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Speaker Lang: "The House will be in order. We shall be led in prayer today by Lee Crawford, the Pastor of the Cathedral of Praise Christian Center in Springfield. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off cell phones and rise for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Crawford."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most gracious God in heaven, creator of us all, for what is from You, oh God, that all of our help, come and it is from You, Oh God, that all of our blessings flow. I pray, God, today that You would look upon this august Assembly gathered here. May Your blessings be upon the Speaker of this House and all of its Members. May Your hand be upon each of them to direct them in all of their actions. I pray today, God, that You would grant them loving and sensitive hearts that they may love You and yet feel You. I pray that You would give them minds to know You, that they may understand You. I pray that You would give them diligence to seek You. That they may find You and wisdom today to submit themselves to You. I pray, God, that You would bless them with Your might, advise them with Your counsel, that in all of their endeavors they would be willingly do that which is the good and that which is the most precious will of God. This we pray in Your Son's name, Amen."

Speaker Lang: "Be led in the Pledge by Mr. Long."

Long - et al: "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."

Speaker Lang: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Currie."

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Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representatives Jones and Soto are excused today."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Leader Durkin and Representative Wehrli are excused on the Republican side."

Speaker Lang: "Please take the record, Mr. Clerk. We have 114 Members present and we do have a quorum. Mr. Sauer, for what reason do you rise, Sir?"

Sauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Go right ahead."

Sauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for the attention of the Body as I rise today to request for a moment of silence. The United States entered World War I on April 6 of 1917. On April 3 of 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany. And it was on the 6th, exactly 100 years ago today, that Congress officially declared war. Illinois gave the third largest amount of soldiers to fight in the global conflict with over 350 thousand men serving in the Army, the Navy and the Marines during the war. One in every 12 men serving the United States was from the State of Illinois. By the time the war ended over 5 thousand service members from our state had given their lives in the defense of freedom and for liberty around the world. I would ask that we take this moment of silence and honor the memory of all those who served and sacrificed their families and their loved ones during World War I, which, again, was 100 years ago today."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Sauer. Chair recognizes Mr. Butler."

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Butler: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

Butler: "Thank you, Mr. Sauer, for that because you kind of stole my thunder, but hey, that's all right. I have a Resolution that... that honors our commitment in World War I and happily get you on as a cosponsor, Mr. Sauer. My grandfather, Thomas Butler, Sr., served in World War I, was an infantryman in World War I. He came to this country, was an immigrant from Ireland in 1913. And within four years he had turned around and enlisted in the United States military and he got sent back to Europe in the U.S. Army. As not a citizen of this country, he was still a citizen of Ireland when he fought for the United States on European soil. So, I thank you for your words today, Mr. Sauer and thank you for recognizing all those who fought in the World War I, which began our involvement 100 years ago today. And I think it's right that we remember folks that have served this nation and... and have bled for this nation. So, thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

Demmer: "I'd like to join... have the House join me in welcoming today, Dave Schreiner, a friend and constituent from Dixon, Illinois. He's down here today with the Hospital Association in the gallery with us. Welcome, Dave."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Swanson."

Swanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Go right ahead, Sir."

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Swanson: "Thank you, Sir. Today, I'd like to introduce a friend of mine, Dan Bennett, who's from Kewanee, Illinois, the Hog Capital of the World. Dan was here today to... to work with the Landmark of Illinois on behalf of friends for Ryan Bro... friends for Ryan's Round Barn at Johnson's Sauk Trail, Kewanee. Dan is a retired school teacher and spends many selfless hours as a volunteer transporting veterans from Kewanee, Illinois, to Iowa City VA Medical Care... Medical Center for their care. Dan's been doing this for over nine years now and has transported many veterans to Iowa City who have needed that medical care. So, I'd like to welcome Dan Bennett here to the gallery today."

Speaker Lang: "Welcome. Thank you for being with us today. Representative Bourne."

Bourne: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like the Body to join me in welcoming my Page, Wyatt Henschen. He's a junior at Pana High School here to see how government works. So, welcome him to the Capitol."

Speaker Lang: "Welcome to the House Floor. Thank you very much. Representative Stratton."

Stratton: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Proceed, please."

Stratton: "I'd like to welcome two friends and colleagues from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Doctor Teresa Cordova is the Director of the Great Cities Institute and is joining us here in the gallery today. As well as, Marty Gutierrez, who is over the Public and Govern... Senior Director in Public and Government Affairs for the University. I'd like the Body to welcome them both today."

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Speaker Lang: "Welcome. Thank you. Enjoy your day here. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted, referred to the floor is Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 183, Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 456, Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 1254, Floor Amendment #3 to House Bill 2738, Floor Amendment #5 to House Bill 28... correction... 2989, Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 3540, Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 3644, Floor Amendment #3 to House Bill 3691, Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 3922. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Human Services reports the following committee action April 05, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 1334, Floor Amendment #3 to House Bill 2814. Representative Hernandez, Chairperson from the Committee on Consumer Protection reports the following committee action on April 05, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 1274. Representative Greg Harris, Chairperson from the Committee on Appropriations-Human Services reports the following committee action April 05, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 109. Representative Conroy, Chairperson from the Committee on Mental Health reports the following committee action April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 3709. Representative Walsh, Chairperson from the Committee on Counties & Townships reports the following committee action April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted is

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Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 1896, Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 3036. Representative Martwick, Chairperson from the Committee on Personnel & Pensions reports the following committee action April 06, 2017: do pass Standard Debate is Senate Bill 14; recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 6... 688. Representative Willis, Chairperson from the Committee on Fire & Emergency Services reports the following committee action taken on April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 1952. Representative Fine, Chairperson from the Committee on Insurance: Health & Life reports the following committee action April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 311, Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 3244. Representative Lilly, Chairperson from the Committee on Museums, Arts, & Cultural Enhancement reports the following committee action on April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted is House Resolution 140. Representative Mussman, Chairperson from the Committee on Mass Transit reports the following committee action on April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 3004. Representative Jones, Chairperson from the Committee on Community College Access & Affordability reports the following committee action taken on April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 3601. Representative Thapedi, Chairperson from the Committee on International Trade & Commerce reports the following committee action on April 06, 2017: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #2 to House Joint Resolution 37."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Flowers is recognized."

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Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "You may proceed."

Flowers: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank LRU for putting together this wonderful booklet on African-American men and women in the Science. And the staff that worked on this well put together booklet is Sara Barlow, Robert Bayless, Tom Basin, Melissa Kate and Ashley Mossler. And these booklets are available to all of us to pass out in our communities. They're excellent for the kids in the schools. So, once again, I would like to thank LRU for doing a fantastic job of putting to... this booklet together. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you, Representative. Representative Burke is recognized."

Burke, K.: "Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Proceed."

Burke, K.: "I'd like to direct your attention to the Republican side of the gallery where a group of 5th and 6th graders from Saint John Fischer School in Chicago are visiting in... are visiting Springfield, including my nephew Sean McGuire. So, if we could have a warm Springfield welcome for them."

Speaker Lang: "Welcome. Enjoy your day here. Thank you. Representative Hurley is recognized."

Hurley: "Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Proceed."

Hurley: "I would also like to welcome the Fischer Falcons from Chicago, as they walk out of the room. Bye, guys."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you, Representative. Page 30 of the Calendar, House Resolution 276, Mr. Meier. Mr. Clerk."

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Clerk Bolin: "House Resolution 276, offered by Representatives Meier and Stuart.

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize and show our sincere gratitude for the heroic actions taken by Highland FIRE-EMS paramedics Todd Zobrist and Ty Barr, and Highland Police Officers Sergeant Aric Steinbeck, Officer Shawn Bland, Officer Heather Kunz, and Officer Chris Clewis."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Meier.

Meier: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to let the Members of the House know we have seven Highland, Illinois, heroes with us today. Mr. Speaker, could we have it a little quieter in here, please? Today, we have the seven Highland heroes, along with their families. We have Paramedic Todd Zobrist, his wife Jessica and family; Paramedic Ty Barr and his wife Erin; Sgt. Aric Steinbeck and his wife Dawn; Officer Chris Clewis and his wife Becky; Officer Heather Kunz, and her son Matt Bartels; Officer Shawn Bland and EMS Chief Brian Wilson. Senator McCarter, myself, and Representative Katie Stuart appreciate the heroism which took place the morning of Thursday, March 16, 2017, by the Highland, Illinois, FIRE-EMS Paramedic Todd Zobrist, Paramedic Ty Barr, Highland Police Officer Sgt. Aric Steinbeck, Officer Shawn Bland, Officer Heather Kunz and Officer Chris Clewis. At 5:30 a.m. in the morning, Todd Zobrist and Ty Barr had already worked nearly a 24-hour shift when they responded to an emergency at Silver Lake where an SUV was partially submerged. When Zobrist and Barr arrived at Silver Lake, they could still see the headlights from the SUV beaming through the cold water at 45

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degrees. They knew they must act fast as the firefighters with a boat and special diving gear were stuck at the railroad crossing behind a train. Highland FIRE-EMS paramedic Todd Zobrist swam 75 feet in the life threatening 45 degree water, where he found an infant boy floating inside the SUV. Todd Zobrist performed CPR on the roof of the SUV and the baby began to breathe on his own; and in seven minutes since first arriving at the scene, in the dark, cold conditions, Todd Zobrist swam back with the baby on his stomach to the shore safely. Officer Shawn Bland, assisted paramedics to get the baby, and now hypothermic paramedic Zobrist, into the ambulance to be rushed to the hospital. Officer Kunz provided resuscitation efforts and warming to the baby in the ambulance; and Officer Chris Clewis drove the ambulance to the hospital so that paramedic Ty Barr could care for the baby and his partner Todd Zobrist. And thank you to Police Sgt. Aric Steinbeck kept the emergency under control and handled important communications while others were being occupied. On behalf of the House of Representatives and Senator McCarter and Katie Stuart, we appreciate the heroic actions which took place by Highland firemen and EMS paramedics Todd Zobrist, Ty Barr the Police Officers Aric Steinbeck, Officer Shawn Bland, Officer Heather Kunz and Officer Chris Clewis. This was a great, amazing act on a very tragic day for that area. And what they did brought a bright spot to the end of the day. And we thank them, no... no thought about what they were doing, they knew they had to go out there and see if there was somebody in that car and found the baby

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and saved him. So, I wish everybody to give them a round of applause and that we adopt the Resolution."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Stuart."

Stuart: "Thank you. I just wanted to add that the... the baby in question who was saved was a resident along with six younger siblings of my district, who luckily survived what Representative Meier alluded to was a tragic day in which they lost their parents. And I just wanted to thank all of the Highland Officers for their heroic acts and like Representative Meier said, it was a bright spot on a very sad day. So, from... from the Edwardsville and Glen Carbon community, thank you for your service."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Cavaletto."

Cavaletto: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to thank you, Todd Zobrist, for... who jumped in a lake to save a baby. And all the other men and women in Highland and the whole State of Illinois for their services of saving lives. Thank you very much."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution will say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Thank you to all of you for serving the public and for doing the jobs you do every day. Representative Williams is recognized."

Williams: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

Williams: "I just wanted to announce that today in the Capitol we will be seeing advocates from the MS Society. Some have joined us up here in the gallery. They're here every year fighting for the issues that are going to impact the lives of them and

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their families. Seeing John raise... standing now to greet us all. Thank you for being here. And welcome."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you. And thank you for joining us. Mr. Meier, did I leave you too soon earlier? I apologize."

Meier: "Well, I'd like to point out... I have a group here from the Central High School and their teacher Kurt Peters. They are Wade Szczeblewski, a junior; Mason Weems, a junior; Sydney Becker, a senior; Madison Wuest, a senior; Malina Eversgerd is a junior and Alexis Hicks, a junior. And I will have some Pages that I announce a little bit later when I see them. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Welcome. Thank you for joining us. House Resolution 35, Representative Bourne. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "House Resolution 35, offered by Representative Bourne.

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare Taylorville to be the Chili Capital of the State of Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Taylorville Mayor Greg Brotherton."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Bourne."

Bourne: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask for the adoption of House Resolution 35, which names Taylorville the Chili Capital of Illinois. During committee it was requested that people should be able to taste this. So, we do have chili in the back in Room 315, if you all would like to partake. Taylorville is pretty notable for its chili. So, not only do about 10 thousand people come to Taylorville annually for

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their chili festival, they have five International Chili Society sanctioned cook-offs every year. And Taylorville is home to two of the world champions, one of which is joining us in the gallery along with members from the Taylorville Chamber of Commerce. I would ask for the adoption. I would ask you to try the chili and then I would ask you to come down to Taylorville and try it during Chilifest. I'll probably be serving some. So, thank you and I'd be happy to take any questions or challenge any of you to a chili cook-off."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Davis, regarding chili."

Davis, W.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative, as I would probably consider myself to be a chili connoisseur of sorts, would you mind pulling this from the record until I taste the chili that you have back there?"

Bourne: "Well, I will say we do not have all of the award winning chili in the back. You'll have to come to Taylorville to try that. I'd be happy to work with you on a Resolution next year if you think it's not fitting."

Davis, W.: "Well, so does that mean that the chili in the back you cooked?"

Bourne: "I did not. You don't want my chili. You want their chili."

Davis, W.: "Not yours?"

Bourne: "No."

Davis, W.: "But... but you... but then you just challenged me to a chili cook-off, so..."

Bourne: "Well, I'm going to bring in a ringer."

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Davis, W.: "Oh... uh oh, sounds like the bowling thing we just did. I don't want any part of that. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Are there special shirts? Never mind. Mr. Andersson."

Andersson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Andersson: "Representative, how do you spell chili?"

Bourne: "So, that's an interesting decision that we made. So, chili is traditionally spelled with one 'l', but in Illinois as an ode to Illinois chili... illi, we have added a second 'l'."

Andersson: "So, we're misspelling chili?"

Bourne: "It is a specific kind of chili that comes from Illinois."

Andersson: "Very good. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ives."

Ives: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Resolution. I would just add that if it's authentic Illinois chili it ought to be made with deer meat. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution will say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Congratulations to Taylorville. Ladies and Gentlemen, an announcement from the Chair. The Democrats will caucus immediately in Room 114. Are the Republicans caucusing, Mr. Demmer? The Republicans will caucus in Room 118. The House will be at ease in recess 'til the Call of the Chair. The House will be in order. House Bill 156. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

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Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 156, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. This Bill was read a second time a previous day. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 1 and 2 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Mussman."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Mussman on Amendment 1."

Mussman: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment becomes the Bill and makes the number of changes. Do we just want to debate that after moving it?"

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Amendment say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment #2 has been offered by Representative Mussman and has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Lang: "Same, Representative?"

Mussman: "Yes, thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Amendment say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 156, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Mussman."

Mussman: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. So, House Bill 156 is a package of proposals to provide modest modifications to a variety of property tax exemptions throughout Illinois. Across our state, property tax remains

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the #1 concern among residents. We pay the highest... second highest property tax burden of all the states. And due to the ongoing budget stalemate, talks of a pension swap, talk of reducing LGDF, potential changes to school funding and the potential for an indefinite property tax freeze, taxing bodies are starting to maximize their levies to put themselves in the strongest possible positions and shore up reserves to prepare for any combination of those things occurring. The residents targeted in this relief package are those least able to absorb these increases. The Governor is aggressively supporting a property tax freeze, and while I think that is an important discussion to have, I also think this package offers these residents the possibility of what they really want, which is a lower property tax. Many of these proposals have been introduced in Bills by my colleagues from both sides of the aisle over the last few years. In this one, these are bipartisan solutions to provide some measure of relief to our most vulnerable residents. What this is actually going to do is make about six strong changes. The General Homestead Exemption will increase to \$8 thousand and be applied to all counties. The Senior Homestead Exemption, the maximum exemption will increase to \$6 thousand statewide. For the first time we are going to create a Disabled Persons Freeze, allowing people who receive Social Security disability, but make \$55 thousand or less to have access to the same freeze our seniors are already getting. It also enhances the Senior Citizen Tax Deferral Program and it increases that amount of deferral to \$6 thousand. We're also going to make a couple of changes to the Veterans Homestead Exemption. We're going to

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extend the lowest level exemption, the \$2500 to veterans with a 20 to 30 percent disability. We're going to allow veterans over the age of 75 without a disability to qualify for that low level \$2500 exemption. We're going to allow surviving spouses to receive the exemption if they're eligible veteran had applied, but not yet received their disability rating but otherwise does qualify. And we're also going to clarify that the disability rating can come from either the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense. We are also, and this is one of the strongest things I want to highlight, creating for the first time a Long Time Homeowner Occupant Exemption that can be applied statewide. Currently, there is a version that is only available in Cook County and is so narrowly drafted that very few people can actually participate in this program. This one is going to allow a household making under \$100 thousand to access an exemption based on the years of... the years that they've lived in their house. That way we're rewarding and incenting people who make long-time investments to stay in their community and helping making it a little easier for them to stay in their community to raise their families and support the state. I'm very proud of this bipartisan effort we've created here. And I'm happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Yingling."

