, Lathrop, we used to always say, and the rest of us felt a little like

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Jan Brady in comparison. But I quickly learned that the hype was all very well-deserved because there are a couple of things that you want in a legislator. You want them to be smart. If any of you has any doubt about how intelligent Senator Lathrop is, simply sit in Judiciary Committee and watch him as he takes a bill out, when someone introduces it, you imagine it's some sort of sci-fi show where they've got this 3D thing, and he kind of looks at it and he's figuring it out and he's looking for any unintended consequences. He does all of this in his mind, and then he asks the question that shows the pressure point on that bill. And it's through that mechanism, that understanding of how this bill will fit with all the rest of the areas of law that helps him to create really useful ways of, of writing bills that aren't going to have those unintended consequences. You want a Legislature-- legislator to have dedication. And I don't think anyone can doubt Steve Lathrop's dedication. He came back for another four years and he took on Chair of Judiciary. I figured out at one point, one out of every five bills in this body goes through Judiciary. Some might say he has a little too much dedication because he wants to make sure that every bill coming out of Judiciary is perfect before it hits the floor. The third thing you want in a legislator is seriousness. And when I think about Senator Lathrop with respect to seriousness, I think of the passage in Romans that talks about size too deep for words because there have been many times when I've been down in his office talking to him about a particularly thorny issue and Steve will do this thing where he's talking in the middle and then kind of sighs and says, yeah. Because he can't even sort of get out all the words that goes along with some of the issues. No one could ever doubt that he takes things seriously. You also want a legislator to have intellectual humility. Now this is a rare trait. He and I were arguing one time a couple of summers ago about something I don't even remember what. And he said, it's just not that way. And I said, yes, it is. He says it isn't. I've never seen that. And I said you don't know what you don't know. And he said you're right. Let me look at it again. Maybe I'm not explaining this quite as much as I should, but that is something profound, the ability to say, maybe I don't know everything. Maybe I need to look again. That intellectual humility, Senator Lathrop's story is the American story. You know, the kind of rags to riches local boy makes good kind of story, but that ability to recognize that his American story isn't the only American story, that's profound. Fifth thing you want from a legislator is a sense of timing. Well, Steve, four out of five ain't bad. If you want to know about Steve Lathrop's sense of timing, you could consider, for example, that the most controversial bill my first year was slated in Judiciary for 4:00 p.m. on Valentine's Day, and several of us were

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there until 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. that night. He also likes to schedule all the most difficult bills right before lunch when we have all-day hearings and we never got out of Judiciary before it was lunchtime. I learned a lot about leadership from Steve Lathrop. I learned that there are times as a leader you have to throw a punch. Whether that be a yes vote when all of your friends are voting no or a difficult no vote. I also learned you have to be able to take a punch. Senator Lathrop, even after working on an issue for 12 years, even after putting his heart and soul into it, when it went down, he reacted with dignity, with class, and with professionalism and got back to work. I could talk to you about all the policy areas he's affected, the CIR, stem cell research, chairing the Nikko Jenkins special investigative committee, the LB1107 negotiations. But he's touched so many more, both as Chair of Business and Labor on his first, first tour and now as Judiciary, that there's hardly an area that isn't touched by him, not to mention all of his work on the Ag Committee. Senator Lathrop, you league-- leave a legacy of attention to our criminal justice and prison systems. No one can finish that work. But you've set this body on a path to say-- stay attentive to the problems in our, our prisons and in our community-- criminal justice system and to take another shot next year and the next year and the next year. So Steve, for all the years of friendships, for the memorable speeches on the floor, for your care for this institution, for your hard work and dedication, and for being father Judiciary these last four years, but mostly for being a 100 percent decent human being. We thank you and you will be missed. And as my friend, I'll say, I'll miss seeing you every day. It's been an honor to serve with you and enjoy your life post Legislature.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator DeBoer and Senator Lathrop. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I'm here and I am absolutely going to cry. Just-- I know that's going to come as a shock to everyone. I am here to talk about my dear friend and colleague, I'm already starting, Senator Matt Lathrop [SIC], who was 26 when he ran and was elected to office. Matt Lathrop, sorry. It's like Matt Cavanaugh [LAUGHTER]. I am off to a fantastic start. Just going to-- I am here today to talk about my dear friend, not Senator Lathrop's brother, but my dear friend Senator Matt Lathrop [SIC], who was 26 [LAUGHTER]-- this is all, this is all part of the plan. Senator Matt Hansen, Senator Matt Hansen. I think I should just sit down now, but I have things to say about you. Well, or somebody, I guess. OK, 26 when you ran, Matt Hansen, and you ran for LD26 and you were representing them from the time that you were 26. Some biography, biography information about Matt Hansen is he is son to David and Mary Kay

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Hansen, born in West Virginia making Take Me Home Country Roads by John Denver a particularly karaoke favorite of hash tag team M. Hansen. You might notice a theme, I got some information for, for you. You served on the Urban Affairs Committee throughout his term, as well as General Affairs, Government, Business and Labor, Judiciary, back to Government and the Planning and Rules Committee, and served as the Business and Labor Chair from 2019 to 2021. Some of his legislative accomplish-- accomplishments include passing bills surrounding judicial reform, establishing a hearing to determine the ability of someone to pay a fine or fee, ensured incarcerated individuals can get an ID, a state ID or a renewed driver's license before they are discharged, and has continually addressed competency issues, worked on the census issues with the Complete Count Committee, which was passed but vetoed by the Governor, no opportunity to override the veto, but you're in good company on that, the Line of Duty Compensation Act, which he introduced three times before it was passed in 2021. Senator Matt Hansen's work on issues of affordable housing, including the passing of the Missing Middle Housing Act in changing landlord/tenant laws will have unmeasurable impact for the people of Nebraska for generations. As Chair of the Business and Labor Committee in 2020, he and his office assisted hundreds of people across the state in fixing issues with their unemployment claims. This is some of the things that I got really directly from staff now. I, I titled this section, Our Matty. Senator Matt Hansen cares first and foremost about passing good public policy that makes Nebraskans lives better and not about credit or the limelight. He cares about his legislative staff and always fought for better conditions for staff. He trusted us, shared the workload with us and celebrated victories with us. Our favorite Matt quote, I have a motion pad and I know how to use it. He's also known to introduce a ton of bills each session and pass a lot of them too. He loves a whiteboard to keep track of his bills, any fidget toys, a good Jif, Diet Coke, a subtly themed tie, his cats Rico [PHONETIC] and Winston [PHONETIC], and most of all, his family and Jane. Then I kind of asked a few other people, some people here, some people who used to be here, and there were some enduring themes about Senator Matt Hansen. Believe it or not, his calming influence on me. Just imagine what it will be like with him not here. His ability to break down complex issues like a teacher. This one was really prevalent a lot. You are a rules aficionado and whoever the Clerk's Office next year is probably going to really regret that I don't have you because they have no idea how many questions I would be asking them if I wasn't sitting by you. I already asked them a lot, so. Your heart and dedication for affordable housing is something that is going to transform the state for a lot of really vulnerable people. You're a