Yingling: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. I would like to thank Representative Mussman, Chairman Zalewski and Members of the Revenue Committee for working with me on this issue and helping bring this incredibly important comprehensive property tax reform package to the floor. The constituents in

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my district, the 62nd District in Lake County, have experienced year after year of property tax increases and for far too long, here in Springfield, we have done nothing to help them. And I'm glad to say that that changes today. All property owners will get tax relief from this package with the average family in my district saving several hundred dollars on their property tax bill next year. Seniors and veterans and people with disability.. disabilities, people who are more likely to be living on a fixed income making it harder to afford ever increasing property taxes will even see more relief. We have to move our state away from its reliance on our aggressively, regressive local property tax system. We have to bring relief to working families and seniors who are already pulling out all the stops to make ends meet. This Bill lowers property tax bills for my constituents; it will lower them for yours. And I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it. Thank you very much."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Zalewski."

Zalewski: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. I'd like to commend Representative Mussman on the legislation that she's presenting here today. Over the course of the last several weeks in the Revenue & Finance Committee we've heard from a wide variety of Members, Democrat and Republican, downstate and suburban, city, and non-city about the desire to provide property tax relief to our residents. By no means is this the end of the conversation or the.. probably the.. the holistic approach that everyone would desire, but it's a significant first step. It's an important first step and it'll... it'll... if it's enacted, it will mean real reform and real relief for

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many of the residents that we come down here to serve. I commend Representative Mussman. I thank her for her hard work on this. And I would urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Harris."

Harris, D.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Questions of the Sponsor."

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Harris, D.: "Representative, if I may, just a couple of questions. And I know we heard this in... in committee. So, we are in essence giving property tax exemptions to certain individuals, right?"

Mussman: "Yes."

Harris, D.: "Right. How do you answer the... the observation that, you know, the property tax system which we know is complicated, if you push on one side, the other side pushes out? That you make a... a change here that... that eventually the same amount of tax is going to be collected, it's just somebody else has to pay the tax? How do you... how do you answer that?"

Mussman: "So, I think until we find a way to alleviate pressure overall, as we still operate under the existing property tax structure, the focus of this Bill is to provide relief to those residents we can demonstrate have the least amount of flexibility to absorb these changes."

Harris, D.: "Okay. The one... the exemption, the standard homestead exemption that now applies for veterans with disabilities also applies now under this Bill to veterans who are 75 years of age or older. Is there any other limitation on that exemption other than their age? Is there an income, a

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disability? Simply if they hit 75 years of age, they are eligible for this exemption?"

Mussman: "Yes."

Harris, D.: "Okay. Well... to the Bill, just briefly, Mr. Speaker. I suppose if you vote against this Bill, you're voting against old people. You're voting against veterans. You're voting against those with disabilities. So, I don't think there'll be a whole heck of a lot of folks who want to vote 'no' on this Bill. But I would simply like to say this. One of the previous speakers says, this will give relief to all property owners... to all property taxpayers. No, it won't. It will give relief just to those folks who are specified. The elderly, those folks long-time occupants, the veterans, disabled veterans, other disabled individuals who are collecting SSI. Yes, it will give benefit to them, but it pushes that tax burden to let's say that growing family that just had a new baby. That guess what, their property taxes are just as much of a burden, they're going to have to make up the difference. The commercial properties and the industrial property taxpayers, they're going to have to make up the difference. So, I know we're not going to vote against this because it's like voting against all those interest groups that we don't want to have against us, but we need true, meaningful property tax reform not just individual exemptions. Individually, these may make some sense, but as a whole, the system really does need to do one of two things: either be totally reform or frozen, frozen. Because it is the taxing bodies that levy... that extend their levies and collect all the... the tax dollars. And they never collect less. They always collect more. And

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that's why property owners have to pay more; that's why a freeze makes sense. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Olsen."

Olsen: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. Property tax reform is an important issue for people across the State of Illinois. I'm proud to stand with a bipartisan group of cosponsors of this Bill and I'm proud to stand today to speak in favor of it. This Bill is extraordinarily important for people across our state in... in all our districts. But especially, I want to particularly point out this Bill helps senior citizens. Senior citizens that want to stay in their homes. People are aging in place more frequently than ever in this... in this time and in this economy. And we want people to be able to stay in their homes. That's really important. This Bill starts to make progress toward allowing seniors to stay in their homes. I think there's still more to do. And I look forward to working with Representative Mussman and others in the chamber on a bipartisan basis on future reforms to allow people to enjoy their homes and especially our seniors and the most vulnerable among us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Reick: "I will put Representative Harris's comments into perspective. Step into my web, said the spider to the fly. I have a question regarding the PTELL effect on this Bill. If you start seeing exemptions going up, you're going to start seeing municipalities having to raise their rate and they're going to bump up against PTELL limitations. Have you thought

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about the impact that it's going to have upon those types of calculations or are we just going to blow through PTELL caps because of an increase in the exemption?"

Mussman: "If they're capped, then they cannot go above their cap. And certainly they understand that this is coming; they represent the same residents that we do. And I think that this is incumbent upon them to think very hard about what it is they're asking their residents to contribute. Again, I... I... I cannot reiterate enough that I think that we need to be focusing on well (a) the vulnerable people adjusted for in this... in these changes. As you're colleague had pointed out, we have seniors that are staying in their homes longer. And one of the reasons for that is, there's not enough in-between housing available for them. There's no step down between living in their own home and then going to a nursing home. There's not enough affordable options, which means they're going to stay in their homes longer. And if we push them out, again, there is no where for them to go. So, I think that we need to focus on that. And... and in response to my other colleagues comments about this only helping a select number of people, I will remind you the general homestead exemption is going to be available to that young family that he just highlighted. And as that family stays in their community longer and puts down roots and sends their children to school, they'll qualify for the long-term homeowners exemption too. As he illustrated, it's those individual taxing bodies making decisions about what their levy is going to be that's putting pressure on those increasing costs. Therefore, it is

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incumbent upon them to make serious decisions about what that money needs to be."

Reick: "As a... one who would benefit from this Bill, being a senior citizen, I am sorely tempted to vote for it. However, I think what you're doing is you are limiting it... you're limiting local governments in being able to adequately plan their... their revenues and creating... and raising the floor underneath them and from... from which those... those taxes are calculated. So, I would be really, really hesitant to talk about raising exemptions without true property tax reform. This Body is responsible for property tax reform by changing the way we pay for schools in this state. I'm not seeing that happen. I have a real problem with this Bill. I probably will vote for it, but I... because I believe that property tax relief should come in from any place where it can be found. But this Bill does cause certain problems for me, especially living in a district which is strongly subject to PTELL. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ives."

Ives: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Ives: "Does your Bill, Representative Mussman, in any way ensure that property taxes are frozen?"

Mussman: "My Bill does not freeze property taxes."

Ives: "Okay. Have you in the past or do you now ever support a progressive income tax?"

Mussman: "That is not the subject that is on the table, Representative."

Ives: "I... I understand. I'm leading into something. Do you support a progressive income tax?"

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Mussman: "So, I have no interest in increasing taxes on my middle-and my low-income earners. So, aside from that I need to understand what kind of discussion we're having and what all the options are that are on the table?"

Ives: "It's a pretty simple question. Do you support a progressive income tax based off of your income? The more that you make, the more that you pay."

Mussman: "So, I need to see an actual plan. So, that's... that's... what I would say."

Ives: "No, no. I'm just... in general."

Mussman: "I'm not going to support a tax that would unduly raise the cost on my middle-and my low-income earners. So, as long as we're talking about intangibles, I'm not going to be able to answer the question in the way that you would like."

Ives: "Okay. So, what you're essentially... what you're doing here is akin to Governor Quinn's proposal to give free rides to seniors on public transportation regardless of their ability to pay. That's essentially what you're doing with this Bill. There's no determination that the wealthy individual, aged 75 or older who has the wherewithal to pay the higher property taxes should be paying the higher property taxes that all of the other, your middle-income folks that you want to protect will be paying and will be squeezed out for. That's how it relates to the progressive income tax. Because folks who believe in a progressive income tax believe that if you have the ability to pay then you should pay and you should pay more. So, your Bill doesn't do that. It basically says, it... the ability to pay has nothing to do with that. And when you do that, you are squeezing on all other property owners. So,

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this is just like the failed Quinn program that gave free rides to seniors and on nothing else. Now, eventually that program got rolled back because everybody knew it was a gimmicky, political stunt in an election year. And that's what, I mean, honestly, that's kind of where we're here. You are further distorting the property tax market when you do this. And a better solution would be for us to have a comprehensive Property Tax Task Force, which I have already submitted in HR139, that looks across the board at all types of property tax issues and comes to a resolution through expert opinion and intake. So, we can have redesigned property taxes for a modern society, for an information age where we collect far more data on property. And we should have a better ability to make it more fair and more equitable across the entire state. I would appreciate your support on that type of task force. But your Bill essentially is protecting a... only one certain type of property tax owner to the detriment of all others, to the detriment of commercial property owners as well. And when you do this thing as Representative Harris said, and when you squeeze the bubble on one side there is no protection for the folks who have to pay up on the other side because your Bill, as you stated, does not freeze property taxes, which is what we're after. It doesn't lower property taxes, which is what we're after. It doesn't talk about anybody's levy and whether or not that should be frozen. Your property taxes is purely political gimmickry for... for classes of people. Vote 'no'."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Kifowit."

Kifowit: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

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Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Kifowit: "Representative Mussman, does your Bill change any of the existing economic or financial disclosure that has to be done to get some of these exemptions for property tax freezes?"

Mussman: "It does not."

Kifowit: "So, a lot of these programs do... are income-based, so what the previous speaker said is a falsehood, which we've heard before. The number one reason why property taxes are so high is because of funding of schools. And to the Bill, Mr. Speaker. We need to be honest about what the babble is about freezing the property taxes. A permanent freeze on property taxes will bankrupt our K-12 schools. A permanent freeze on property taxes will bankrupt our community colleges. And what it will do, honestly talk to any assessor, is... it still might have individual property taxes go up. The bottom line is, this is the most effective and efficient way to give true property tax relief to the people in the district without destroying our educational system, which seems to be the Governor's plan to do. What we need to do to lower property taxes is to start talking about the real issue which is how we fund education as this system, instead of tag lines and bylines and commercials about a bogus plan to bankrupt our schools. We need to look at the 10-year backlog of the school construction grants and pay our schools. We need to look at the backlog of the categoricals and properly pay our schools. This is true property tax relief, not political babble. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Mayfield."

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Mayfield: "Thank you so much. I'd like to thank the speaker for bringing this piece of legislation. Individuals in my district are suffering from very high tax rates. I live in Lake County. Lake County is number 18 for the highest taxes in the United States, number 18. That is high. Think about that. The entire country and my district has the highest tax rate. I have seniors who are being taxed out of their homes. I have veterans who cannot afford to stay in their homes after coming back from serving their country. Does this Bill do everything that we would like it to do? Absolutely not. But is it a good start? Yes. There's been conversations on tax freeze. You know, I've supported that in the past. However, it is not the best way to go. I think the more transparent process where you're taking those tax increases to the public in the form of a... a referendum as opposed to automatic levying may be a better route than totally freezing them across the board. We still want to give taxpayers an opportunity to have a voice. So, I stand in support of this legislation. And in support of our seniors, our veterans and our disabled. And I urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Jesiel."

Jesiel: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. I just wanted to make a couple comments. Like Representative Mayfield, I'm from Lake County and I live probably closest to the Wisconsin border of anybody in the chamber. And recognize that property taxes in my district are extremely high and the #1 issue in my district. So, there's... there's no disputing that this is a problem. However, like Representative Harris said when you're squeezing the balloon on one end, it's coming out the

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other. The... the biggest challenge here for our district is the lack of commercial investment. And the effects of this Bill are going to have a direct impact on who picks up the property tax tab when other people are exempted. As Representative Kifowit said, she said the best... this is the best way to lower the tax burden for our homeowners, I disagree. The best way to lower the tax burden for our homeowners is to get property... commercial investment, expand our tax base. We chip around at the edges. We fiddle around with giving exemptions, some of which are not even means tested that go to wealthy people who can afford to foot the Bill. And we push it on to people who may or may not be able to stay in their homes. I know neighborhoods where there are people who are relatively affluent who are middle-class workers who are making over some of these limits and are not going to be able to avail themselves of some of the benefits of this Bill. If we really want to relieve the burden, we need to relieve the burden by expanding our tax base. If this puts more of the burden on commercial properties, we've just blown the whole thing up. So, I urge you to reconsider. To go back to the table. Let's find ways to lower the tax burden by encouraging businesses to stay here instead of moving across the border, which they do into Wisconsin in my district, and taking their tax revenue with them. Lower the burden so we can bring businesses back. That is not what we're addressing; that's not what we're doing. Having said that, I'm probably going to have to support this Bill, but please let's work together on something more comprehensive and not cherry-picking benefits for certain people. Thank you."

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Speaker Lang: "Mr. Meier."

Meier: "Yes, I rise to this Bill. I have the question, you know, do I vote 'yes'; do I vote 'no'. How do you vote against a disabled veteran? I have many veterans contacting me because I live next to an Air Force Base. We have many school districts contacting us because they lose millions of dollars a year that disabled veterans are collecting, while that disabled veteran is still earning an income of 100 thousand or more a year and not paying property taxes. So, this is... this is a 'got me' Bill. I don't know if it's... you... you want to help every veteran who deserves it, but we need to have this Bill means tested so it helps the people it needs to help, the ones that have had a true disability that cannot make a living, not if they're... if they're still making 100, 150 thousand dollars a year, maybe they can afford to pay their taxes. Means testing for all property tax relief is a good thing. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Kifowit, you spoke in debate, for what reason do you rise?"

Kifowit: "My name was used in debate."

Speaker Lang: "Proceed."

Kifowit: "I... I... I just have to say that the previous owner... or the previous speaker talked about my remarks. And the truth of the matter is, is that these programs are already in effect today. They... a lot of these programs help disabled veterans; they do help struggling seniors. They do have income requirements, so the... the falsity of the other side is... is just astounding. And... and to be quite honest, to give true property tax relief instead of the bogus freeze, to provide

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true funding for education, how about we start working and the Governor comes and negotiates a true balanced budget and starts doing his job? That would make it a whole lot better. Is to make sure that we actually get the job done and have a true balanced budget and start looking at how to fund schools property, to pay down and to make sure the property taxes go down. I'm not about freezing it; I'm about getting the property taxes down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Breen."

Breen: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. I want to echo what the prior Representative just said that we need a balanced budget. We are so excited about that on the Republican side, to finally hear that from our Democratic colleagues. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Thapedi, does not wish to speak. Representative Mussman to close."

Mussman: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the robust debate that we've had on the floor. I think it's a clear indicator of how complex this property tax system is to try and navigate and improve upon and make more fair for all of us. I appreciate the bipartisan support my Bill has received. I want to remind people that until we resolve the other issues with education and with everything else, this is an opportunity to provide relief that goes beyond a freeze. This is actually a lowering of the tax bill for many of our most vulnerable and really for all homeowners across the state as we increase the General Homestead Exemption. And I'm really excited to have the support. I hope that the Senate acts on

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this very quickly and sends it to the Governor and he makes a good decision on behalf of our residents. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Lady's Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Please record yourselves. Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are... are 108... excuse me, 108 voting 'yes', 1 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 19, Mr. Costello. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 19, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. This Bill was read a second time a previous day. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. A correctional note, fiscal note, a state mandates note has been requested but not filed at this time."

Speaker Lang: "Chair recognizes Mr. Costello."

Costello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask that the notes be held inapplicable. I think it's a situation that if this Bill is not implemented, it could cost the state much more money due to the substandard care that Wexford has performed, the numerous times that they have been sued and the current suits that they are in."

Speaker Lang: "Gentleman's moved that the note he held... the note requests be held inapplicable. Mr. Andersson is recognized on the Motion."

Andersson: "Thank you. I want clarity first. Are we talking about all three notes that have presently been gone unanswered?"

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Costello, does your Motion apply to all three notes?"

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Costello: "Yes, please."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Andersson."

Andersson: "Thank you. So, how does a... Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Andersson: "Thank you. How does a correctional note not apply to a correctional institution?"

Costello: "I believe the... in the correctional note, wasn't it found that... give me one second."

Andersson: "I'm sorry? I couldn't hear that."

Costello: "I said, one second, please."

Andersson: "That I could hear."

Costello: "So, I... I believe it doesn't impact the population of the Corrections."

Andersson: "Well, we wouldn't know that without the note, would we?"

Costello: "It..."

Andersson: "We wouldn't."

Costello: "...so, it wouldn't have anything to do with inmate population is why I believe it should be held inapplicable."

Andersson: "And yet, we don't know that. Let me move on to the next one."

Costello: "It's too..."

Andersson: "Fiscal? Come on."

Costello: "That is what corrections said yesterday in testimony."

Andersson: "Oh, so, you... oh, so you got something, but we don't have it. We'd like to have the note."

Costello: "So, well... Members of your committee in Public Appropriations were there."

Andersson: "Strangely, I wasn't there."

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Costello: "So, they... they heard the same thing."

Andersson: "And I'd like the note. I'd like to know what the official response is, not just the informal one. So anyway, moving on. Fiscal note. This has no fiscal impact in your opinion?"

Costello: "So, in... in my opinion not implementing Senate Bill 19 would cost the state more money than the supposed \$8 million of savings."

Andersson: "Great. So, you think that there is a fiscal impact. You just think it's going to be a positive one. How about we get the note and find out?"

Costello: "So, Sir, I would believe that that's not necessary. And that we should hold the note inapplicable."

Andersson: "Thank you. And the third one, a state mandates. Clearly, we are mandating something on the state and that has a fiscal impact. I'd like to know what it is."

Costello: "So, at... at the... Yeah, it's not going to be any different than the fiscal note."

Andersson: "You know, I... I really respect and appreciate your representations on that. But these notes are here for a reason. They're filed. It's appropriate and I think respectful of our side to wait to find out. I love that you think none of these matter, but we think they might. So, how about a little respect? Withdraw your Motion and let's find out."

Costello: "And respectfully, Sir, what I'm talking about at the end of the day, 1) is the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution against cruel and unusual punishment. I believe when you look at Wexford, the situation, the substandard care

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that they provide that plays into all of the situation as well. As well as the fact, at the end of the day, this is about protecting jobs in the State of Illinois, 124 nurses that do a terrific job. So, at the end of the day, I believe it should be held inapplicable."

Andersson: "And... and that's a great argument to the Bill. And I look forward to debating that with you. But we're talking about the notes. I would urge a 'no' vote on the Motion to rule these inapplicable. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ives."

Ives: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Ives: "Representative Costello, on these fiscal notes now our analysis actually says that the Governor's Office believes that there may be an \$8 million savings. However, last... yesterday in committee testimony you actually thought that... that there would be other fiscal impacts with this legislation. In fact, you thought maybe those wouldn't be 8 million in savings, you thought it might even be better or more. Why would it not matter how much we're going to save or how much it may cost for this legislation to go through? Why is that not important to know?"

Costello: "So, Representative, that's not the case. As a matter of fact, what I thought and what I believe was... was heard in committee is the fact that it may cost the state more money than the alleged \$8 million of savings. A couple of the things that were talked about is oversight, people that would have to be hired from the state, IDOC, for oversight if this particular situation with Wexford was enacted."

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Ives: "Okay. So, yes and you did testify that if the Governor's efforts go through to have these nurses be part of a different system, you did testify that you thought that would cost more. But you also testified then in reverse that you felt keeping it this current way, which is what this Bill does, it protects about 124 nurses, that you felt like this would save the state money. And that's where my question is. If you testified that you think this saves money, why should we not have a fiscal note and understand the difference between the two situations? Why is that not important and applicable to this fiscal note that was filed?"

Costello: "So, what I would say is at the end of the day this does not require spending any more money than the state is currently spending."

Ives: "That's fine. I mean... and I would say at the end of the day, this is going to be your typical, our plea for a fiscal note, your denial of it and a nonsense argument about why something that's obviously related fiscally doesn't really matter. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "The Gentleman's moved that the notes be held inapplicable. Those in favor of the Gentleman's Motion will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Crespo, McAsey, Nekritz. Please take the record. There are 64 voting 'yes', 46 voting 'no'. The Gentleman's Motion prevails. And the notes are held inapplicable. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "No further notes."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. Chair recognizes Mr. Demmer for an announcement."

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Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please excuse Representative Unes for the day."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you, Sir. Representative David Harris."

Harris, D.: "Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Would you please let the record reflect that on House Bill 156 that it was my intention to vote 'yes', and unfortunately, apparently I thought I pushed my switch, but apparently I did not."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you. The record will reflect that. Mr. Clerk, please read Senate Bill 19."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 19, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Costello."

Costello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. On Senate Bill 19, in reference to the Bill, on March 18, 2016, Illinois Department of Corrections notified the Illinois Nurses Association that it intended to layoff 124 nurses. The reason given was due to a material change in duties and due to subcontracting of these services. The effective layoff date given was June 15 of 2017. Currently, the Illinois Nurses Association has four unfair labor practice charges against the Department of Corrections and CMS. These charges were filed in response to DOC's refusal to negotiate in good faith with the INA. Based on the first of these four charges, the Labor Relations Board has already issued a complaint against IDOC and CMS. Senate Bill 19 seeks to ensure the Illinois Department of Corrections cannot reduce the number of department employees whose employment is related to the provision of medical or mental health services. The number cannot go below the number of these professionals employed as

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of January 1, 2016. Currently, nursing is a highly competitive field. Nurses are being hired away from the public sector into the private sector. They're being hired away for higher pay and for better benefits. The department has notified the nurses being laid off that they would have a possibility of being hired back for less money and less benefits. Lastly, but very much central to this issue, is the reputation and the performance of Wexford, a Pennsylvania company that the Illinois Department of Corrections is advocating to take over the management of these jobs. I will read some examples, and I've got some articles here, but I... I think it's important that everybody realizes that under the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution we have a duty to make sure that there is not cruel or unusual punishment that is bestowed upon inmates in the Department of Corrections. So, this would apply to quality of care, standard of care, also the timing of care given to these inmates. The first article is from the *Lake County Daily Herald*. The article said, the company overseeing health care at Lake County's Jail and Juvenile Detention Center will be fired for not promptly examining and treating inmates. The problems include delayed prisoner examination, delayed treatments for both physical and mental health issues. It's important to note in this one specific issue there was a laws... lawsuit in which \$1.95 million, almost \$2 million was paid over two deaths in the county jail. The next thing that I would like to cite is an *Illinois Times* article and it refers to a six-figure settlement in a prison lawsuit. This settlement was given to Alfonso Franco's family and it was against Wexford for the amount of \$800 thousand. In the

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prison system in Florida, Wexford currently has 1,092 malpractice claims against it. In the State of Mississippi, a joint legislative committee criticized Wexford and the Department of Corrections for failing to ensure that inmates receive timely access to quality care. I would also point that currently Wexford is being sued by the Attorney General of the State of Mississippi. Wexford is being sued for bribery, kickbacks, unfair and deceptive practice, misrepresentation, fraud, concealment, money laundering and wrongful conduct. They're being sued for defrauding the State of Mississippi. Secondly, I would like to point everybody's attention to the fact that a Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, Donald Snyder, served two years in prison for receiving kickbacks from Wexford. Arizona, Wexford in the state's correction department agreed in January to terminate Wexford's medical contract in the wake of accusations that the company improperly dis... dispensed medicine to inmates and wasted... wasted state resources, according to the *Arizona Republic*. Other states that have had issues with Wexford, both current and past: State of Alabama Department of Corrections, Florida Department of Corrections, New Mexico Department of Corrections, Maryland Department of Corrections, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Wyoming Department of Corrections. A few counties that have had issues: Broward County Florida, Clark County Washington, St. Clair County Illinois. Senate Bill 19 does not... does not cost the state any more money. In fact, in my opinion it would save the state money. When you're talking about these lawsuits, they can add up to millions and millions and

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millions of dollars, tens of millions. This is about a standard of care. It's about human medical treatment and it should not be just giving a contract to the lowest bidder when we're talking about human beings. We have a constitutional duty to provide a standard of care. I ask for your 'yes' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Andersson."

Andersson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Andersson: "Representative, this Bill has nothing to do with Wexford. This Bill is a minimum manning Bill for nursing, correct?"

Costello: "No, I would disagree, Sir, because the nurses that we're talking about are supposedly going to be replaced by Wexford. As a matter of fact, Wexford currently has billboards along the highways claiming to be hiring. And it's believed to be for the purpose of trying to replace these jobs."

Andersson: "And I believe one of our goals and I think it's a fairly bipartisan goal is to try to reduce the prison population. Isn't that correct?"

Costello: "I would agree, Sir. And if you look at the fact that currently right now the staffing level for nurses in prisons is about 70 percent. So, if we reduce the population by 25 percent, which the Governor claims to do over the next five years, we would only need to add 5 more percent in nurses."

Andersson: "Well, but we're functioning at the level that we are. And quite frankly, even if we.. if that's the.. if that's the standard that might be needed, right now we're functioning

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the way we are. And... and you're insisting that... that we can't go below that?"

Costello: "So, what I would say is we are..."

Andersson: "Even though we're going to reduce?"

Costello: "...we are not actually functioning very well at all. So, that's probably where we would disagree. I would point you to the fact that in Menard Penitentiary right now there are 3700 inmates. There are 3 slots for doctors, none of them are filled. There's a nurse practitioner who is the person performing medical attention to 3700 prisoners. Three spots for doctors, not one of them filled. In Pinckneyville Correctional facility, there is not a doctor. We are... what we are doing is performing substandard care. And the problem is Wexford has a financial interest in performing substandard care versus the proper care, both from a timing standpoint and the standard of care."

Andersson: "And... and what I understood from your discussions, you listed a whole lot of reasons why Wexford appears not to be compliant. But out of all of them the only one I heard you articulate was a settlement. And of course, a settlement is not a finding of guilt. The remainder of them were thousands of lawsuits that had been filed, filed doesn't mean that they are guilty. Filed means somebody filed a lawsuit. And by the way, I would note that, you know, the... the ladies and gentlemen in the Department of Corrections have a lot of time on their hands. And we've experienced, at least I have in my own law firm that they like to file lawsuits like that. So, I'm not sure the volumes you're talking about are really all that indicative. I heard one settlement in one case. I'm not

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willing to judge Wexford on that basis that they can't do it. But here's the other thing, if you're right that we... we have inadequate staffing levels and you want more staffing, then maybe if we can find a less expensive alternative to do that we can actually increase that level of care. I'm not going to presume Wexford or anyone else is going to do the substandard job that you claim. But more importantly, is that the only option? Are they the only people out there who can perform these private contracting services? I suspect not."

Costello: "Sir, what I would tell you, number 1, I spoke to a couple of settlements. One was for \$2 million, it was actually 1.95 million with Lake County against Wexford. The other one was about a million dollars, it was actually 800,000..."

Andersson: "Eight hundred, right."

Costello: "Correct... which was a Wexford situation in the Illinois prison system. So, that would be the first side of it. Secondly, when you look at Wexford one of the issues that I think people don't understand and it's very important to understand, the Department of Corrections signed a contract with them. We have no control over how many full-time, part-time nurses are in fact hired. And there's not an oversight process for that."

Andersson: "I would also note that this is a not a Rauner initiative. This is something that started with Governor Quinn. But the... and let me speak to the Bill."

Costello: "I... I would totally agree with you. And I had an issue with Governor Quinn over it."

Andersson: "Very good. Let me speak to the Bill. This is a minimum manning Bill. And most importantly, this is an agency of the

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state. Guess what? The agencies are governed by the Executive Branch. We aren't the Executive Branch. This is an intrusion into a coequal branch's job to make a determination of how to run these agencies. Quite frankly, you want to make the changes take the office away from us. That's fine. Go ahead. Good luck to you. But this is minimum manning. And you're... you're crossing the line when you go into the Executive Branch. I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Phelps."

Phelps: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Phelps: "Hey, Jerry, wasn't this Quinn's lame brain idea to bring in Wexford 10 years and I think what was it \$1.3 billion contract?"

Costello: "I... I believe so. And I think the contract is 10 years, but we do have an opt out after 5 years."

Phelps: "Don't you think that was a very bad initiative on his part?"

Costello: "I... I said it was when it happened. Like I told Mr. Andersson here just a few minutes ago. I didn't agree..."

Phelps: "So..."

Costello: "...with it when it occurred."

Phelps: "...so, Jerry, by voting 'no' on this Bill don't you think that you're agreeing with Quinn and you're expanding this bad decision and making it worse?"

Costello: "I would agree."

Phelps: "So, also to your... and I... I try so hard to reach across the aisle and I pride myself, probably to my side of the

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aisle's fault, about trying to work with the Republicans and that's the way I am. And I pride myself on that. And I'm never going to change. But we beat up Quinn before and what he did to our prisons down in southern Illinois and help them close. And I don't want to beat up on Governor Rauner, but Governor Rauner has a philosophy to get top-notch talent he wants to pay them well. Am I right?"

Costello: "I believe actually when he hired the top 10 people on his staff, he paid 36 percent more than Governor Quinn paid."

Phelps: "Well, you know, and I think this goes against his own philosophy and I wish he would rethink this because we need those good nurses and they need to be paid well because they're putting their lives on the line every single day as well. Don't you agree?"

Costello: "I absolutely agree."

Phelps: "And Jerry, what about... don't... the general thought that I'm hearing around the state is that, do you think this might be a little bit of retaliation because of the breakdown of negotiations as well?"

Costello: "I... I can tell you that I know that the INA feels that... that this is a result of breakdown in the negotiations."

Phelps: "And don't you think also, too, with... with the amount of overtime that we're spending on the nurses that we could actually... Governor Rauner could hire even more nurses and even make our... give our inmates even better treatment? Or make it even better for them to hire more people for our economy?"

Costello: "So, that's a terrific point. And... and one of the issues that the costs are as high as they are is because people

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haven't been hired and there's only a 70 percent level of staffing, roughly 70 percent level. So, these nurses are mandated to perform overtime."

Phelps: "So, to the Bill, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Jerry. And I appreciate you putting me on as a cosponsor on this Bill. Ladies and Gentlemen, we need to throw politics aside. I know you're tired of it just like me. Let's do the right thing on this. This was a bad initiative by Governor Quinn; I hate to even call him Governor. It's a bad initiative by Quinn. Let's do the right thing and vote 'aye' on this Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ives."

Ives: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Ives: "Representative Costello, we discussed this Bill yesterday in committee and there was quite a bit of testimony about the lawsuits. Is... so, as far as I can tell there is a grievance procedure for inmates already. Is that correct?"

Costello: "Yes, there is."

Ives: "Okay. And the other thing we talked about is, and actually there's been a number of us who have voted for criminal justice reform to give people a second chance, to maybe not incarcerate people for unnecessary things. And there's obviously, not only in this state, but nationwide a goal to kind of reduce the prison population. Would you agree?"

Costello: "I would."

Ives: "And as the prison population decreases, wouldn't you say that staffing levels should be adjusted based on the population?"

Costello: "I... I would say so, most likely."

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Ives: "Okay. And in your Bill, your Bill does not actually tie staffing levels to a particular number of nurses per inmate, does it? It just flat out says, and I'll read from the text, that the Department shall... okay... the Department, they have a provision that medical or mental health services cannot be lower than the number of the department employees as of a specific date, January 1st. It is not tied at all to prison population. Isn't that correct?"

Costello: "Correct."

Ives: "Okay. So my question is, as the prison population declines we're still forced if we pass this Bill to keep staff on hand that may be unnecessary and costly to the state?"

Costello: "So, as I mentioned earlier, the staffing level of nurses is currently at about 70 percent. So, if we are able to reduce the prison population by the goal of 25 percent over, I believe, it's 5 years, we would still be understaffed by a level of 5 percent in 5 to 6, 7 years. Secondly, and I think you're aware of this, actually you and I and a couple other Members on your side of the aisle talked about this. I offered to make it a ratio, if you... if that would change your vote and we could move forward. And that was something that I don't believe was agreed upon. So, that's why we're staying with the 124."

Ives: "Okay. That... that is true. There's other things in the Bill that I have a little bit of a problem with as well. So, the other thing is that you also... there was a big discussion about overtime work with nurses in the prison population. Is that occurring frequently?"