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devoted partner to Jane and co-cat parent to Rico and Winston. You take up hard topics and say what the body needs to hear. Again, you love fidgets and will share them when you need a distraction. And also, some of his fidgets have made their way to my desk or we just have communal fidgets now. And, of course, whiteboards again. The first time I met Matt, Senator Matt Hansen, was at a coffee shop with our former colleague, Senator Sara Howard, and she thought we were going to be good friends. Just right out the gate thought we were going to be good friends. And then she left, and I was, like, this guy doesn't talk. This guy doesn't talk at all. How are we going to be good friends, Senator Howard? And of course, no one should ever question the wisdom of Senator Sara Howard. She was right. He does talk, actually quite a lot, and he's kind and generous, and he's fiercely loyal and inspires loyalty in everyone around him. And he one time made me take a picture in Puerto Rico with birds on my arms because he said that his wife would really like it. Turns out she's terrified of birds, and so was I. So he's funny. He's a little bit of a jokester. Just beware. But with that, I will end with the words of our famous Nebraska speechwriter Ted Sorensen. I wanted this to be reflective of, of Matt and so I am providing you with levity, apparently a lot at the start, brevity, clarity, and charity. Thank you, Senator Matt Hansen, for all your service and for your friendship.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Hansen. Senator Dorn, you're recognized.

DORN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I, like the others, get the honor today of speaking about Senator Robert Hilkemann who has, as he said this morning, this is one day short of 600 days serving in this legislative body on this floor. Amazing. One thing I did-- when I came to the Legislature four years ago, I got to be a member of Appropriations Committee, was so thankful to be on there and have Senator Hilkemann kind of as a mentor and a guide in a way, to have somebody to visit with, to have somebody to look at, I call it the, the different aspects of how funding, how revenue, how appropriations affects our state and this body. So he has been a very, very positive influence on me. But one of the things I did learn that first year in Appropriations, we're in Room 1003 and I don't know how many of you been in there. I know some of you said this was the first year you'd ever been in front of Appropriations. You didn't get to go to that room. We're kind of a long, narrow room. There's only one camera in there and it's off in the southwest corner. Senator Hilkemann sits in the southwest corner, so his back is always to that camera. Well, being a new senator, I got to sit right next to the person always

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introducing the bills and speaking. I did learn very quickly that if I nodded my head or kind of fell asleep, people saw that. I went home and told my wife one day, I said Senator Hilkemann has the best chair in that room because when he nods his head or falls off, you just see the back of his head and nobody knows, I imagine nobody knows that he's falling asleep. One of the things that I didn't know, and Senator Hilkemann and I have had some great visits, I knew him indirectly about 50 years ago. I graduated from high school in Adams, Nebraska, in 1972. Senator Hilkemann's first job out of college was a football coach at Table Rock High School, about 30 miles away. Did not know that. The other night when we were out at Pla Mor, visited with his wife a little bit. And I said, so what was Senator Hilkemann's record while he was the football coach there for three years? And she sat there and thought a minute, and she says, well, I don't know. I'm not sure. But, you know, if he would have done good they would have probably tried to keep him harder. (LAUGHTER) Senator Hilkemann was a coach for, like I said, three years, he was down at Table Rock. His starting wage back in '69 about was \$6,800. He, with his coaching salary, received more than some of the teachers that had been there numerous years. They were very jealous of him. Now today, and I think somebody talked about this on the floor the other day, he started at \$6,800, somebody else did also, they started at a low salary. He is retiring his last job, \$12,000 a year. So yes, after 50 years, you did make progress. (LAUGHTER) Some other things that his wife-- well, his wife's name is Julie. My wife's name is Julie. We have a Julie Slama and now Senator Jacobson's wife is also named Julie, so it's a little special there. But she told me, and Senator Hilkemann has also told me over the years, Senator Hilkemann has been a podiatrist, and he's dedicated that life not only to his business in there, but also, I call it, nationally helping better that profession and serving on a lot of boards. Senator Hilkemann was also named national podiatrist of the year one year. I don't know what year, but his wife had to tell me that. I think that's a great, great honor. Congratulations on that, Senator Hilkemann. He's also a pilot. His wife told me he is a pilot. Eight years-- or four years I've served with him, I didn't know he was a pilot. Her only comment was that we have flown many places and we've always landed right. That was her comment. One of the things that for me, as I've known him over the years, the four years, is his family. That has meant very, very much to Senator Hilkemann. He often talks about his wife. And in the last couple of weeks or the last month, he's had two members of his family here in the legislative body with some of his grandkids. And to see the smile on his face and to see how proud he is of having them, one lives in Chicago and I know no one lives in Texas, to have them come here. Senator Hilkemann, to me, has

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always exemplified two things: integrity and honesty. And I think that also speaks volume as others recognize that also by being Chairman of Committee on Committees and how he has treated people always fairly, honestly, and with integrity, and how he did his job as a state senator with those same qualities. As I listen to some of the other talks here, I do realize one thing is the senators that are in this body, many people are not here because they only are good at one thing, they're good at many things and they are involved and they give back. I call it, they give back to the people of the state of Nebraska by serving here, by being on other volunteer things, by being on other boards, and all of that stuff. Senator Hilkemann, thank you for giving your eight years to the people of the state of Nebraska.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Dorn and Senator Hilkemann. Senator Lowe, you're recognized.

LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it was my job to find something nice to speak about Senator Hughes about. Well, my father told me, if you can't say anything nice, sit down and shut up. [LAUGHTER] Senator Hughes, it's been a good six years with you. Thank you for coming from Venango out here to somewhere in the eastern part of the state where nobody knows where it's at. We have been going to breakfast every first day of the week when we're in session. Whether it's a Monday or a Tuesday, the lords of Windsor would go out for breakfast with a few guests. And that's been a great way to start the week. We talk about what we did over the weekend and how we're going to screw everything up the rest of the week. Pretty much, I think we've accomplished that. But you would talk about Venango and, and the western part of the state. And every time you did, you beamed. You smiled. You talked about the crops. You talked about the people back home and how important it was for you. And now Josie will have some help with those grandkids. You'll learn to go to all the plays and the games and everything else. It's well-awaited. It's good. A couple of people are going to miss you around here, nodder. OK, just one guy is going to miss you around here. [LAUGHTER] But I loved hearing you banter with Senator Chambers over prairie dogs. And how wrong he was over those little rats running around in the field. But you've been a gentleman while you're here. You have great honor. You, you have a lot of respect. You're almost a city guy around here. And so I started thinking I knew of another guy that was kind of a city guy that was returning to the farm and it just brought back these memories [PLAYED MUSIC]. Well, Oliver Wendell Douglas, you're about ready to go home and to get good reception on your phone, I'm sure you have to climb the telephone pole. And I know now, because you wanted me to keep this short, I know now you'll return home, you'll put on your shorts,

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you'll grab your floating device, maybe a kid or two, grandkid or two, you'll go out and test the water and plop down in your ditch. Senator Hughes, thank you for serving the state, thank you for serving your constituents the way you did nobly, and we're going to miss you.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Lowe and Senator Hughes. Senator Vargas, you're recognized.

VARGAS: Thank you. Can't follow Lowe. So I have to say, when I was tasked with writing a send-off speech for who I believe is by far one of the most liked people in this body, I was very touched and, honestly, really nervous. Talking about Mark Kolterman right there. Yeah, you can cheer for that. Again, I knew I wanted this to be a touching tribute to a beloved colleague. But I also didn't want to let up this moment to have a little bit of fun and actually honor the pride of Seward. Senator Kolterman, born in Seward, went to Seward High School, went to Peru State College, got a degree in industrial technology, married Suzanne on August 7, 1971, has two wonderful children, Jessica and Jennifer, is a wonderful father, wonderful grandfather, and we've been privileged to have him here. Got elected in 2014 and reelected with no opponents in 2018. I know how you figured that out. He is our beloved insurance agent. But I've always called Mark, Marky Mark. Many of you know him as one of the three apostles of the Nebraska Legislature, along with fellow disciples Matthew and John. He's worn many hats throughout his tenure here, from being the godfather of LB1107 and tax incentives, to the master of handling scope of practice bills, which we've been told not to do, to championing Nebraska's retiring systems, and also being a champion of UNMC. Senator Kolterman really knows how to bring things to the finish line and get things done for Nebraska. But I'm going to tell a story because it's what he would do. Now I've had the privilege of seeing Senator Kolterman put on a very important hat or crown for Fourth of July in Seward, Nebraska. Yes, you can shake your head, Senator Lathrop, Seward is Fourth of July city, and that is undebatable here. You know, as we all know, 2017 was an incredibly difficult year for our friend and colleague for the loss of his amazing and wonderful wife, Suzanne, and some of us were here when that happened, and we cannot tell you how much we love you and care for you and wanted to be here for you during that time. And so 2018 came around, and some of you may know this, but Mark's favorite parade to walk in is Seward's Fourth of July parade, which he would always walk with his late wife, Suzanne. And in 2018, many of us decided to surprise him and go to Seward during this parade and just walk on up and be part of the parade with him. And I cannot tell you how surprised he was. And it was an amazing thing to see because we wanted to be there with him.

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And actually I remember when he saw me, he said, Tony, you lost, you supposed to be in Omaha? And actually, it didn't end there. Actually, my wife and I spent the entire day with his wonderful daughters, Jessica and Jennifer, his entire family at his house. We watched the fireworks. It was a testament to the kind of person he is and how he leads with love and compassion. And it meant the world because it's the kind of generous and kind human being he is. I think we've all seen that. And that-- actually, that same night was when we hatched the master plan to make my parents the Seward Fourth of July host family over a couple of drinks. Now for those of you that don't know, the host family is essentially kidnapped on the highway right outside of Seward-- that's not an exaggeration, that's exactly what happens-- and brought back to Seward to be honored during the Fourth of July festivities. And this was by far one of the most fun and unique experiences my parents had or even I had. We hatched this plan, and I think probably the best moment was seeing how excited Mark was to scare my father when the State Patrol pulled him over on the highway. He's like, I really want to be part of this. So seeing my parents be honored and the smiles on their faces was something I'll never forget. And honestly, the thing that I'll never forget is having a friend create a memory that I will never forget for my entire life and I know we all have that memory with Mark. The last thing I'll say is just I've been really honored to serve with you on Appropriations, and I don't mean this to be offensive to any of the other Appropriations Committee members, but he is my favorite seatmate. I steal his food, his candy, pretty much anything that's next to him, I will take it from him even during a hearing. He swats my hand away every single time. And even though the things that we do in Appropriations, trying to balance our budget or make sure we're protecting our Cash Reserve can get a little bit dry, on these days, I can pretty much guarantee that Mark will utter some joke underneath his breath, and I'll hear it because he wants me to. He'll give me a fist bump, or we'll just huddle in the hallway and talk about something that just happened, and it just reminds me of the kind of person is. Lastly, I want to recognize the incredible legacy that he left on behalf of his late wife, Suzanne. This year, along with the help of senators in this room, Mark secured \$15 million to continuing to invest in UNMC's pancreatic cancer research. It is truly a wonderful legacy that will help so many other families and hopefully be able to save the lives of many other loved ones. Anyone who knows Senator Kolterman knows that he lives and he loves deeply. His humor is beyond infectious. He never takes himself too seriously, and he's always up for an adventure. Mark has always, always stood up for the independence of the Nebraska Legislature, and I hope we remember that and do everything we can to