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Costello: "I... I believe so. I believe that there are numerous nurses that are mandated because of the fact that we don't have enough."

Ives: "And that overtime starts at 37.5 hours, correct?"

Costello: "Yes, it does."

Ives: "And so, in a way if we actually went to a more flexible program where you had Wexford, if they are actually of the entity that he decides to contract, because nothing in your Bill says that it's a contract with them, nothing. It could be any company. In fact, it could be a not-for-profit organization that he contracted with. It could be your local hospital that perhaps provided part-time nurses to fill in, so that we weren't paying excessive overtime. Is that correct? Nothing in this Bill talks specifically about Wexford or about a particular company that is banned, right? It just says..."

Costello: "Right. And... and..."

Ives: "...that he can't contract with any other entity and must maintain the staffing level?"

Costello: "...and Jeanne, this in no way prohibits IDOC from contracting with anyone else in any way, shape or form. Secondly, as was testified to in committee yesterday, the Department of Corrections has said that they hired Wexford, entered into a contract. They have no control over how many nurses are full-time, how many are part-time. It's the oversight of this contract is really an issue as well."

Ives: "Okay. I... I respect you and I respect what you're trying to do for these 124 nurse positions you're protecting. However... Mr. Speaker, to the Bill. Look, we're losing all flexibility to actually be able to use some part-time help when necessary,

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to contract with who we need to, to maybe have different mechanisms maybe not-for-profits, maybe for-profit companies even that have innovative ways to handle things. The population that he's protecting are under a state union contract that is very... compensates these nurses quite well. And in fact, there's no... there's no testimony that said that they don't actually enjoy the extra overtime since they're getting time and a half-plus. So, the bottom the line is, this Wexford that he talks about is actually a company that... that Quinn brought in... Governor Quinn and he signed a 10-year contract, 10 years. So, they were all in on this concept and now these guys are trying to turn the tables when we need more flexibility, not less. Vote 'no'."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer for an announcement."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please excuse Representative Bennett for the day."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you very much. Representative Cassidy."

Cassidy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of things have come up in debate that... that I want to address first and foremost. You know, the... the previous speaker talked about this company being brought in by... by our previous Governor and that we were all in on it. And the reality is, this is something that I have been talking about and many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle have been talking about for quite some time because Wexford's reputation has been so disastrous. And ultimately, you know, to... to a prior speaker who talked about this being an unfair intrusion on the Executive Branch, frankly that is... our job is to set policy for the state. We are doing our job here. We are... we are expressing the will of

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this Body that the care of the people in our custody must come before cost. These are human beings that we're talking about. And we are responsible for their care. And it is wholly irresponsible to put more of those people in the care of a company that is being sued repeatedly all over the country for providing such substandard and atrocious care. In our appropriations hearing, the director of the Department of Corrections was presenting his budget and we... we talked about this. I shared that I had seen the billboards. Wexford is clearly very confident in their ability to expand their prog... their contract. And I questioned what went into the decision to... to lay off these nurses and... and put more under... under the Wexford contract. And I asked if quality of care was... was a component in the decision-making process? And he flat out said, no. This is all about saving money. And when we are talking about the health of people whose lives are in our hands that is dead wrong. It is the wrong way to go about it. We are responsible for providing adequate care. We're on the hook when... when we don't. It will cost us more and if... frankly, these savings that the department has talked about don't add up. The... it... it doesn't make... their... their numbers are hugely inflated. We've asked about it in Labor Committee and in Approps and the math doesn't make sense. So, this isn't even gonna bring about the savings that they say it will. And it will likely lead to worse care for our... for the inmates in our custody and more liability on our part. So, I urge a 'yes' vote on this Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Willis."

Willis: "Thank you. Will the Sponsor yield?"

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Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Willis: "Mr. Costello, are you familiar with last year when these nurses first were informed that there was a possibility of privatizing when they came before us in the Human Services Committee?"

Costello: "Yes, Ma'am."

Willis: "And one of the things that they brought up was that they actually were trying to be proactive to cut down on their overtime costs. They knew that that was a problem. Part of it was because of a lack of manning; they hadn't... a number of openings that the state was unable to fill or unwilling to fill. And wasn't one of the solutions that they brought forward was to look at a 12-hour day?"

Costello: "I believe it was."

Willis: "Right. And... to the Bill. That is one of the things that I think, you know, the reason that we're at the impasse or were at the impasse with the nurses' contract was the Governor was not willing to listen to them. These nurses know their jobs; they've worked hard for what they're doing. They are dedicated. These are not your nurses that are in your typical hospitals or... or in your doctor's offices that are taking care of runny noses. They are taking care of sometimes a very hardened criminal. And they're willing to work in these situations and work hard for people that don't always get people that listen to them compassionately. And these nurses instead have compassion. They're willing to work above and beyond. They want to stay in their jobs. Other people don't want the jobs. The nurses that (Wexler sic-Wexford) is going to hire are nurses that nobody else took in. These nurses

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here have showed that they want to be there. I think this is a wonderful Bill, Mr. Costello. I am proud to be a cosponsor on this Bill and I urge the rest of this Body to vote 'yes'."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Arroyo."

Arroyo: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Arroyo: "Representative Costello, whose idea was it to get rid of these nurses? Was it Wexford or was it Corrections?"

Costello: "Corrections."

Arroyo: "So, 'cause what I'm hearing is that Corrections is making a lot of decisions... I mean, (Wexler sic-Wexford) is making a lot of decisions on what goes on in Corrections. I believe that this idea was Wexford to try to privatize what goes on in Corrections. If we let this happen, if we let Corrections get rid of all these nurses, we're... what's next? What's going to go next? First, they don't have no doctors there. I think that there should be 2 or 3 doctors in every prison. They don't have no doctors. If we let this happen, they're going to continue to roll. The other question I have for you, Representative, does Wexford have any other prisons that they control in the United States or just Illinois?"

Costello: "No, they... I believe they're in several states and... and I mentioned a number of them earlier that have had issues with Wexford."

Arroyo: "What state are they from?"

Costello: "They're from Pennsylvania."

Arroyo: "Do they have any kind of offices here in Illinois?"

Costello: "I... not that I'm aware of, but I couldn't answer that question, honestly."

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Arroyo: "Okay. So, again, I... I think that... Ladies and Gentlemen, I think this is the first step in privatization in this administration and they're going to start with Wexford. With Corrections is going to go, it's going to keep going and rolling and rolling. And it's going to snowball into a three p, I hear this word a lot, a lot of three p's that want to go into this private partnership agreements here in this state. I don't think we can stand for that. If this Bill doesn't pass, there's going to be a lot of other things they're going to want to privatize. So, let's say no and vote 'yes' on this Bill. Costello, I think this is a really good Bill. I want to get... I want you to put me on as a cosponsor to this Bill. I applaud you for what you're doing. We cannot let go of these 124 nurses. They should hire another 124 nurses, plus 2 or 3 doctors to every prison in the... in the State of Illinois. Thank you. I applaud what you're doing."

Costello: "Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Drury."

Drury: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. A couple years ago I was sitting at my desk in my law firm and an e-mail came through to me from the northern district of Illinois saying I'd been appointed to represent an inmate in a local jail. The inmate had filed a Section 1983 claim against the prison doctors. He... Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The inmate had filed a claim against the prison doctors saying that his civil rights had been violated. This young man, while he committed a crime and was serving his time, was born with half a heart. He only had two valves. He had been... he had been to this jail before; they had his records. They had treated him with the

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appropriate medicine for the two-valve heart. And he was released. Two years later he was arrested again and brought back to the jail. They refused to give him his medicine as if his heart had grown two more valves in the two years. We fought and fought and fought with this prison company... with the medical company. It wasn't Wexford, but it's the same thing; it was correctional health care services. But I had a very front row view of what these companies do. And the fact is, they're butchers. They get a contract and then they try to squeeze whatever money they can out of that contract by providing less and less services. So, we can sit here and we can talk about whether the 124 nurses that got laid off are the best nurses or not, but what we do know... what we absolutely know is that the quality of care that these people will get with Wexford Correctional Healthcare Services, whatever company it's going to be, is going to be atrocious. While I was sitting here listening to the debate, I quickly went on Westlaw, which is a legal database, and just typed in for the Seventh Circuit, Wexford, just for Illinois because we've been talking about these cases all over the country. Just typing in Wexford for the Seventh Circuit of Ill... the Seventh Circuit, nets you 611 federal cases against Wexford Health Services, 611. Now, they're not all going to be winners, but some of them are going to be winners. Now, a speaker said, well, this is a... an issue of separation of power. It's the Legislative Branch versus the Executive Branch, but what we're forgetting about is the Judicial Branch. And I can tell you from looking at these 611 cases here on my screen, from my personal experience of judges

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dealing with these cases, the judges want the Wexfords of the world to go away. So, if the Legislature wants it to go away and the judges do, that's 2 to 1. So, we just need to be real about the facts. And one final thing I want to say because we hear a lot about the Criminal Commission, the commission the Governor set up to reduce the prison population. I sat on that commission for two years and we did a lot of very hard work on that commission and made a lot of really great recommendations. But right now, there seems to be no political will on that side of the aisle to pass any of those recommendations. We had a Bill yesterday that should have passed. It did not because there's not the political will. So, until you're actually willing to stand up and say you... you're going to vote to reduce the prison population by 25 percent by 2025, I just wish you would stop talking about it. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ammons."

Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Ammons: "I just wanted to clarify a couple of things about this piece of legislation. Representative, do the folks who are sick or injured... or the injured inmates in the Department of Corrections, do they currently receive health care?"

Costello: "Yes, they do."

Ammons: "I wasn't sure..."

Costello: "I wasn't sure you were done with your question. I'm sorry."

Ammons: "Thank you. And prior to this contract firing of these nurses, how did they receive that health care?"

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Costello: "So, they receive health care both from INA nurses and then there are also Wexford nurses as well."

Ammons: "And is there any evidence that you can point me to that would suggest that firing the nurses would equal huge cost savings for the State of Illinois?"

Costello: "Oh, I... I think I could point you in the other direction and I think it will cost the state more money due to legal situations, lawsuits, what have you."

Ammons: "And I think a few speakers have asked or spoken to the question of lawsuits in relationship to the company being proposed. Are you aware of the number of lawsuits that are in relationship to this?"

Costello: "I am aware of thousands."

Ammons: "You're aware of thousands. Thank you. And just finally, is there any evidence that you've seen as you've worked on this Bill that suggest that private health care is in some way safer than public services by state workers?"

Costello: "No. And again, I would say it's the opposite. I would say a company like Wexford they're worried about the bottom line, the bottom dollar. They are actually financially incentivized to provide less service and... and fewer people employed... fewer nurses employed."

Ammons: "Thank you. Thank you. To the Bill, Mr. Speaker. I've listened to the debate here on the floor. And this is an interesting discussion because as we know there are incentives in... certainly in these kind of industries to provide the least possible service, to... on the front of a contract to demonstrate supposed cost savings that will ultimately balloon at the end of that contract period. But

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we've also seen huge numbers of lawsuits for poor medical treatment and in some cases death in our departments as a result of poor treatment. I don't believe as I suggest here that outsourcing health care to private prison health care companies, which are predicated on cost-cutting models to boost profits. They may sound appealing to the other side of the aisle as our government is cash strapped right now, but in the long-term it results in lawsuits that are ultimately paid out, again, by this cash-strapped government. Those contracts in every single area tend to provide less service, less reliability and certainly an incentive to do even less than our state workers have done. Let us be clear. Firing people in the state has become the hallmark of this administration. Releasing people and leaving jobs on the table for Illinoisans has become the hallmark of this Governor. Working against our unions and union contracts and union staff members has become the hallmark of this administration. And anyone who believes otherwise is pretending and in some kind of fairy tale. This is truly about simply breaking the union and laying off workers where you have the opportunity to do it. We are opposed to that and I thank this Member of our Body here for bringing forth this legislation to really bring good, sensible protections to workers. And thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this effort. And I do urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Andersson for an announcement."

Andersson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please excuse Representative Severin for the rest of the day."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you. Mr. Wheeler."

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Wheeler, K.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Wheeler, K.: "Representative, I have a couple of quick questions for you."

Costello: "Sure."

Wheeler, K.: "Are the nurses that would be hired in this other situation, would it be required to be licensed?"

Costello: "They would be required to be licensed, but it's important to note that they have other protocols that they fall under besides the nurses from the INA."

Wheeler, K.: "Okay. That's fine. And then the second question I have for you is, does that employer currently have a collective bargaining agreement with that... the nurses at... in that entity?"

Costello: "I believe they're under the old agreement while they're working through the process."

Wheeler, K.: "I'm sorry. I couldn't hear you?"

Costello: "I believe they're under the old agreement while they're working through the process."

Wheeler, K.: "Thank you. To the Bill. We're hearing a lot of talk about a company that seems to have its share of issues in court and there may be management issues at that entity. I know we all want to have the highest end of care for every inmate, but I... I know a lot of nurses in my family and around me and they're all caring, giving people, committed to helping others. So, I hope we wouldn't continue to unfairly characterize any nurses, no matter who their employer or direct employer is, on either side of this aisle. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative McCombie."

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McCombie: "Does the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

McCombie: "Representative, is there any minimum manning for our prison guards?"

Costello: "Not that I'm aware of."

McCombie: "Okay. You and I spoke in... in length about this Bill. And I just want to speak to the Bill stating that I support Bills... or nurses and I support the industry. My LA has given her life to nursing and I'm very lucky to have somebody in... in the health industry supporting my constituents. And my sister-in-law is a high-end cardiac nurse as well and works 12-hour shifts like most of those that do in the industry. And I have to say that the level of stress regardless if you're in the prison system or in a cardiac unit, the stress level has to be the same and they've all taken the same oath to save a life. And that's got to be a pretty stressful situation regardless of where you're at in which building. I... I just want to say that I support reviewing us having a new vendor because if we indeed are having a vendor who is supporting 226 nurses poorly, we probably should look into that. And also, I support like I said to you the other day an increase in the workforce if it is indeed needed. And I wish this Bill, like Representative Ives had mentioned was with a ratio. I, unfortunately... although I do have the highest regard and support for nurses, I have to not support this particular Bill how it's... how it's written."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Thapedi."

Thapedi: "Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question."

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Speaker Lang: "No need, you were the last speaker. Mr. Costello to close."

Costello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the General Assembly. What I think we all need to be aware of is this action in... in my opinion, if Senate Bill 19 doesn't pass we're moving in a very dangerous direction. I... I... I think what this would do if Senate Bill 19 would not pass, we're putting costs over lives. We're putting costs over the value of humanity. This is about a standard of care to make sure that... that inmates who the vast majority maybe 80, 90 percent of them are going to come back out into the population of the State of Illinois and into the country. Making sure that they get the proper care, making sure that the communicable diseases that go on in... in the prison system that less of those are brought out into the population of the State of Illinois. And I would also like to remind everyone here that under the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, we all have to guard against cruel and unusual punishment. And... and when people who are in these prisons do not receive the proper care and when they don't receive it timely, that is in fact cruel and unusual punishment. I think all of our mothers at one point in time warned us about being pennywise and pound foolish. And at the end of the day, I think the other thing that saying is true, sometimes you get what you pay for. And... and there are times when it's more important to make sure that you have people that are producing quality results. We're not talking about cutting grass, trimming trees, whatever those cases may be. We're talking about people who have human beings lives in their hands. I'd ask for a 'yes' vote."

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Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Please record yourselves. Cavaletto. Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 68 voting 'yes', 42 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 109, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Harris. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 109, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. This Bill was read a second time on a previous day. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Greg Harris, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Harris."

Harris, G.: "Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move to adopt the Amendment and then debate the Bill on Third."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Amendment say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 109, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Harris."

Harris, G.: "Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Like a lot of you, you know, I start my day down here in Springfield reading *Capital Fax* to see what the news is that Rich Miller has printed for the day 'cause it's often very informative. This morning I learned some things I did not... did not know on

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Mr. Miller's blog. He was discussing a United Way of Illinois report and as I... as I read this, you know, while I knew the situation for Human Services in the State of Illinois are certainly dire, there are certain facts that jumped out at me 'cause I've just not seen this level of detail. And I think as we discuss a lifeline budget today, it's very important to keep these pieces of information in mind. According to the United Way of Illinois, 69 percent of our human service agencies have received no or only partial payments in FY17, most have received none. Less than 3 months since the stopgap budget ended at the end of 2016, 46 percent of all agencies surveyed have reduced the number of clients they serve. Those are things I think I knew, but what really stood out to me was the result of so many discussions that have taken place on this floor, a discussion that took place at our inauguration about the plague of drug abuse, mental illness and violence that is an epidemic in so many of our communities. And how important it was for us as Members of the General Assembly to address the issues of violence prevention and to fund and support those programs that prevent violence in our streets and that interrupt violence in our streets. Yet when you look at the what the United Way of Illinois has said, the programs that have received the 3 largest number of declines in service and in many cases have closed are the very agencies we rely on to interrupt youth and help them on a better path, get them a job, get them an education, make them productive members of society. Over 30 percent of the employment and job training programs in Illinois have reduced their clientele. Over a third of the

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community mental health centers in our state have reduced the number of people they serve. Well over 30 percent of the youth development organizations, the after school programs, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Ys, the first line of defense for kids when they get out of school, they have reduced their hours. If you look at the number of agencies that have just totally eliminated their programs because of lack of funding, just gone out of business, they've closed up shop and stopped serving people. The three largest categories are those who do criminal justice prevention, 35 percent of those programs have just shut for lack of funding. If you look at the agencies that provide employment and job training to youth, to get them off the streets and into a productive career, 20 percent of those agencies have closed. Those that provide youth development, 18 percent have closed. So Ladies and Gentlemen, you know, this is not only a crisis for the providers, for those that work for the providers, this is rapidly, you know, becoming a crisis in our communities and we're seeing the fruits of that in so many of the cases of drug abuse, addiction and violence that we're seeing on our streets. And these issues... violence prevention are addressed in this lifeline as are other human service programs and higher ed. And in the higher ed arena in the last week or so we've seen particularly dire news from our colleges, universities and community colleges in the State of Illinois. Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, President Randy Dunn announced on March 28th a declaration of financial emergency. They... the board allowed unrestricted borrowing from SIU-E. They announced program cuts in Carbondale of 25

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to 30 million dollars. In Bloomington, at Illinois State University, President Larry Dietz said, we can continue indefinitely, but if you ask how long you can go before we are severely, perhaps permanently damaged, President Dietz said, that time has already come. In Eastern Illinois University of Charleston, President David Glassman has announced 413 trimmed positions, 24 percent of their headcount. At Western Illinois University in Macomb, President Jack Thomas has cut faculty pay after they gave up a earlier pay increase to keep the university open. At Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago about 300 student employees have had to be furloughed so that the full-time employees can keep their jobs. So Ladies and Gentlemen, while this... the Bill I'm presenting you today is not a complete solution it is a solution that spends money that is right... that is currently available. That is sitting in accounts, essentially just waiting to be spent, but needs an appropriation from this General Assembly in order to go out to the violence prevention folks, to go out to the human service agencies and to go out to our institutions of higher learning. These are not bills that will wait, if this Bill passes and becomes law. These are not payments that will wait in line behind the 12 billion other dollars that are at the Comptroller's. These are funds that are in segregated funds, the Commitment to Human Services Fund and the Educational Activities Fund where, when the bills are received and processed, checks can be written and money can go out the door into our communities right away. I'll tell you briefly what the Bill does, I'll be happy to answer questions. So, in

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the area of human services, House Bill 109 appropriates \$258 million for social service agencies who are currently not being paid through consent decrees or a stopgap budget. It adds domestic violence shelters and Safe From the Start to the lines that were appropriated in our previous stopgap. It also contains language for certain agencies that were not able to execute their full contracts for the previous stopgap because of contract problems at DHS. It will allow a look-back period for programs such as the Autism Program, Homeless Youth, Immigrant Integration, Welcoming Centers to still spend from the approp authority we gave them in the previous stopgap Bill. So, to give you just a sample of the human service categories that are included in the stopgap, we are talking about senior meal program, grandparents raising grandchildren, grants areas on agencing, CCP Program. That's among those in the Department of Aging. In human services we are talking about the Immigrant Integration Program, we're talking about psych grants for psychiatric leadership and other mental health services, the project for Autism, epilepsy services, addiction treatment, the Emergency Food Program, Homelessness Prevention, Children's Place, Infant Mortality Prevention Program, Supportive Housing Services, services for homeless youth, after school programs and youth programming and a summer youth jobs program. In the area of public health and that... that was not an exhaustive list, but a sample. And again, in public health we are funding the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, the U of I Sickle Cell Clinic. We are funding the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Department and we are funding the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer

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Program. In the Criminal Justice Information Authority for Violence Prevention and Interruption, we would fund both youth and adult redeploy and diversion programs and Operation CeaseFire. In higher education, the appropriation is \$559 million for higher education purposes. This is \$287 million for MAP, which is approximately one and half semesters of MAP funding that would go to families and then go directly to universities in our state. You will also see in the Community College Program, we've appropriated the appropriate percentage of the community college funding to be distributed according to their grant formula. But you will also see \$50.3 million for career and technical education, a very important category for a lot of our community colleges also. And this is particularly important because if we do not appropriate this money, we run the risk of being in violation of a federal Maintenance of Effort agreement which would cost us potentially \$41 million that would have to be refunded to the feds and the loss of federal funds moving forward. We also provide funding to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for a variety of scholarship programs, some of which incentivize Illinois residents to get medical degrees if they come back and work in our veterans homes. There's a similar program to incentivize teachers to get an education degree and then return to the State of Illinois and teach in under.. underserved areas. We fund the alternative schools network and Lincoln's Challenge Program for youth who are going through troubled times and need additional assistance to complete their education. And we do pro rata distributions to the public universities of the State of Illinois. Ladies and

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Gentlemen, that is a quick summary of the Bill. I would be happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Andersson."

Andersson: "Thank... thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I'll speak directly to the Bill. When we passed the stopgap budget back in June that ran through December, that was a bipartisan effort. And I think it took maybe a month or so for that work to be completed. And I know that Representative Fortner, in particular, was instrumental in making that happen. Now, some may disagree with the wisdom of passing that, others might agree strongly with that is was a good idea. But we did it together, Ladies and Gentlemen. Not this time; not this time. This got dropped this week. And granted, I appreciate the fact that we got a few days to look at it, but we didn't have any input into it. And that's not the way that we should be doing this. And although I'm not going to argue with Representative Harris that the programs he outlined are good and important and necessary, they are. There's not a question about that. It's how do we do this correctly? And by the way, when you do things quickly like this we also pick up mistakes. We pick up mistakes. For example, one of the programs is the Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program, that's a \$1.5 million new appropriation. The employees have been laid off and the program is disbanded. It's gone. You just... you're appropriating 1.5 million for something that doesn't exist. We have an African-American Family Commission and Latino Family Commission, each increased by \$265 thousand. Neither entity is currently eligible to receive funds previously appropriated for FY17 due to noncompliance issues with

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reporting. They can't accept the money. Then we go to the STEM. Diversity Initiative, \$1.4666 million. The program ceased as of April 3, 2016, no employees, not currently being operated. Then we've got your... you've got your Grow Your Teacher Program. Now, that program still exists and since its inception it's spent more than \$20 million. And the result of that \$20 million is 80 teachers who are teaching, quarter million dollars apiece in that case. Now, that may... I won't even argue... maybe that's a good program, but is it an emergency program? I don't think it is. And now, I don't mean to belittle these things; this is important stuff, but it's the way that we do this that matters. These could have just been mistakes and that's fine, I accept that. But we also forget things that should be in our budgets. For example, another is that we have two DHS schools. The high school for the deaf and the school for the visually impaired. Important programs. Those aren't included in House Bill 109. And of course, most of our programs are being operated by court orders or consent decrees, which includes our mental health hospitals, our Early Intervention, our child care. And again, my point is, is that this is the exact wrong way to go about it. Now, we are all here to do the right thing, I know we are, on both sides. And it's important to remember that when doing that sometimes the hardest vote is a vote like this. At least it is for me. Because I stay up at night wondering who died today, who died today because of our inaction. And granted, some of the things that have passed with this will resolve that, but it won't resolve it all. It won't resolve it the way a budget would resolve it, a full budget. For

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example, this morning in mental health we heard testimony in a subject matter hearing about how our prisons and our jails cannot handle the mental health crisis that they're dealing with. They have to release prisoners with three days meds and maybe a prescription for two weeks, if they ever follow up on it. And those were the prisons with the best equipment. Some of the downstate prisons said we would love to have that, we have none of that. So, we release prisoners with mental health issues on to the street with zero follow-up, zero follow-up. Ladies and Gentlemen, that's going to kill people. That's going to kill people. And it's going to answer my question, I wonder who died today because of our inaction. So my point here, is that while it's a terribly hard decision I am going to urge a 'no' vote. Not because I don't feel compassion for all of these programs and all of the people. The problem is, when you vote 'yes' for this what happens? The pressure gets released off of us again. And I know you can then call me a hostage taker, right? Feel free. It's been done before. But the reality is we don't do things around here without pressure. And so, we need that pressure to get to a full budget, not a budget like this. And also remember I suspect, maybe I'm wrong, but I suspect if this is the stopgap budget for the FY17 to finish out the year what this means is a net reduction in higher ed and a net reduction for social services. And it's not small. In higher ed, if this is all they're going to get it's going to be 48 to 60 percent. So, 40 percent cut. For our social services it's far worse. Domestic violence shelters, if this is it 36 percent of what they received in FY16. Infant Mortality, 36 percent. The Aging

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program for senior meals, 38 percent. The Community Care Program, 56 percent. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is not the way to do this. I have been begging. I've done it here on the House Floor, I've done it on Facebook. I've done it with constituents back home and here. Heck, I even did it last night at midnight in the rain walking around this Capitol thinking about exactly this. And I posted about it. Not that that's relevant, but the point is, is it's a constant reminder that we need a real budget and a full budget. You do this.. you do this, you can go home and feel good and I respect that, but think about all the people that you're leaving out 'cause you're leaving out a lot. We need a full budget for this state. We need to come together and work on that together. And I have had good conversations on your side of the aisle and my side of the aisle on that, but it's not enough. We've got to do more. This is not the way to do that, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would respectfully and it's a really hard thing to say, it's a really hard thing to say, but I respectfully urge a 'no' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Ladies and Gentlemen, we still have 10 speakers on this Bill. So, the Chair... 11... 12... so, the Chair is asking for restraint. Mr. Olsen."

Olsen: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill specifically appropriates certain dollars that will be used to.. at the Illinois Community College Board for base operating grants. As a current trustee and vice chairman of a community college, I believe I could have a potential conflict, so I will vote 'present'. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Harris."

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Harris, D.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, wow. How do you vote against universities, community colleges, MAP grants, mental illness, Autism, epilepsy, Emergency Food Program, Infant Mortality, addition... addition... addiction prevention, domestic violence shelter, area agencies on aging, Community Care Program? All of us have screamed for months about lack of a budget. And.. and how in the world. We've screamed about higher ed, we've screamed social services, all those priorities that need a budget. So, how do we vote against this? Well, what does it do? You know what it does, it gives crumbs... it gives crumbs to those institutions and organizations that rely on us. Now, they say, well, Harris, how can you say that \$800 million to higher ed is crumbs? Eight hundred million dollars if you... if you combine the previous stopgap with what's contained in here. How can you call that crumbs? If you look at FY15, the last time higher ed got a full budget, their budget was \$2 billion. This... if you take the previous 22 months, when we haven't had a budget, we're now going to have roughly 50 percent of that, about a billion dollars in each of two fiscal years for higher ed. No, 800 million isn't crumbs, but basically it's not being funded properly. Now look, when someone is starving, which is really what's happening with higher ed and social services, that person will accept crumbs. But this Legislature has a responsibility to pass a full budget and that is a responsibility that we have failed. You know, our Constitution states very clearly that the General Assembly shall by law make appropriations for the expenditure of all public funds. It doesn't say, we'll make expenditures only

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for those other state funds but not general revenue. It doesn't say we'll make expenditures for just federal funds, but not general revenue. And of course, we know we have the constitutional requirement that appropriations shall not exceed revenue estimates. So, we don't have a full budget. Now, the Democrats will say, well, it's the Governor's fault. He won't sign a budget without his agenda items. And my colleagues on the other side may stay... stand up and say, well, Harris, you're just a tool of the Governor. Well, I disagree. I'll stand here and tell the Governor that, no, Governor, you know what term limits have nothing to do with a budget. Doesn't bring in any money, doesn't cut any money. Now, the Republicans will say, well, it's the Speaker's fault. Speaker won't give on anything; he won't do anything on workers compensation. And the Speaker says, workers' compensation will destroy the middle class. Oh, horse feathers. It's not going to destroy the middle class and it's justified that maybe we can talk about workers' compensation to get a budget. What we need, in my estimation, I'm not a very bright guy. But what we need in my estimation is a true crisis. A true crisis. The previous speaker kind of made reference to this. What we have is like a closed tea kettle in which steam is building up. And if there is not some relief in that building up steam, there's going to be an explosion. And this is what we've done with these stopgaps. We are giving relief valves to this steam that has been building up. It's been done in several areas; and in my estimation, it's wrong. We fund elementary and secondary education, we fund Medicaid, we fund state employees salaries, now we're going to fund a bit more

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to higher education and social services. All of those are relief valves to the steam that's building up. Let me tell you this. My opinion is this, if we didn't fund elementary and secondary education, if we didn't fund Medicaid, if we didn't fund salaries for state employees, if we don't fund House Bill 109, we'd have a budget. Because the crisis would be so great the people of the State of Illinois simply wouldn't tolerate it. And the pressure would be so great on us, we'd have to pass a full budget. No matter what the Governor, no matter what the Speaker said, they'd feel the same pressure. But as long... as long as we continue to... to open up these relief valves and give crumbs to those organizations that need the dollars to stay alive, as long as we continue to do that, this budget stalemate is going to continue. Now, look, I am not unsympathetic to the needs of higher education and social services, but it doesn't give them the funding that they truly deserve. That they had after FY15 or when they have the FY15 budget, whether it's higher education or social services. It doesn't give them the funding they deserve. It simply says, we know there's a problem. That's a recognition here. There's a recognition that there's a problem and we're not going to solve the problem entirely, we're just going to feed out a little bit. So, you know, we're going to keep you going... we're going to keep you going, but we're not going to solve the problem. That's what we need to do. Solve this problem and you solve this problem, quite frankly, perhaps with a crisis that's even bigger than the crisis that we have. But that's the only way that we're going

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to get a budget. And this is not going to do it. I recommend a 'no' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Pritchard."

Pritchard: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. Ladies and Gentlemen, I know most of us have probably been visiting some of our human service agencies, our community colleges or our universities over the last couple of weeks and months. If you've talked to the Presidents of those organizations, you'll understand the challenge that they have in not knowing what this Legislature is going to appropriate. The challenges are immense. How do you deal with a fiscal plan and the employees and the employees that want reasonable health care benefits not knowing if the state's going to give them 10 percent or 15 percent or, oh gee, 24 percent of what we gave you last June? It's an impossible task. And what we're doing by simply extending these types of lifelines or stopgaps or bridge budgets is extending the agony that they have to deal with. And there's lots of talk about our students that are leaving the state. Those that are staying in the state may not be going to college because they don't know what this Legislature intends to do with MAP grants. We've reduced MAP grants; we've not funded MAP grants. Oh, then, we give a semester or two of MAP grants. How can a student plan his college career not knowing what the future holds? Stopgap budgets don't answer that question and they don't give assurances to the students. And those students are going to continue to stay home and go out of state if they have the money. We need to get a full budget. I appreciate the mention of the United Way survey. I was going to mention that as well.

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Those organizations have cut programs; they've cut staff; they've not given services to essential clients. How is a little bit of more money going to solve any issue, help them plan what their program is for the next 6 months or a year? And the clients that get the services they know they need beyond just the crumbs as has been mentioned. Ladies and Gentlemen, it's time for us to do more than relieve the steam, as was just mentioned, in our tea kettle. It's time for this Legislative Body to be committed to a full-year budget. A full-year budget that includes revenue, that includes some cuts, that includes some reforms that will grow jobs in this state instead of us losing jobs as we have done over the last decade. It's time that we come together in a bipartisan fashion to work on a full-year budget. I'm committed to that. I hope you're committed to that. And in the next 30 days, I hope we will come with that bipartisan budget. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "We now have 15 speakers prepared to speak, please be brief. Representative Gabel."