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live up to that ideal. He leads with honesty and integrity, and that has always been the cornerstone of Senator Kolterman's career here. It has been a true honor to work with him and to call you a friend. With that, I hope you will join me in thanking and honoring our dear friend, Senator Mark Kolterman.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Vargas and Senator Kolterman. Senator Hunt, you're recognized.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel a lot of pressure because there's no way for me to adequately express the love and admiration I have for this man and everybody else's speeches have been so good. And after hearing some of the things some of you have said, I'm like, oh, my God, I'm so underprepared. But I just want to speak from the heart today about someone who's very beloved to me, even though he's the only person in this body who has more Twitter followers than me. And that's Senator McCollister. He is beloved by me. He is beloved by the people of Nebraska. And here are some of the things the people of Nebraska had to say about him. Veronica Parrish [PHONETIC] on Twitter says it's the mugs for me, which I have here. Senator McCollister has these wonderful mugs with his name on them from his campaign that say, "Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion" from Edmund Burke. And I'll talk a little bit more about that important quote too. Someone else says he earns my respect with his reasonable, thoughtful and politely considerate statements and questions in legislative debates. This is one that I thought of too. When Jackie was running against him in 2018, that was his opponent in the last legislative race, when Jackie was running against him, he told her that if anyone, including his party, used his image in an attack ad against her he would sue them because he would never give permission for such a thing. He is a class act in today's political climate, colleagues. Someone else said, thanks to the senator, I now check myself before I condemn all Republicans. You know, he had some other choice comments after that, but I'll stop there. But that's really an important legacy in politics for someone to leave is someone like Senator McCollister who cuts through that division and makes people think more seriously about the quality of the person before painting with a broad brush an entire group of people. Integrity, compassion, a commitment to legislating from a place of caring for people instead of partisan political doctrine. He's also the nicest politician I've ever met. And this might be someone who doesn't know me, but that's a nice comment too. Former Senator Laura Ebke says we served together for four years and we sat near each other for most of that. He is kind, thoughtful, and has carried bills that should cross

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party lines. While his approach frustrated some, he demonstrates both principle and humanity. There are countless, countless, countless comments that people sent me when I solicited people's thoughts about what they loved about Senator McCollister and, Senator, this is how you are seen by Nebraskans. This is the legacy you have built through your own behavior and your own actions and your own record of hard work that has spoken to people from all backgrounds, from across the political spectrum and has inspired people to care about government, to get civically involved, to have hope and optimism for what this democratic project can be and to feel like that maybe there is a place for them in this democratic project. Sara Howard said she wanted me to mention this, too, and I'd like to mention it for you. Basically, I love him and I think he's the tops, the bee's knees, the bomb.com. I love that he is just as likely to jam out at karaoke as he is to pick up a thorny issue. I love that he is so devoted to his wife, Deb, that he seems like a hero in a romance novel. And I love how brave he is to confront the failings of his own party, the party that has been a part of his family for decades, and how he insists on considering every issue through the lens of how it impacts his constituents, not just the party, he's just the best. So this is the legacy that you have built, Senator McCollister. And I also want to share not just what you mean to Nebraskans, but of course, what you mean to me, since I have the privilege of the position of being able to give this tribute to your legacy, which is still in the making. I grew up knowing Senator McCollister's family because coming from another moderate Republican family, you know, we kind of grew up knowing each other. And Senator McCollister came to my high school graduation party and I didn't know him. He was a friend of my dad's and he brought me a card. And I remember feeling really kind of inspired and special and feeling like somebody like John McCollister would come to my high school graduation in Blair, Nebraska, and give me encouragement for my future. I think he gave me, like, a little check, which was really nice going into college and what he did made me feel like I mattered. And this is completely consistent with the stories that we hear from staff, former staff, school groups that have come through the Capitol. Everybody who has met John McCollister has a story about how he made them feel like they mattered. Not that, you know, there was something wrong with them or that he had a judgment about them. And this also speaks to what a true man of faith that he is. He and his wife are active in the congregation at the Tri-Faith Initiative, which is a really special place in Omaha that brings together a Muslim mosque and a Jewish temple and a Christian church, all on the same campus. And he's invited me to several events there where I was able to join him and his family and, you know, be a part of the culture there and how, how

much that, that represents what Senator McCollister is all about. It's being-- and having being a person of integrity and being true to yourself and your beliefs while remaining open and keeping your heart open to the beliefs and experiences of others. And not diminishing that and saying it's not the same as me, so I don't agree with it. That's exactly what Senator McCollister is about. He represents the most hopeful and optimistic potential for this democratic experiment that we have in this country and that we have in Nebraska. This Edmund Burke quote that he has on his mugs, "Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion." If he sacrifices that good judgment to the opinion of the majority, he is betraying you. And this is, you know, a trustee view of politics that says we're sent here to use our best judgment and our experience and our understanding of the law and procedure to make decisions for our constituents. And that has been a great inspiration to me. Sometimes he gets pushback or criticism for being a Republican who's willing to work with Democrats. But he has nuanced, nuanced views on every issue. They're informed not by his party, but by his own independent views that he arrived at through examination. And most importantly through that he really walks the walk. And for example, I, I remember how when we went to Nashville for an NCSL conference, and many of you were there at that conference too, Senator McCollister came around to all the senators that were going to the conference, conservatives, progressives, everybody in between and he made us each a folder that had printed off information about accommodations. And he started a group text and he was trying to make sure that we could all get together for dinner and meet for drinks. And he knew what hotel everybody was in. And you know, this was not his wife doing all of that or something like that that you might stereotypically think, he truly was invested in making sure that we could come together and spend time together. And for whatever reason, you know, COVID being a huge reason for this and political division that we may have growing here, that's something that we have lost and we really need to take inspiration from Senator McCollister's vision and bring back and work toward having more of. And that time that we had in Nashville, and he was not the only Republican there, by the way, like, there were many and we had the best time. And those are the memories that I think I will cherish most from my time here in the Legislature. And they were facilitated by people like John McCollister, who sets these kinds of examples. He's an includer. He brings people along to events. But he's not someone you can take advantage of, either. You know, he's this really nice guy, always smiling, always kind to everybody. But he's also very wily, and we've, we've served together on the Government,