Gabel: "Thank you... thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the... to the Bill. To the Bill. First, I would like to thank you for bringing this Bill forward. We... we have... we know that these are special funds. They are in a separate... it's not part of General Revenue Funds. These are separate funds that are to be used in Fiscal Year 2017. By voting 'no' and not funding these programs, we know that people will suffer. We know that students will not be able to go to school. We know that universities will be closer... closer to closing. I strongly disagree with the theory that building up steam and getting things to be worse is the way we want to go. You know, I've

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heard that story before when I was fighting to get kid care and health care coverage for uninsured children. I... I was attacked for that. I was attacked from the left and there were... Doctor Quinten Young said, well, you know, we shouldn't expand health coverage for children. We shouldn't cover children until we can get universal health care coverage for everyone. So, therefore, we shouldn't cover children. And you know, I... I'm here to help people any way that I can. I think that voting for this Bill, getting some money into the hands of social service agencies and universities, will help them. And that doesn't mean that we still don't need to pass a full budget, of course we do. But we need to do this as well. And I encourage everyone to vote for this today because it is our job to help the people in the State of Illinois. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Demmer: "Representative, I appreciate some of the conversations we had in committee last night. I won't rehash all of those, but I do have a few things that stood out amid some of the more heated rhetoric and accusations that we saw last night. Representative Andersson, in his opening talked about several programs that seem odd to be included here for a variety of reasons. Programs that have had questions about the effectiveness of those programs in the past, the... the dollars that we're spending there, programs that don't exist today. He... he mentioned the Grow Your Own Teachers Program, a million and a half dollars there. The Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program has been shuttered, a million and a half

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dollars there. All told, those items that Representative Andersson mentioned total over \$10 million. One question and answer that struck me last night in committee was, one of our colleagues asked you... from... from your side asked you... they mentioned that Members on your side had advocated for the inclusion of certain programs in the Bill. And he asked if you'd be willing to accept Members from our side of the aisle making a case for programs that we strongly believe in to be included in this budget? And you offered that if we... if we really believe in a program, we should bring it to you and then propose to cut Autism funding or services like that in order to make room for it acknowledging that we have a fixed amount of money and many competing priorities. So, my question for you is, when folks came to advocate for the inclusion of some of these programs that Representative Andersson mentioned out... mentioned, what did you cut in order to make room for the Grow Your Own Teachers Program or the Chicago Area Curators Program?"

Harris, G.: "Representative, you know, these are programs that serve very difficult populations. You know, some of the most vulnerable and some of the most underserved populations in our communities. And we feel it's very important to be sure that everyone has an opportunity to get the help they need to achieve their goals in life. And for a lot of these folks, going to college, getting training and preparation to be successful is very important. And sometimes it's very hard. Sometimes it's very hard for these programs, given that they are working with folks who... it's a big leap."

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Demmer: "And I understand that. And there may be strong reasons to... to merit the inclusion of these programs, but there's a very clear indication that you gave that said, if there's a program that somebody on our side of the aisle believes is appropriate and should be included, we had to tell you what should be cut in order to make room for it. Did that not hold true for programs on your side of the aisle? And if it did hold true, what programs did you cut?"

Harris, G.: "We appropriated based on requests of these different agencies to be included. There are some who said, if we had funds we would be able to start up again. There were some who said, if we had money for new scholarships we would begin to offer new ones, but given uncertainty of funding they closed their admissions 'cause they did not want someone to start through a college admissions process only to be dropped one or two years in. So, given the certainty of some funding, I think you'll see some of these programs begin to accept new folks in them again."

Demmer: "Thank you, Representative. Mr. Speaker, to the Bill. I think this is what happens when a budget is put together with only input from one side of the aisle. We don't have input into the prioritization of programs, into how certain decisions were made. And we're simply presented with a take it or leave it approach. A take it or leave it approach with maybe 24 hours of notice. And then said, if we don't like the Bill as it's written exactly, we either find things to cut out of it or we don't care about people. We don't care about people. That's far from the truth. In fact, let me give you a little bit of a budget reality check here. For 12 years in

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the State of Illinois, one Party controlled both the House, the Senate and the Governor's Office. One Party. And over that time, we saw unbalanced budget after unbalanced budget. We saw taxes being raised, we saw pensions being raid... raided. And we saw one time accounting gimmicks that made budgets appear as if they were balanced in one year, only to push forward the problems into the next year. This is a crisis of our own making. Democrats in 2015 passed... or in May of 2014 passed the FY15 budget. You acknowledged it was out of balance, you acknowledged it would lead to more unpaid bills. And the hope at the time was maybe Governor Quinn will win reelection and we can pass a tax increase to pay for all these things. When that didn't happen in 2015, we, as House Republicans, came and worked with you on a fix for the FY15 budget. And all House Republicans voted 'yes' for programs that were underfunded in the Democrats introduced budget. We funded child care, home services, mental health, developmental disability grants, Early Intervention. We came and all House Republicans negotiated and came to support on that Bill providing more votes the Democratic Caucus provided on a fix for a budget that was doomed from the beginning. Then in 2016, Democrats introduced, again on their own, a \$4.6 billion out of balance budget. In FY17, a \$7 billion out of balance budget. Yet, even after being ignored and left out of the budget-making process for years, House Republicans came together with Democrats and negotiated a bipartisan stopgap budget last summer. So, the message we're taking out of this is that when we work together we can achieve sustainable budgets; we can achieve things that recognize

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priorities from all of us. When we one Party goes at it alone, we're... we end up with unbalanced budgets that... that do not lead to any predictability or stability for people across the state. What we need today is not another stopgap that was cooked up by one Party and dropped in a take it or leave it approach. What we need today is bipartisan negotiation on a comprehensive, balanced budget that we can all have input in and that we can all support, not the same old budget gimmicks and games that have got us to this point. Mr. Speaker, if this Bill should receive the requisite number of votes, I request a verification."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Fortner."

Fortner: "Thank you, Speaker. To the Bill. My name was used early in debate and I'm glad it was because I think I can understand the importance of being able to use these funds, the EAF, as well as the Commitment Fund that we are using for social services here. Because it was just 12 months ago that we were faced with a real crisis, a crisis... not to say that we are not in crisis now, we are, but there was a crisis of such near impending date that we had to come together and act. And that was because we were facing a date where one of our institutions of higher education, Chicago State, was about to close its doors with the possibility they might not ever be able to open those doors again. And we are... we reached the point where we were only maybe a week away from that. And what we were able to do is by identifying in this case the Educational Assistance Fund and working myself as well as a number of Members across the aisle recognized the importance of this crisis. We were able to put together what we needed

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using the resources we had at that moment to solve a crisis that was truly upon us. We had nowhere else to go. And we did it in a bipartisan way. And we did it in a bicameral way. And we did it in a way that got things to the point where we could avoid that real disaster of a school closing, potentially not to open again. And I say that to draw some distinctions. To say, these are important funds, these funds are for the purposes stated in the Bill before us, House Bill 109, that's what they're for. But as other speakers have noted, what this process lacked was the work that we did when we were using the EAF a year ago, working together, both sides of the aisle saying, we know... we can agree how much money is going to be remaining for fiscal year 2017 in these funds. We may have slightly different numbers, I don't think they're that... so far apart we wouldn't be able to come to agreement on that. And as we did last year, then be able to say, let's put our heads together and let's figure out how do we use that money for its intended purpose and get that money out the door. I would dearly like to see us do that. I'd like to take a step forward, as many others have noted and let's look at that same type of thinking for the whole state's budget. I wasn't involved with the June negotiations, but again, you had Members from both sides, from both chambers working to put something together. I think that's the process we need to be looking at today. Not something that is put together only on one side and doesn't really bring us together so we can solve this bigger problem in the state. For that reason, I have to reluctantly be voting 'no'. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Bellock."

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Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Bellock: "Thank you. And you know I respect you, Representative Harris and all your work that you've done on human services, we've worked a lot together and all the Members of the Human Service Committee on both sides, Human Service Approp too. I think we all know what we want, everybody has mentioned it today. I'm not sure if you got this letter today, this e-mail from the Coalition on Domestic Violence, did you?"

Harris, G.: "I don't remember receiving one."

Bellock: "I'd just like to read a small portion of it because this is something that a lot of people on our side of the aisle have brought up as a concern in not addressing the full budget. It says, we realize this Amendment would do a lot of good for other social service agencies and higher education; however, it's not a good Bill for domestic violence agencies. The Bill appropriates approximately only one-third of the funds promised to our providers by their FY17 contracts with DHS. Our providers rendered services in reliance on these contracts. This \$6.6 million would satisfy expenses incurred through September of last year and will not have an impact on current operations. It will not allow agencies to survive cuts or closures. And it will not bring laid off staff back. It does nothing to help them plan for their future business operations. We were neither consulted about this Amendment nor were we allowed to offer input. Our great fear is that we will be the only money... this will be the only money we will receive in FY17 and that we will have to wait many months for

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any further funding, much like what happened this year with the 10-month delay, if this Bill is to survive a Veto. We need the full 18.6 million contract amount. Our agencies will soon be asked to enter into FY18 contracts. And how can we advise them to do so in a timely state GRF reimbursement? This is an issue I think that has been brought up that is our major concern with all these social service agencies. And what do we say to them?"

Harris, G.: "Each agency in the list I read you, we distributed the funds that are available for human services equally. Now, you... there were a number of points in that letter. There was the issue of the Department of Human Services sending out contracts to agencies who they... when they signed and came back executed, believe they had the authority to submit bills. And they... they found out that was not true. You know, this is the nature of the IPNC lawsuit that is before the judge now, this same process. So, that... that's one issue. Actually, I have had several meetings with the Coalition Against Violence and the Chicago Battered Women's Network and we've talked about their needs. So, I fully understand that, yes, they would like as would Autism and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and others to get all their money. But I think the fair way when you have this limited resource, a finite resource that we can spend, is to give everyone an equal share."

Bellock: "Well, two of the questions that I asked in committee yesterday you answered; one was the methodology that you came up with the funding, the other was the timing. And I think in this e-mail she, again, puts that out there. That they had no

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time to comment on this and that's what I've heard from several of the other people today. To the Bill, Mr. Speaker. We all agree, all of us here especially the human service people that are dedicated and the university people and the education people, we know that these people need funding. We know that they need our help. But they need real help right now, not a Band-Aid approach that I am afraid that this approach and this fiscal approach takes. We cannot continue to kick the can down the road. We all embraced the stopgap budget last year. We all embraced it because we worked together as was said before in a bicameral, bipartisan way. But I'm telling you right now, the real long-term fiscal effects from after what we've done this year I think will show the bond houses not only here, in New York, it will show the corporations that are interested in moving into Illinois, it will show the university students, it will show the university professors that we do not stand on a strong fiscal footing. Do they want to risk making their decisions on a state that for two years in a row is only giving a stopgap budget and no real budget like almost every other state in the United States does. We did it last year, but we didn't do it thinking that we were going to move forward and this was going to become an annual budget process. Stopgap budgets are not to be an annual good fiscal budgeting process. So, what I'm asking you today is that, are we going to show the rest of the residents and the families in the State of Illinois and throughout the United States that we are going to leave this state in the same status quo that it was last year with no corrections, no moving forward in a strong fiscal footing

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to attract businesses to Illinois, to attract health care to stay in Illinois, to attract our university students who have moved out to come back, to attract our university professors who are being recruited by some of the other best educational institutions in Illinois out of our university system? This is an issue that we have to face. It is not just the contentious issue within our House of Representatives as to who's right or who's wrong. I think that this vote today and moving forward into a single budget for the State of Illinois is really what is going to sustain our state in the future as a state that people want to stay in and not move out of, a state that our students want to stay in and not move out of and that they want to come back to and bring businesses back to and lead the family lifestyle that all Illinoisans have been proud of all their lives. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Willis."

Willis: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Willis: "Mr. Harris, we had some robust discussions yesterday in committee and one of things that I asked you was, would this Bill stop us from continuing to work on a full budget?"

Harris, G.: "No. What this legislation I hope will do will allow agencies and universities and violence centers to continue to exist, to not layoff their employees, to not close up their shop, not to release their clients. That's what I hope this Bill will do and I would welcome a conversation and discussion of a full budget in a bipartisan way. And I will just mention to folks on the other side who brought up that you were not invited to participate. As I will remind you, that when we

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had a similar discussion back in January of this year the same comment was made. Oh goodness, you know, you were not invited to participate. And at the time, I had the letter with me signed by all the Members of the Democratic budget working group on our side to the House Republicans, also to the Senate Democrats and Senate Republicans, inviting people to come and work with us in a bipartisan way. There was not a response from the House Republicans. I have a letter from Leader Radogno saying they chose not to participate. The Senate did appoint Democratic Members. But... so, the offer was extended to you. The offer was extended to you. It's... the offer is still open. I would love to work with you, but I feel it's very important to correct that record."

Willis: "All right. And let me continue on. To this Bill. We have seen, unfortunately, what has happened over on the Senate side when they were working bipartisanly on a budget that was going through. And we saw the Republicans and the Democrats work towards a great scheme. In fact, the Governor himself took credit for this grand scheme of what was going to fix us. And then, at the last hour put a brick on it and killed it. So, this is something that I feel that the Governor is not going to be working with us in his best interests. And I would hate to see us stop and not pay some of these vital programs that we have in here. I have heard today numerous speakers from the other side of the aisle, I heard it yesterday in committee, I have heard it for the last few months on how much they care for our human service agencies. How much they want to help those human service agencies, how much they are concerned and want to help our universities

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keep their doors open and help the students be part of their grand... get their education and have their MAP grants. One of my colleagues just said that he doesn't want to have to vote 'no' to universities or vote 'no' to the domestic violence shelters, vote 'no' for any of these things that we have in this Bill. We know it's not the perfect Bill. We know this is just a lifeline that is why it's not called a full budget. But if you truly care about these agencies, if you truly care about the students that are going to be affected when we don't give them MAP grants so that they can continue with their education, when they have to get laid off from their school jobs, when we have to cut more staffing at various places, when we have to cut... close the doors at our homeless shelters and have people be out on the street because there's no safe place to be there. Well, then you're not going to be voting for this Bill. But I would urge you instead to say that you do care. And that you do vote for this Bill. I urge an 'aye' vote from everyone. Those on the other side of the aisle, too, as we will continue to work with you on a full budget. But this is a lifeline budget that is necessary and we need to vote 'yes' on it now. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Guzzardi."

Guzzardi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. I think this... we all know that we need a budget, guys. We all understand that. None of us is sitting here saying that this is sufficient or adequate or that this is how we should do budgets. Everybody understands that this is not the way this ought to be done. Democrats don't think that stopgaps and lifelines are the way that we should budget, I promise you. That's not the view on

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this side of the aisle. But this is a really simple issue in this Bill. There is money sitting around, sitting in bank accounts being unspent. It's just sitting there and by voting against this Bill it's just going to keep sitting there. This isn't about a tax increase. The Governor was on Facebook yesterday saying that this is going to massively increase the debt in the state. This Bill will not do that. It's just taking the money that is sitting around in bank accounts and spending it on agencies that are dying, spending it on universities that desperately need it. I promise you we want to work in good faith with you on a full budget. I promise you we all want that. And we intend to work on that. But in the interim, please, just help us get this money out of a bank account that's just sitting there doing nothing and help us put it in the hands of the service providers who need it. Yeah, it's crumbs. Yeah, it's not a full appropriation. Yeah, it's not the full year. We know. We want to do proper, fiscally responsible budgeting, we really do. But in the interim this money is sitting around and if we let this Bill die, if we vote against this Bill, we're saying we just want the money to keep accumulating in a pile while our agencies suffer. I really don't think that's what any of us wants. I urge you, please join us in supporting this Bill. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ives."

Ives: "Thank you. I thought you said Reis. Okay. Mr. Speaker, to the Bill. You just heard the previous speaker say that this money is just sitting around there and that we should use it. You're right. We should use the money that's sitting around because right now sitting at the Comptroller are vouchers in

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excess of \$880 million that K-12 education is owed for mandated categoricals. We haven't paid them. They need a lifeline too. Your budget does nothing to address this whatsoever. There's no lifeline in here for K-12 education. Eight hundred and eighty million dollars is owed to them. And it's... so if there's some money sitting around, send it to them. Let's go. Let's put some together and get that happening too. This budget is woefully inadequate. And let's start with the first thing that we have not done in the House. We have not decided on a revenue number. When I first started here, we began... we began with adopting a revenue number in a bipartisan unanimous way, we have yet to do that for the last two years. There's no revenue number. And we better get to it quick because every time we think that we have revenue, we get a report from COGFA saying that we're down the next month. In fact, right now the latest... the COGFA report I have in front of me says that we're down 7 and a half percent from previous years. And then, we're dipping below \$32 billion in revenues. Well, we better understand what our revenue number is before we decide to do a budget. So, let's start with that. We can't even get to that yet and you want to do a stopgap budget? Speaking of stopgap budgets, when we passed the last one, I was 1 of 4 Representatives who voted against it. Why? Because I knew full well without a full budget in place we would continue to spend money we don't have. And sure enough, back when we passed that we were about \$10 billion in unpaid bills for the current accounts, now we're about \$14 billion. So, by kicking the can down the road and not coming up with a full budget, you are essentially just adding to the backlog

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of bills. This does nothing to solve that. Everybody wants a full budget. So, after you pass this stopgap 'cause I have no doubt that your side will pass this stopgap, after you do this, what are we going to do then? What are we going to do then? Is the next crisis going to be whether or not our schools open? Are we then going to get a new court order, you must fund schools, so that our entire budget system is based off of consent decrees, court orders and continuing Approps? Well, speaking of continuing Approps, the \$818 million you want here, guess what, that's the entire amount that's going to be sucked up in new pension costs next year. We're going to spend about \$8.8 billion on pensions next year, well exceeding 25 percent of our General Revenue Funds. This is... this does nothing toward... to address that. Everything you're talking about in this Bill, dollars wise, we're going to spend all of that in new pension costs, new, one year increase. One year, it's shameful. And unless we do pension reform we're going to get nowhere in this state. Real constitutional pension reform. And there are Bills sitting in Pension Committee that cannot be called... that will not be called for a hearing 'cause you won't let them be called. I've asked for subject matter hearings, at least on the Tier III, no go. And you guys are going to sit here and... and... and monkey around with \$800 million when K-12 is owed that right now, when Pension Committee... when pension costs is going to increase that much. We need a real full budget and we need to first identify the amount of revenue that we have. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Davidsmeyer."

Davidsmeyer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

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Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Davidsmeyer: "Representative Harris, would you be willing to pull this Bill from the record?"

Harris, G.: "I think I'd like to continue the debate and have a vote today, Sir."

Davidsmeyer: "Okay. It was worth a try, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. You've all heard the quote, 'those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it'. And this is very recent history. If you just look over the past couple of years and a number of people have mentioned it, but I just want to make sure we all understand that every single budget that was a go it alone Majority Party, Democrat budget has never amounted to anything except a... an empty promise. The only things that have actually spent money on stuff that we all care about is when we have come together. As was mentioned, when we came together to fix the 2015 budget that intentionally had a \$1.6 billion hole in it. When we came together on the stopgap, that we came together and discussed, negotiated and passed people actually got funding. Right? Can you name... well I... I guess I won't ask... ask the question since I went to the... to the Bill, but just ask yourself this question. Name one time that the Democrats went it alone on a budget where it actually ended up spending money on services that we all care about. Name one time... anybody over there, can you name one time? I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Stratton."

Stratton: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. My first time speaking in this chamber as a new Legislator was saying the names of three children ages 12, 11 and 2 that were victims

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of senseless gun violence. So, it offends me when I hear the words we need a true crisis. As if that crisis has not already reared its ugly head. In 2016 in the City of Chicago, we had 4,331 shooting victims. Some of those in my district. And so again, I ask if you think that we're still waiting for the steam to blow the top off the tea kettle, well, that water is already boiling. And it's not just in Chicago. It's in communities all over this state that are hurting. And right now we need to do something to help communities which are starving and communities which by the way, to reference a statement earlier, would do anything to just even have the crumbs. So, we have to ask ourselves as a state, who are we? And ask ourselves as a state, what do we value? And we have to ask ourselves, are we here to represent ourselves and our own interests or are we here to represent the interests of those that we serve? So, I strongly urge an 'aye' vote on House Bill 109. I strongly urge that we not let the perfect become the enemy of the good. The previous speaker said that we first have to identify a revenue number. Well, if the Governor presented one then perhaps we would have the perfect, but right now, we don't. So, today the best we can do is use the funds that we have currently available and serve the organizations that need a lifeline. We need to make sure that seniors continue to get meals because we value our elders. We need to make sure we continue to divert people from the justice system and allow them to get community based services because we value reducing mass incarceration and giving people a second chance. We need to provide cancer screenings and addiction prevention services because we value health and

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wellness for our residents. And we need to help universities and community colleges keep their doors open and give students the opportunity to advance their education through MAP grants because we're a state that says we value education and opening up doors of opportunity. So, again, we need to provide violence prevention programs because we want our children to have the opportunities that Kanari, Takiya and Lavontay never had and that was to be able to grow up and be adults. So again, I strongly urge an 'aye' vote on House Bill 109."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ammons."

Ammons: "Thank you. Mr. Speaker, to the Bill. This is not the perfect Bill, as we have already heard from both sides of the aisle. But so that we are working with the same definition of what a lifeline is I decided to look it up. A lifeline is simply a rope or a line used to save a life, typically one thrown to rescue someone in difficult waters. A thing on which someone or something depends or which provides a means of escape from a difficult situation. That's the meaning of a lifeline. For the last, now our third year, we have had many conversations in this room about having to cut. And for decades people like me who came from the human service field, we experienced decades of cuts, year after year after year, to the point that our current full budget if we begin to continue to cut by virtue of this audience here, we will simply be cutting out that which has been cut for 20 to 30 years. Underfunding higher ed, underfunding K-12, underfunding human services and every other segment of the budget. And I've heard that we need a full budget in this chamber today, which I don't believe anyone disagrees with,

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but... but the catch, public, the catch is in order to get one our great Governor said you can't have a budget unless you give me my few Turnaround Agenda items that would get rid of those darn Democrats that we don't want to deal with. And he also says that we won't give you a budget unless you redraw these maps so that I can control it with my \$100 million. That is why we don't have a budget. That is the only reason why we don't have a budget. And we have to be honest about that. The State of Illinois has had a budget for 190-plus years with Democrats and Republicans operating in this same chamber. But yet, in the last 2 years, we've been unable to pass a budget because the terms of getting the budget literally decimates certain communities. It is about timing. Agencies have been struggling for the last 2 years and we all know it. And we've not done the thing necessary because you all, frankly, refuse to stand against the Governor holding us hostage with his non-budgetary items. And that's why we do not have a budget. So, this good faith effort on the part of this good Representative is truly to do something that my husband taught me a long time ago. It's quoted as a slow be to no. It's a colloquial term used in some urban areas that I've learned over the years that are slow be to no. They would rather have the money now to pay those back bills than to have no money to pay any bills. And some of those agencies that you named that have closed, you closed them. You closed them by standing with this Governor who refuses to simply pass a budget. That's why they're not here anymore. Not because we don't like them or we don't want to fund them. It's because you closed them. You allowed them to sink. This

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is a lifeline. A lifeline is designed to save a life. And we are calling on you today to step away from the Governor's agenda. Step away from his proposition that we can't get a budget unless we give him that which he decides is the most important thing in Illinois. But the people know that they need a budget to save their children's lives. And that is what this Bill will do, is give you an opportunity to step in the gap where there is a true gap in service in our communities. And this is not an excuse to vote 'no'. Cause it was not given at your time or you didn't respond to our letter which we sent to you months ago to work on this very thing and you refused to respond. So, we gave you ample opportunity to join us in this affair, but you didn't because you want to stand today and suggest that it is unfair that we do this because you weren't at the table, but you refused to be there. So, I suggest that you think twice about denying the life raft to these people. Think twice about denying that his money cannot protect you from everything. And today is the day that you're going to be responsible. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Batinick."

Batinick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Batinick: "I think this week and last week Republican Senators introduced two different budgets. We had the Bill Brady budget and McConchie and McCarter introduced what I like to call the Mick budget. Have you looked at any of those budgets?"

Harris, G.: "I have not read through them in detail."

Batinick: "Okay. I understand everybody that we're in the House; however, they are taking the initiative, Republicans, so

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while... while somebody that's a Democratic Senator that wants to be Governor is bashing a full budget. He isn't introducing his own plan. And we have Republicans in the Senate introducing a full budget, maybe something of a blueprint that we can look at as opposed to I think you called it... it's a lifeline budget now is... is what you call this?"

Harris, G.: "That's exactly what I called it."

Batinick: "Okay. I'm going to read you a quote from an op-ed I wrote before the last stopgap budget. The worse part about the crisis is the uncertainty it creates. Organizations hate uncertainty. It makes planning difficult; it increases costs. This isn't just the case for business; it's true of nonprofits as well. Would you agree with that?"

Harris, G.: "Could you read it again?"

Batinick: "The worse part about the crisis is the uncertainty it creates. Organizations hate uncertainty. It makes planning difficult; it increases costs. This isn't just the case for business; it's the case for nonprofits as well."

Harris, G.: "I think we would all like to have certainty in our lives."

Batinick: "Okay. Well, what this does... I mean, this isn't a lifeline budget. This is a... a let the state burn scheme. This guarantees uncertainty. And I use the word scheme because last time I checked the Senate's out of town. We know the Senate's not out of town. You get to go back to your districts and you get to say, hey, we voted for this. We could spend the next two weeks without burning any time working on a true budget that brings certainty to this state. And we've... we've talked about this. It's also talked about the fact that we

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have declining revenues. You know why we have declining revenues? Because of the uncertainty that we're doing. This is guaranteed... this is guaranteed uncertainty. The Senate is... the Senate is not in town. We can feel good about our vote, but the Senate is not in town. I'm going to go to the Bill. We should not vote for this Bill on the floor; we should not vote for this Bill on our way out the door. We should not vote for it here or there; we should not vote for it anywhere. We should not vote for anymore stopgaps. This type of governing needs to be scrapped. We need a budget. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Brady."

Brady: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields. I'm sure there's more questions he hasn't answered."

Brady: "I'm sorry. Did you... did you want to say something?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Brady: "I misunderstood you, Sir."

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Brady: "Okay. Thank you. Representative Harris, question for you.

The earlier speaker said we need to... just take the money that's sitting around and utilize it, spend it. Now, I was led to believe that all the money that's proposed in this over \$818 million proposal is based on projected revenue. So, could you help me through that's... that all this money sitting around is really not all the money just sitting there that needs to be appropriated to cover this Bill?"

Harris, G.: "Yes, we are 9 months into the fiscal year. So, three-quarters of the money give or take would be already collected."

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Brady: "Okay. Thank you. To the Bill, Ladies and Gentlemen. I heard a previous speaker indicate the reasons why we don't have a budget. In my opinion, here's the reason why we don't have budget. Because Democrats and Republicans in the House have not come together to produce our own budget and present it to the Governor and the Speaker and tell them and show them we will pass our own budget by working together. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Mitchell."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll go right to the Bill. So, there were a couple of questions asked that I'd like to answer. The Gentleman from Jacksonville asked a question, name the last time we passed a budget, Democratic only, that got signed. The answer is that the only reason we have a K-12 budget is despite the fact that you all voted against it, the Governor signed it. So, for everyone who laughed at the *Green Eggs and Ham* joke, we have a whole generation of students that might not understand rhythm and meter if we hadn't passed that Bill without your help. So, that's question number 1. The second portion was a conversation and I counted actually, so we've got... we had 9 Republicans speak. And not one Republican mentioned a permanent property tax freeze. Now, I bring that up because I saw a video yesterday with a lot of dropped gees, and if we had a million for every one of those we might be halfway home, but after watching that... that video it said that if there was a permanent property tax freeze, the guy on the second floor would be willing to sign a stopgap budget. So, apparently this isn't actually a policy issue whereby folks think, hey, we shouldn't have stopgap

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budgets. It is... the sugar daddy of the Republican Party says, I am unwilling to sign this budget unless I get my campaign promise. Now, if that's where you are, that's fine, but I would like some intellectual honesty. There was a question sort of asserted, I want to say by another Gentleman friend of mine from Dixon, about why weren't Republicans asked about programs that they would like in this budget? Now, Mr. Harris is significantly nicer than I am because my answer to that question would have been, I don't know if you would have voted for it anyway. And if you weren't going to vote for it anyway, then understand... help us understand why we should negotiate against ourselves when the reason there is K-12 money in this state right now is because of the Democratic side of the aisle. Now, I would love to work together with everyone on the other side of the aisle, but we need to be honest. Someone mentioned crumbs and higher education. Higher education has seen about a 62 and half percent cut. This is a cut to the critical universities programs like MAP grants that allow kids like me to go to college and have a chance to be in this General Assembly. And the bottom line is, if you add all the Governor's budgets together the documents he would have passed and signed if he had the supermajority he wants and is trying to get with his Turnaround Agenda, we'd be at a 60 percent cut. So, if you say we don't like with... how higher education's been treated and we don't think we should be here, we need more money. Understand that the guy you are implicitly supporting would have us in the place we're in right now. And that in the same budget that was just reintroduced, programs in this Bill like youth summer jobs and Teen REACH were lined

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out by the Governor, reduced to zero dollars. So, there may be things in this budget that you don't like. There may be things in this budget that you say, we're underfunding and should fund more. But understand, that what we are trying to do is keep hope alive for a whole bunch of universities and social service agencies that otherwise would not have it. Now, I would like a full budget. And I believe that if the... if the two sides here were negotiating, we'd have one tomorrow. But when someone's spending a million dollars in television ads and ties a budget... a stopgap lifeline budget to a campaign promise rather than revenue because most of this Bill is funded, that is dishonesty. And what I respected from the general was that when he stood up he said, you know what, I'm willing to create a crisis because I believe we need a full budget right now. That is intellectual courage. I disagree; I'm not willing to necessarily go that far. I'm not willing to let, sort of, victims die on the table. But that is an intellectually honest position. And I don't think that's what he's advocating for either in terms of suffering. But that's not the honesty I heard from the rest of that side of the aisle. It was, we want this funded. We want this funded. But we're not actually willing to take the tough vote. So, you should vote 'yes' on this Bill. If you believe in human services and you believe in higher education. And if you don't, and you believe that we need to have non-budget items that are campaign promises before we pass a budget, then vote 'no'. But don't accuse us of not trying to do the right thing. Because the only reason our schools K-12 are open right now is because of this side of aisle. Vote 'yes'."

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Speaker Lang: "Mr. Breen."

Breen: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. Now, our home, our Illinois is on fire. Hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing the state. Our state faces massive debt problems. I mean, my goodness every home in Illinois... every household owes about \$50 thousand or more to the State Government. And so, in that context today we consider the Democrat Bill for spending for the remainder of fiscal year 2017. The details of this Bill are bleak. The Democrat Bill slashes our domestic violence shelters by two-thirds. The Democrat Bill slashes our Infant Mortality Programs by two-thirds. The Democrat Bill slashes meal programs for our hungry seniors by two-thirds. The Democrat Bill takes an axe to the programs serving the most vulnerable people in our society. And the Democrat Bill does nothing to address the overwhelming problems facing our state. As you heard one of my other colleagues call it, some of us on this side of the aisle are calling it the Democrat burn it down scam. It's nowhere near a lifeline. And so, today the General Assembly is faced with two paths. You've got the Democrat path laid out in this Bill, which is a dark one. Again, two-thirds cuts, domestic violence shelters, services for the poor, higher education. That Democrat path does nothing about these bills piling up, the debt piling up on the backs of Illinoisans. Then you've got the Republican path. And the Republican path as you've heard it laid out, leads to a full, a realistic and a balanced budget. The Republican path leads to our back bills being fully paid off. And the Republican plan respects the priorities of both political Parties. The Republican path will meet the needs of

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people in every part of Illinois, whether you're a city person, suburban person or rural person. Again, Illinois faces two paths today. Republicans want to turn Illinois around. Democrats want to burn Illinois down. It's time for us to do our jobs, pay our back bills and get a full, realistic and balanced budget."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Wheeler."

Wheeler, K.: "Mr. Speaker, to the Bill. I'd like to remind my Gentleman boxing friend here that... that actually in the last stopgap negotiated Bill Republicans did vote for education spending for K-12. All but three of us, I believe, voted for that. On the floor today we've heard from Representatives on both sides of the aisle that we need to work hard and pass a comprehensive, balanced budget. The first step in the budget process, which is actually required by law, is to pass a revenue estimate. I know it's been spoken of before and that's why I'm bringing it up today. We only have 6 Session days left in the month of April. We're required to get our budget done by the end of May. I urge this Body to take up an actual authentic budget process. We have not done that since I've been in office. Step 1, adopt a revenue estimate and put our actual Appropriation Committees to work together. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Reick: "First of all, Ms. Stratton, it is not the Governor's job to provide a rev... a revenue estimate. The Constitution puts that responsibility upon us. Representative Harris, it's been said here that this is just money that's been lying around

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that has been in the funds and now we're just spending it. My question is, what took you so long? Why today? I'm... like to finish my question. Well, no. Please answer my question."