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Military and Veterans Affairs Committee and between working on that committee and work that we've done together on SNAP, on food assistance expansion in Nebraska, I'll think everything's going fine and we're all getting along to go along and everything is good and then he'll smile and come over to me and kind of whisper something in my ear about how, you know, there's some strategy and we're going to end up fixing it. And it's, it's a really great strategy and technique that I've learned from being around him just keeping your wits about you, but not letting anybody ever take advantage of you. Yes, don't let anybody take advantage of you. He has a good humor about himself and his work and he has worked so hard to improve the quality of life for people in Nebraska through the SNAP increase that we passed in 2021 when we overrode the Governor's veto and through driver's license for DACA recipients. This was a bill introduced by Jeremy Nordquist, but Senator McCollister prioritized the bill. He used his priority to prioritize driver's license for DACA recipients, and because of that, the bill passed. I, I'm not sad today, Senator McCollister, and I'll say I won't miss you because I'm going to continue to see you all the time and you will be in my life forever and I will spend the rest of my years drawing on the experience and knowledge and lessons that I've learned from my time serving with you in Government, which has been, you know, really such a privilege. I am sad for the people of Nebraska who will not benefit from your vote in this Legislature and your voice in this institution. These speeches today that everybody has given have made me feel sorry for the state. Using so much experience, you know, from Senator Lathrop, from Senator Kolterman, from Senator Stinner, everybody. Everybody. I could name everybody who have so much subject matter expertise and experience that we will no longer be able to benefit from. And when Matt Hansen's gone, who am I going to ask about the rules? You guys think I'm good at the rules. People ask me questions about the rules and I'm like, I just learned it from Matt, I don't know. And it's scary to think about the future of this institution without the intelligence and experience that all of you bring to it. And John McCollister is very special to me and special to the people of Nebraska, and that is clear to everybody who follows anything about politics in this state. I want him to know that he is loved by people that he hasn't even met. That his legacy will outlive all of us, and he has made history in this state. And he and his lovely wife have raised three amazing children, and I'm glad that you'll get some time to spend with your family and your grandkids. And I just want to thank you for your service and for your integrity and for your example. Thank you, Senator McCollister.

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HILGERS: Thanks, Senator Hunt and Senator McCollister. Senator Wishart, you are recognized.

WISHART: Thank you, Mr. President. I have been avoiding thinking about this day for about as long as possible. I promised myself I would not cry during these speeches, so I decided to do all that beforehand while I was writing this. I will tell you, colleagues, cucumbers under the eyes really does work after a hard cry. Adam Morfeld. Senator Morfeld, I remember meeting you for the first time when we were in our mid-twenties. I knew you as the young man who successfully grew Civic Nebraska out of your dorm room as the University of Nebraska student. And I remember you sitting across the table from me at a coffee shop telling me that you were planning to run for the Legislature. From that time until now, almost a decade has gone by, and it has been an absolute honor to watch you as your friend develop into the talented man that you are today. Working with you in the Legislature has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Your moral compass, Adam, is so finely tuned and you make each decision based off of your passion for helping people. A passion for positively impacting people's lives that comes through in every single piece of legislation that you have introduced. You're not just a public servant, you are a fierce defender of the downtrodden and of our democracy. And I know that you have the back of all the little guys in this world against all the bullies out there. I remember watching you as a freshman, Senator, my first day in the Legislature, during the debate to preserve the filibuster that lasted for over a month. And regardless of what side senators in this room were on during that debate, your leadership, determination and courage during that month was undeniable. Your legislative record has shown you a staunch advocate for affordable health care, for criminal justice reform, free speech, medical cannabis legalization. Thanks, buddy. Voting rights in the nonpartisan values of our Legislature and you've done all of this while also helping lead two successful ballot initiatives, one that's still underway. Continuing to grow and expand Civic Nebraska, serving on numerous legislative committees in this body and across the country, including being Vice Chair of the Education Committee. When I was writing this, I actually laughed out loud that most people would have made these accomplishments in a series of years over their lifetime, and you're doing this all at the same time. I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to your lovely wife, Rachel, who is one of the kindest people I have ever met and a great person, Adam, for you to walk through life with. I also love the fact that she always texts you and calls you about supporting my pro-animal legislation. I, I guess it now would be the time for me to tell you

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not to tell Rachel that you voted for Halloran's livestock euthan-- euthanasia bill. Adam, you have accomplished so much in your life and your legislative career. And yet what I'm most excited about is your future and the life you have yet to live. I am so excited to see what you do with your life, who you impact, where you will go. The sky is the limit for you, my friend, and to be honest, I wouldn't be surprised if you blow past that limit. This world is lucky to have you in it and our Legislature was lucky to have you in it for eight years using all of your talents for good. You will be missed and wherever you land, you will be loved. Good luck on your future adventure, my friend.

HILGERS: Thanks, Senator Wishart and Senator Morfeld. Senator Walz, you're recognized.

WALZ: Well, I have to apologize to Patrick, I know, no props are allowed, but, but. (LAUGHTER) Are my lips, is my lipstick OK? OK, I'm trying to play the song, but I can't, oh, I know why. Can you hear it? I love you. I love you, darling. OK, well, I know I did my best at being Patty, but it is really hard to be Patty because there is no one like her. When I first started on this new venture trying to learn and fit in, Patty instantly intrigued me. I know she was someone that I wanted to hang out with, and I know she was someone that I really wanted to learn from. She soon became a role model for me, and she continues to be that. Patty is charismatic. She's beautiful inside and out, and she's certainly stylish way more than I am right now. She's truthful and faithful, and she's fierce. She represents people, and she fights for equality. Patty fights for the equal opportunity for all people to live in peace, regardless of who you are, the color of your skin, young or old, regardless of who you love. Your abilities or disabilities. Your economic status. Your level of education, your occupation, imprisoned or free. Patty protects all people, and she advocates and loves all people. It's really rare to find someone like that. Patty has a heart for Jesus, and like Jesus, she would lead the one righteous behind in search of the 99 who are lost. I have witnessed her do that again and again and again, and I think that is the quality I admire most about her, her desire to help the lost. Is she perfect? No. Does it always come naturally for her? No. Believe me, I have been on the wrong side of Patty, and it is not fun. It takes a conscious effort. It really does. And many of you have seen her podium filled with little sticky note reminders to speak with kindness, to be polite and considerate, among many, many others. She keeps a folder in her desk full of favorite quotes, and colleagues, those little reminders are intentional. They serve a purpose to remind her and all of us really that thoughtfulness and kindness will win in

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the end. It's obvious that Patty uses her legislative platform and her experiences as her ministry, her purpose and her calling. Patty is also a pretty fun person. If you have ever been to one of Patty's parties, you know that she is a very gracious hostess. Patty carefully plans the menu, the appetizers and the drinks and the dinner and the drinks and the desserts and the dessert drinks. Patty is thoughtful, and she wants to make sure that every person that comes to her house feels welcomed. I will always remember the fun that we had at some of the slumber parties at Patty's house. Patty made it clear that these parties were for girls only, no boys allowed, although they didn't always listen, Matt Hansen. We had a blast, though, listening to really loud music, pretending that we could dance and sing, laughing, crying and sharing great conversations, building relationships and making lasting friendships. Of course, we were a little late to the floor on the next morning, but that is nothing new for Patty. I can count on one hand the number of times she was on time to committee hearings. There were times when all of the other senators had introduced themselves, and Patty finally decides to stroll in. You know how she strolls in and gives me that look like, aren't you going to let me introduce myself? Adam and I are like, no, we're past that Patty. I can't talk about Patty without talking about her devoted husband, Loel, and this guy is devoted to her to the end. I know that Patty is who she is, partly because of the man she married. He exhibits all the fruits of the spirit. But I would have to say patience is his number one virtue, and it has to be. He is loving and caring and respectable. They are both a great source of encouragement to me and many others. Together, their values are reflected in the beautiful children they have raised. Avary, Graham and Taylor. Patty, you are blessed with a wonderful family and I know that you are very, very thankful for them. Patty believes in communion, and she definitely promotes harmony. She believes that people can come together even when we are on the opposite sides of an issue to do something good for Nebraskans. I did appreciate the time that she took to talk positively about each and every one of our colleagues finding the good and reminding us that we all have special talents and qualities and we should respect and value each individual person. It really was a bright spot in this long, hard last few days of session. Patty, you are a rock for many people. You have the ability to work across the aisle and discuss issues, and you do it so well. You are a force to be reckoned with. But most important thing about you, Patty, is your unconditional love and your advocacy for all people. Well done, good and faithful servant. Senator Pansy, Patty Pansing Brooks. It has truly been an honor to serve the people of Nebraska with you.

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HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Walz and Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator Jacobson would like to welcome 90 fourth-graders from North Platte Public School. They are seated in the north balcony. Please stay risen and be welcomed by your Nebraska Legislature. Senator Wishart, you are recognized.

WISHART: Thank you, Mr. President. When people ask me what is, it is like to be a senator, I tell them it's been the best chapter of my life because how else would I have gotten to meet and work alongside, John Stinner. Senator Stinner, it has been an absolute honor to serve with you in the Legislature and on the Appropriations Committee. I speak for more than just myself, that you are one of the best, if not the best, Appropriations Committee Chair that has ever graced these great halls. You have helped our state manage through unprecedented budget experiences. Billion dollar shortfall. Historic flooding. A pandemic and now billions in stimulus. And you have done so with wisdom and courage and discipline. Knowing the accomplished life that you have led, it is no wonder you have been such a steadfast captain of our appropriations process. From the young boy who grew up in Pittsburgh and came to Nebraska on a football scholarship and left with a B.S. in business, business administration, and a M.A. in economics, to the young man who founded a bank in 1988 at 37 years old. That's my age. At 37 years old, you founded a bank and with your partners expanded that bank across western Nebraska and into the front range of Colorado, to the husband of the incredible Rita Stinner, and father of two beautiful children to the public servant who served on the Gering School Board for 10 years, five of those as president, Chaired the Nebraska Bankers Association and then found your way to the Nebraska Legislature. You have led an inspiring life, John. And you are a role model for a lot of us in this body and in our community that hard work and commitment and discipline and integrity is a recipe for doing something meaningful in your life. Building something great. Positively impacting people in our community. As one of nine senators on the Appropriations Committee, I have had the unique honor of watching you at your best in the role of Appropriations Chair. In a world in which politics and partisanship can pull us apart, John, you are refreshingly uncorrupted. You live by what is right and what is fair, not what is politically expedient. You have been a leader for providers, early childhood education, affordable housing and economic vitality. Often the weight of the world, well, at least our entire state has been on your shoulders, John. And it has been an honor to get to work with you and watch you lead through these points of pressure. I remember one time in particular that I will never forget. One late night during an extremely tough debate where we were in your

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office working through an appropriations matter that had us both pacing, I learned how to pace from John Stinner, you pointed to the photo of your father on your wall and told me that when you were faced with a tough decision, you thought about him. And that no matter how tough a decision he had to make, he always did what was right, not what was easy. And that when you looked at that photo, you wanted to make sure the decisions you were making would have made him proud. John, your father would be so proud of you because you, that is exactly who you are. On behalf of our entire Appropriations Committee, the Legislature, the state of Nebraska, I want to thank you for your service to our great state. Your work will go down in history as the living and breathing definition of what it is to be a public servant. Thank you.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wishart and Senator Stinner. Senator Arch, you're recognized.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. President. We are doing roll call in regular order, so now, now we're down to the W's, and Senator Matt Williams. So I want to talk a little bit about, about Matt and his impact on me personally. And I think, I think we'll, I think we'll all recognize this about his impact on really all of us. He taught me a great deal. I have served with Matt on the Health and Human Services Committee now for four years. And, and here are the things that he taught me. I remember when I was brand new, and again, we all recognize this, this sensation. We sit in committee hearings and, and we hear all these ideas, one after another, after another and the bills come. And he said, well, that sounds like a good idea. And well, that sounds like a good idea. And well, I think I could go for that. And, and I just remember in one particular time, Matt leaned back in his chair in one of our Executive Session and said, well, you know, let me talk about the last three times this bill has come to the committee. It's like, what? This isn't a brand new idea? This, this, this has been here before. And that was so helpful that historical perspective on no, this isn't the first time. It's a little bit different than the last time it came to the committee, let me tell you. He also said one time, let me tell you what happened the last time that came out to the floor. And, and so, you know, we're in the era of term limits, but, but the, but the history that people, and Senator Williams has done that for me, the history that people bring even with four years of experience is so important to pass on to new senators and, and he, he certainly, he certainly did that for me. Subject matter, right? Subject matter. That, that is one of the things that he taught me in the Health and Human Services Committee. He also taught me about strategy and, and this was one thing that I witnessed in particular. A