Harris, G.: "So, before you got elected, you know, we did run a very similar Bill in the end of the 99th General Assembly. So, that... it... it hasn't been that long. But it was before your time, so you probably were not here when that happened."

Reick: "But the fact remains is that this is money that has been lying around. I think to Ms. Stratton's poignant comments about the deaths of the three children that she talked about, I think you owe her an explanation as to why it is that that money that's been lying around wasn't used for domestic violence or other types of programs that may have saved lives between that time and today."

Harris, G.: "I hope you'll vote for the Bill so that that mistake can be corrected."

Reick: "I... I think you owe her an explanation as to why it took so long."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Yingling."

Yingling: "Thank you. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Yingling: "Representative Harris, I just... I need... I have... I need some points of clarification here. Do any of these funds come from General Revenue Funds?"

Harris, G.: "These are funds that are... come from a portion of the income tax as it is collected at... at... a separate portion goes to each fund. Then the Educational Assistance Fund also has some gaming revenue that flows to it."

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Yingling: "So, it's my understanding that under law these funds cannot be used for anything that is other than what they are prescribed for under law. Is that correct?"

Harris, G.: "For... our Commitment to Human Services Fund can only be used for expenditures on human service items. The Educational Assistance Fund can only be spent on items related to education."

Yingling: "Okay. And will this add to our backlog of bills?"

Harris, G.: "Absolutely not. And this is why this money is so important. This is money where, cash exists in these accounts, which can be expended. It does not add at all to the backlog of bills in the Comptroller's Office."

Yingling: "So, we're dealing with real dollars here? Not pretend dollars?"

Harris, G.: "Yes."

Yingling: "It's real money sitting in the account that's waiting to be appropriated?"

Harris, G.: "Yes."

Yingling: "Okay. Okay. To... to the Bill. I'm looking at the list here of all the different programs that will be funded by this lifeline budget. And what I notice here specifically is the higher education. This... I'm looking at all of these universities here. I do have one university in my district in Lake County that will receive a small amount of money from this lifeline budget that will keep them going. But one thing that I'm really surprised by is as I go through the list of universities I see universities here like Eastern University, Illinois State, Northern, Southern, U of I, Western University. And I am just shocked that anyone could oppose

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funding these... these... higher education, not only because it would take away the benefit of providing an education to a young person, but because if these universities shut down it will decimate the economic infrastructure of a lot of these communities. So, it would be really easy for me to vote 'no' on this Bill. I could easily vote 'no' on this Bill. And I'm not going to vote 'no'. And the reason I'm not going to vote 'no' is because it would be wrong. It would be wrong to vote 'no' on this Bill. I am not going to quantify someone's life and the value of a person's life over political games and over this budget... this budgetary game and the system. So, for those of you who are not willing to fund your universities, I will vote 'yes'. I will vote 'yes' and send a lifeline to your universities because you won't. So, I... I encourage everyone in this room to please vote 'aye'."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Scherer."

Scherer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. Very quickly, I stand in support of this Bill. And I stand to protect working class families and those people who are desperate to try to find work. I care about the people of my district. I'm not pointing fingers, not saying you don't care. I'm just saying I do care. And that's why I'm urging everyone to do your job. You were elected to come here and vote for a budget. Thank goodness Representative Harris has given us the opportunity to do just that. I'm going home tomorrow and you know what I'm gonna do? I'm going to say I voted for a lifeline budget. Because the right thing isn't always the easy thing to do. I urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Kifowit."

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Kifowit: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Kifowit: "Representative Harris, on this Bill it talks about funeral and burial expenses and we are providing some funding for that. Is that for only Democrat areas? Will this money only go to the funeral and burial expenses for the poor in Democratic districts?"

Harris, G.: "That's a statewide program, Representative."

Kifowit: "It's a statewide program. Some of these other programs, can you give an idea on... on who has been affected by this budget impasse? Is it... I know that north of 80 and south of 80 seems to be a good dividing line in the state. Can you give us an idea on geographically where this budget impasse... where I think people would appreciate crumbs, on how that has split out within the need of our state?"

Harris, G.: "Representative, the need is statewide. The harm is statewide. The people who are suffering are statewide. The folks who are not getting services are statewide. The students who are not able to complete their education because we cannot fund MAP grants come from each of Illinois's counties. Our universities, north, south, east and west, the University of Illinois, all are suffering because of lack of appropriation. So, Representative, each and every one of these programs, you know, affects the area in which they're located. But as a sum total it's a statewide issue."

Kifowit: "So, this is a statewide budget. This is a statewide lifeline that goes to statewide programs. It's not a... it... it is a Bill that is generated from a Democratic individual, but it is a statewide lifeline for individuals. To the Bill, Mr.

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Speaker. A previous speaker... I had math at a good public university, Northern Illinois University, and when the MAP grant funding goes from 0... 0 MAP grants have been awarded to then getting funding for MAP grant in the amount of 287 million, that's an increase. It's not a cut. So, my public education from Northern Illinois University realizes the fallacy that spewed from the individual trying to make it look like something that it profoundly is not. What it is, is MAP grants help veterans. The Illinois Veterans Grant has money in this as well. Statewide veterans will help... be helped from this. Statewide students will be helped from this. Statewide individuals that need help will be beneficial from this lifeline Bill. It is not a budget. Nobody said it's a budget. Everybody realizes there are only two funds that we are talking about. And the bottom line is this is an emergency program. I do not believe that the veterans who might have to drop out of school 'cause of the MAP grant funding problem appreciate being labeled by a fellow veteran as a pressure point. As something that... that is of a negotiating chip. That is reducing an individual's worth to a pressure point. To something to create crisis. So, I am... I am almost speechless in the fact that nowadays I guess they look at objects, political philosophies as things that they love, they can't get rid of, but they look at people as something to be used, especially by a fellow veteran which is very disheartening to me. Somebody who is starving would appreciate some crumbs. Would appreciate... somebody who is... is parched would appreciate even a drop of water. And to reduce individuals, especially our veterans, to inanimate pressure points is

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disrespectful and is beneath the dignity. I think that we need to have a budget. And I have been open and available to anybody who wants to come forward and go line item by line item and look at the \$7 billion that GOMB has testified in committee is out of balance on the Governor's proposal and look at cuts and look as ways to fund our programs. Nobody has... has addressed... nobody has come to me. I have... I am... and I know a lot of people on this side of the aisle want a balanced budget. But to deny individuals throughout this state is just plain inhumane. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Drury."

Drury: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I... I try to be the one in the chamber that... that calls it like... like it is. And I have to say, listening to the debate from the Republican side today is just grotesque. It is just absolutely grotesque. And let me tell you why. First of all, there is no Republican plan. Right. So, I... I'm going to talk about what the... what the 'plan' in quotes is, but there's no Republican plan. So, to say the Democrats have a plan to burn it down and you have a path to prosperity, well, last year there was one person in this chamber who was talking about pressure cookers and letting things boil over and I'll tell you what, it wasn't on that side of the aisle. It was me. And the votes were 115 to 1, 116 to 1, but your Leader who none of you are willing to stand up to, said today you should vote this way. And now, your Leader has changed his position. And he says, hey, that pressure cooker thing sounds good; let's try it. So, it's wonderful that you want to come here and pretend that you have some plan and pretend that you have a backbone, but there

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is no one on that side of the aisle... no one on that side of the aisle in the last two years has shown the spine to stand up to your Leader. All right. There's one person on this side who has and I can commensurate with you, I can tell you what it's like if you want to know what's going to happen. But in a lot of ways it's like the shackles being off. So, I encourage at least one of you instead of talking about all the nonsense that you're talking about to grow a spine, do what you think is the right thing. But to stop sitting here and pretend that you have some sort of plan and that the Democrats don't. Do what you think is right. Just do what you think it right. And maybe it'll come back and shine on you. But as long as you have these... these lame excuses, I just don't know how you sleep at night. I really don't."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Flowers."

Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am confused about a few things and I... I just don't understand the Governor and I don't understand what's going on. I was recently reading a quote that the Governor had made at an event that he was at. And the Governor was quoted as saying that some people think that the problem is the budget. Now, this is what the Governor said. He said, 'some people think that the problem is the budget'. 'It's partly about the budget', said the Governor, 'but it's really about our future prosperity'. The Governor said, 'it's really about our future prosperity'. It's partly about the budget. He said, 'it's really about our future prosperity'. And the future prosperity according to the Governor it's not the working people of this state, it's not the children, it's not the

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senior citizen, it's not funding education, it's not keeping the roads and bridges safe for us to travel, it's not about the university. No. That's not what it's about. According to the Governor, he said, 'it's not really about the budget, partly it is'. But what the Governor said this is all about, it's about 8 Republicans that are needed to unseat the Democratic Majority in the House of Representatives. Now, that is appalling. That is insulting. It's insulting to any senior citizen that's being denied their medication. It's insulting to any child that cannot go to college to... to further and better their lives and get out of this state as soon as possible. It's insulting to anyone who's trying to go to work every day, expecting to get paid and is not doing so. The Governor need to stop playing games with the people of the State of Illinois, do his job. And if it's not about the budget, you need to do your job. The Governor is putting you on notice that we are all being used as pawns in this game. Let him no longer play with us and surely no longer play with the people of the State of Illinois. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Stratton, you spoke in debate but I believe your name was mentioned in debate. Please proceed."

Stratton: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And yes, my name was mentioned by Representative Reick and I just have a very... rookie... that was a Rookie mistake. However, I... in... in response... in response, I just simply wanted to very briefly read to you, I know we both were inaugurated on the same day, but Illinois State Con... I briefly wanted to read Illinois State Constitution, Article VIII, Section 2, subsection (a), which reads, the Governor shall prepare and submit to the General

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Assembly, at a time prescribed by law, a state budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall set forth the estimated balance of funds available for appropriation at the beginning of the fiscal year, the estimated receipts, and a plan for expenditures and obligations during the fiscal year of every department, authority, public corporation and quasi-public corporation of the state, every state college and university, and every other public agency created by the state, but not of units of local government or school districts. So, I say that in response to the statement regarding the need to understand the revenue and the funds."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Reick in response. Please mention nobody's name, Sir."

Reick: "Point taken, Mr. Speaker. I would ask you to read Section (b) of that... of that provision."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Phillips."

Phillips: "Thank... thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. I was listening to some of the dialogue and I normally don't jump in too much, but one thing that struck me was the idea from some of the previous speakers about, you know, how many people need jobs in our state and how many people are suffering 'cause there's not jobs in our state. Well, yesterday I brought a great Bill to the Energy Committee. And it was going to create about a 1 thousand construction jobs... actually the AFL-CIO supported it. It was a bipartisan Bill with many of your Democratic people that supported it. It was going to bring jobs to downstate Illinois like nothing has been in... in the last several years. And I got all the permission to go and it was looking very good, we had all the support except,

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you know, there was one major opponent. And... and I'm not going to go into the idea of it. But I got there, it was supposed to be heard and we were going to take a vote on it, as I understand it. Now, being a newbie really, I mean, even at my second term, I... I took everybody's word this is what was going to happen. I get there and it gets stabbed in the back. Okay. So, it... it went nowhere. And all I was trying to do was create jobs for the State of Illinois. It was self-funded with \$700 million of private funding. It was a jobs Bill for crying out loud. It saved jobs, brought jobs, but no it went nowhere. So, when you speak about jobs, when there's an opportunity to get jobs, your side needs to come to that aisle and help us get these jobs. That's all I wanted to do with that Bill. And then the other part of this thing was about these budgets. I've been listening to this for quite some time and I... as a person that owns businesses with jobs and with people, we create... we create these... we create budgets and not possible partly budgets, but full budgets for the year. And that's how we run our businesses, that's how we should be running our state. But that's not what we do. Thank you, Sir."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Butler."

Butler: "To the Bill. Illinois Constitution, Section... Article VIII, Section 2, paragraph (b). My friends on the other side of the fire... aisle never mentioned paragraph (b). The General Assembly shall by law make appropriations for all expenditures of public funds by the state. Appropriations for fiscal year shall not exceed funds estimated by the General Assembly. And my friend, Keith, down here... estimated by the General Assembly to be available during that last year. We

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have not done our job under Section (b). Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Harris to close."

Harris, G.: "Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, I was looking forward to what excuses we might hear for those who wanted to vote 'no' today. We heard some really extraordinary ones. I was actually very impressed. I was very impressed. We heard the... we need a bigger crisis before I could vote excuse. We heard the... we love you so much we won't help you excuse. We heard the... Dr. Seuss made me do it excuse. And then there was one where I think we should offer a scholarship to the Illinois Math and Science Academy because I didn't even understand the arithmetic excuse. But none of that changes the fact that we have a major decision before us today. We have an opportunity to take money that is sitting unused and unspent in accounts that can only be used for the purpose of human services or higher education. And we can decide to send over \$800 million out into our communities to help our friends, our neighbors, our towns, our schools, our parents, our students, our human service agencies, to interrupt and reduce violence in our communities. That's all within our power. We can do it today. You can vote 'yes' or you can vote 'no'. And I think it's just important to remember the... the significance of this week and... and next. I mean, next week is Good Friday, which is the anniversary of what is commonly known in Illinois as 'The Good Friday Massacre' when the Governor eliminated so many of these programs from the budget the first time. And decided we were going to stop serving folks with Autism, that we were going to stop providing services to immigrants and refugees,

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that we were going to stop burying those who died indigent. That we were going to stop providing money that would allow mental health providers to hire psychiatrists. That we were going to stop drug treatment programs. That we were going to stop after school programming for our kids. All of that was stopped in 2015 on Good Friday. You know, I think it would send a wonderful message if this year the General Assembly started the process to show that we value these programs, we want to fund them and we want you to have a chance to survive. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Ladies and Gentlemen, as a reminder, Mr. Demmer has moved for a verification of the vote. So, Members will be at their chairs, will vote their own switches. Staff will retire to the rear of the chamber. Those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 64 voting 'yes', 45 voting 'no', 1 voting 'present'. Mr. Demmer, do you persist? Gentleman wishes to persist in his verification. Mr. Clerk, please... There will be quiet in the chamber while this takes place. Mr. Clerk, please read the affirmative."

Clerk Hollman: "A poll of those voting in the affirmative:
Representative Ammons; Representative Andrade;
Representative Arroyo..."

Speaker Lang: "Excuse me, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Demmer withdraws his verification request. 64 voting 'yes', 45 voting 'no', 1 voting 'present. This Bill, having received the

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Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Pritchard is recognized."

Pritchard: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Clerk please note that on House Bill 156 I intended to vote 'yes'?"

Speaker Lang: "The record will reflect your intentions, Sir. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 286, offered by Representative Tabares. House Resolution 287, offered by Representative Stewart. House Joint Resolution 44, offered by Representative Meier."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Clerk, the Adjournment Resolution, please."

Clerk Hollman: "Adjournment Resolution. Senate Joint Resolution #30, offered by Representative Currie.

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 06, 2017, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, April 25, 2017, or until the call of the President; and when the House of Representatives adjourns on Friday, April 07, 2017, it stands adjourned until Monday, April 24, 2017, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., or until the call of the Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of the Adjournment Resolution. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Adjournment Resolution is adopted. Mr. Clerk, committee announcements. Members, please pay attention to the Clerk."

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Clerk Hollman: "One committee has been canceled for this evening: the Elementary & Secondary: School Curriculum & Policies Committee was canceled. Meeting immediately following Session is Appropriations-Higher Ed in D-1, Appropriations-Human Services in 114, the Community Care Program Subcommittee of the Aging Committee is meeting in Room 118, Revenue & Finance is meeting in Room 115, Economic Opportunity is meeting in 122, Judiciary-Criminal is meeting in C-1."

Speaker Lang: "And now, leaving perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Currie moves that the House stand adjourned until Friday, April 7 at the hour of 9 a.m. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned 'til Friday, April 7 at the hour of 9 a.m."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 1722, offered by Leader Durkin, a Bill for an Act concerning safe neighborhoods. First Reading of this Senate Bill. Executive Orders from the Governor. Executive Order 2017-01, offered by Governor Rauner on March 31, 2017. It's an Executive Order consolidating the state's historic preservation functions and establishing the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Agency. Executive Order 2007 (sic-2017)-02, offered by Governor Rauner issued on March 31, 2017. It's an Executive Order strengthening the state's investigation, adjudication and enforcement of anti-discrimination and equal opportunity laws. Executive Order 2017-03, offered by Governor Rauner issued on March 31, 2017. It's an Executive Order transferring certain functions from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to the

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Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. These Executive Orders are referred to the Rules Committee. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."