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couple summers ago, Matt was working with the long-term care associations and the providers and with the Department of Health and Human Services when it came to setting rates for long-term care. I mean, that obviously would make everybody jump back because that's a very difficult thing. But what he did and what he does is he puts everybody in the room. Everybody goes, oh, you mean, put everybody in the room and you talk to each other. And so, and so Matt had a huge room. There were a lot of people in the room and, and he asked me to join the process. And I just watched him and one thing, he like, OK, we're going to take this issue off the table because this is really hot. We're going to, we're going to do that. And now we're going to talk about the other issues and, and by golly, it, it actually worked to put people in the room and talk about these issues. And I saw him, I saw him do that as a strategy. He, he works his bills. He puts opponents and proponents in the same room and say, let's, let's talk about the things here. And so when he bring, when he would bring bills out, he, it wasn't just like, hey, let's roll these things out and take a shot, but they were worked. He knew if there were still some unresolved issues, he knew what had been resolved. He knew where people had come to agreement. And that was a, that was a huge learning experience for me. The third thing he taught me was what happens and what should be happening in committee hearings. And that was that committee hearings are there so that you, as a committee member, gain an understanding of the issues so that you can make a good decision on your votes. Now that sounds simple, but not as I have discovered. Not all committee hearings, that actually happens. Sometimes it's there for us as senators to talk about everything we know versus gaining an understanding. So I watched him. His questions were thoughtful. His questions were intended to elicit more information so that he could make the correct decision when the time came for a vote. It was substance that he, that he was seeking and not, and not show. So here are the descriptors that I would use about, about Matt. He was thoughtful in his questioning, in his comments, whether it be in committee hearings, in the hallway, in Exec Session, I would characterize him as thoughtful. He was supportive of me. He was encouraging to young senators who were trying to get their feet underneath them and figure out process and people and issues and subjects and all of that. Very, very supportive for that. He was a steady voice of reason. He didn't rise and fall with all of the emotions, and he was very steady for that. He was always willing to listen. There are times I would drop into his office. And, and just, just try to find some reason in the craziness. It was that. And the one thing I would always describe him, so I'm getting a little emotional on this. But I would always describe him as professional.

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And we have some unprofessional behavior at times. But he wasn't that. He was professional. And, and, and I really appreciated that with Matt. So, with Matt coming here to the Legislature was not a career move. He came with a career. He had been, he had been very successful in his career. So, you know, why do people like that come? They come to serve and Matt came to serve. So with that, I'll end. Thank him for eight years. Not been easy, but thank you, Matt. You have a legacy.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Arch and Senator Williams. Senator Wayne, you are recognized.

WAYNE: Well, I'm not sure why I'm doing this. (LAUGHTER) One, I've never served on a committee with Senator Friesen. Never introduced a bill together. So when asked to do it, I, that's what I told them. Why, why me? And they said, that's exactly, you haven't served on a committee with them and you haven't introduced a bill with them, so you probably the only one who will say something positive. I said, OK. (LAUGHTER) Well, all right, I'll take my chances here. So, so first off, I'll start with what I Googled and I do know his wife, Nancy, that is his better half and he would not be here if it wasn't for her being as strong as she is. He has four kids, Shannon and Kori, Tiffany and Neal, and I must stop there and tell a quick story to be very quick. So our first year having some Fireball, we were at an event and I was still trying to figure everybody out. And Senator Friesen says, you're like my son. I didn't hear the whole thing. I thought, he said, son, calling me over. So I said it's kind of racial and I kind of barked at him and he barked back and said, that's not what I said. And then Halloran got between us. Do you remember that night? And we both kind of looked and said, the only person who is going to get hurt here is Halloran. (LAUGHTER) And that's kind of how we became friends. So it was really, it was really weird. But he has a long public service history of being on the Upper Big Blue, NRD, the mayor of Henderson and was on the Nebraska Corn B Board. So he's always served his constituents and always done well. Little fun fact, Senator Friesen. The first bill he introduced in 2015 was LB164. This is what my staff, because they had to think of something positive to say, and it was creating a biennial budget option for the NRDs and it was passed and signed into law. So that was a really good start. His last bill this year, LB1234 was IPPed by his committee. Not a very good ending, but if you ever negotiated with Senator Friesen, that's not the end of the story. There's always another part of the story, so you got to dig a little deeper and then you'll find out it was actually put into his committee package. So that's how he negotiates. He doesn't tell you everything he wants the first day, and then it will kind of move a couple of times the next three days. But I learned that three years

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ago and I made a comment again over Fireball. If you haven't had a theme, he is the only reason why Fireball is still in existence. He keeps them afloat. But I say this is like the Cold War and the U.S. negotiating with Russia. And then I looked at him and I said, you're Gorbachev, and I've always called him my Gorbachev ever since then. So he's always treated me well, except for he was the first person to IPP any of my bills in his committee. I asked him-- well, he didn't even tell me it was right across the floor. And so I got real mad and I said, you didn't even tell me. He said, you got notice when it was right across the floor. Like, thank you, I appreciate that. So I try to ask him what his accomplishments were so he can tell me something positive to say about him. And he said he passed the largest tax relief bill by himself this year. So congratulations on that.

(LAUGHTER) And then second, he said, I've invested in Fireball, so he is now a proud owner of Fireball. I don't know, I just made that part up. But he is the reason truly that they have been around for the last couple of years. So I didn't really have a whole lot to say, but I will tell you that my first year, Senator Hughes and Senator Friesen were over at Nader's place, and they taught me a lot. But Senator Friesen was the one who truly taught me a lot about rural issues when it comes to school funding. And that is the only vote that I've ever regretted was, I believe last year you had an amendment that I didn't vote for, and I told you that afterwards I regretted that. But he really kind of helped me understand what's going on out in western Nebraska. And there have been other people who are significant, but I truly think LB1024 would not have passed without Senator Friesen being at the table and helping me do that. And that's the kind of person he is. He spent time. He's the only one who came to north Omaha, not only one, but he's the one who sat at Harold's Cafe as Transportation Chair and watched a number of semis go by and say that we have to do something. It was not for rural Nebraska, it was for Florence. And we commissioned a study that is going on currently that they are going to try to move Highway 75 from that current location. We don't know where yet, but we're having that conversation. So Senator Friesen not only represents his constituents very well, but he came to little north Omaha and helped us pass some funding and a bill to make it better. And that's the kind of person he is. You have done well not only for your largest property tax or tax package this year, but you have also helped all Nebraska's be successful and move forward and moving Nebraska ahead. So with that, I appreciate everything you've done. I thank you for your service, and I thank you for teaching me a lot about rural Nebraska. Thank you, Senator Friesen.

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HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wayne and Senator Friesen. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign, LB888. Senator Wishart for an announcement.

WISHART: Thank you, Mr President. Colleagues, on behalf of this Special Personnel Panel, I want to provide you with an update on the status of our investigation of the workplace complaint involving former Senator, Mike Groene. The, just to remind you, the Special Personnel Panel's role is limited. The SPP must advise the accused member of the Legislature of the allegation and appoint an investigator who may be a person with appropriate investigative skills from outside of the Legislature. Out of our desire for a thorough, objective and independent investigation, the SPP retained Lincoln Employment Law attorney, Tara Paulson, on February 28, 2022. Our panel just reviewed the final investigatory report as prepared by Ms. Paulson. Today, I will read you the entire executive summary of this report, and then we will be giving you the entire report in a physical, hard copy. And if you or anybody else needs a copy, they're going to need to contact Chairman Hughes to get another copy of this report. So I again, I want to be clear that what I am reading you is in Ms. Paulson's words. The Special Personnel Panel appointed by the Executive Board of the Nebraska Legislature retained me to conduct a formal investigation of a workplace harassment complaint pursuant to the Legislature's workplace harassment policy. I was asked to determine whether the facts alleged in the workplace harassment complaint constituted unlawful sexual discrimination or harassment, to prepare a written report of my findings and, if appropriate, provide recommendations regarding remedial action and recommendations of preventative measures to be considered by the Legislative Council and/or Nebraska Legislature to more effectively prevent workplace discrimination, harassment and retaliation. The workplace complaint at issue was initiated by an employee, complainant of the Nebraska Legislative Council, against then Senator Michael Groene. More specifically, on Friday, February 4, 2022, complainant verbally reported a concern to individuals designated in the Legislature's workplace policies charged with handling complaints of alleged workplace harassment. One of the designated individuals verbally informed the chairman of the Executive Board of the allegations that same day. The designated individual submitted written reports of the complaint to the chairman of the Executive Board on Monday, February 7, 2022. On behalf of the Executive Board, the chairman took immediate and prompt steps to investigate the allegations in a confidential manner, which initially began as an informal resolution as desired by

the complainant. The chairman, on behalf of the Executive Board, followed the processes as delineated by the Nebraska Legislature's workforce harassment policy. While the informal resolution was in process and pending, details of the workplace complaint were made public through various news articles. Because the details of the complaint were public, the chairman suggested to the complainant that a formal investigation be conducted since protection of complainant's identity for confidentiality purposes was no longer possible. Complainant agreed with the chairman's suggestion and the matter shifted to a formal investigation which led to my retention on February 28, 2022. Over the course of several weeks, I conducted interviews of 10 witnesses. The witnesses included employees of the Legislature, as well as several senators. Because the investigation will be released publicly, I will identify witnesses anonymously to protect their identities. The one exception to this general rule of maintaining anonymity is for my, Mr. Groene, who was identified in media articles as engaging in problematic behavior and who ended up resigning with the, when the allegations were made public. For that reason only, he is referenced by name. In addition to conducting the in-person interviews, I reviewed 50 pages of screenshots taken of Mr. Groene's laptop that contained photographs of complainant. I reviewed policies of the Legislature, including workplace harassment policies, technology policies, workplace harassment training logs and other personnel policies. My investigation revealed that Mr. Groene did take photographs of complainant without her authorization or knowledge. Mr. Groene's actions can best be described as boorish, brainless and bizarre, especially for the workplace. However, complainant was oblivious to such photographs until she uncovered them while working on Mr. Groene's computer, which impacted my analysis as discussed below. I did not receive nor review any evidence to suggest the photographs were shared with any other members or employees of the Legislature. I conclude that the conduct of Mr. Groene was wholly unprofessional and inappropriate. In the private sector, the conduct of Mr. Groene would most certainly have resulted in disciplinary action up to and including termination. If Mr. Groene had not resigned, his conduct would likely have led to corrective action, such as reprimand, censure or expulsion. However, according to relevant legal standards and the Legislature's workplace harassment policies, Mr. Groene's conduct does not constitute unlawful discrimination or harassment. Further, the chairman on behalf of the Executive Board, appropriately followed the legal standards and the Legislature's workplace harassment policies in conducting its investigation. My investigation has been delayed in part due to the parallel investigation being conducted by the Nebraska State Patrol. Should the

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investigation of the Nebraska State Patrol, which is in possession of evidence I have not been permitted to view nor evaluate, reveal evidentiary findings contrary to my report, I reserve the right to reopen this investigation and reevaluate my conclusions contained herein, if requested by the Executive Board. This report contains eight sections. Section 1. Organization of the Nebraska Legislature. Section 2. Summary of public allegations. Section 3. Relevant legal standards. Section 4. Summary of the Nebraska Legislature's workplace policies. Section 5. Summaries of individual witness testimonies, and then legal analysis, recommendations, and then conclusions. That is the end of the executive summary in Ms. Paulson's voice. Colleagues, I encourage you to read this entire report. I want to thank the complainant for having the courage to speak out on this issue. As a former staff member myself, it is clear that we have a lot more work to do to improve our workplace culture and environment at the Legislature, and that will be continued in the recommendations in this report and the interim studies introduced. Thank you.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wishart. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. New resolution from Senator Linehan, LR463. That will be referred to the Executive Board. An announcement. The Exec Board will meet upon adjournment in Room 1510; Exec Board upon adjournment, Room 1510. Finally, Mr. President, priority motion. Senator Aguilar would move to adjourn the body until Wednesday, April 20 at 10:00 a.m.

HILGERS: Colleagues, you heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. We are adjourned.