

STATE OF ILLINOIS
100th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

56th Legislative Day

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Speaker Lang: "The House will be in order. We shall be led in prayer today by Chaplain Colonel Jeff Zust, assigned to the... as the Command Chaplain for First Army located in the Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, and he is the guest of Representative Swanson. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off cell phones, and rise for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain."

Chaplain Zust: "In honor of Veterans Day, I just want to call your attention to a veteran. We never think of this in the abstract, we think of it in terms of people we knew. For me it was a man I did not know, his name is Lieutenant Albert Zust. He served in Minnesota... or the Illinois National Guard. He was wounded and died of wounds later in life. It's also to the members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, all 155 members who lost their lives in Iraq. So, please would you bow with me in a moment of silence and I'll conclude with prayer. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the honor of serving the people of our nation and of our state. As we gather, I humbly ask Your blessing upon the men and the women in the House of Representatives. May You watch over them and their families. And please guard and guide them in their ways as they wrestle with the ideals and realities that are placed before them. Grant them the hearts and minds to govern wisely that they may successfully fulfill the stewardship of their office. We ask these things in Your holy name, Amen."

Speaker Lang: "Be led in the Pledge by Representative Hernandez."

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Hernandez - 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"

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect the excused absences of Representatives Drury and Sims."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Cavaletto, Pritchard, and Stewart are excused."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There are 112 Members present and we do have a quorum. And happy Sunday to all of you. Chair recognizes Representative Ives."

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

Speaker Lang: "You may proceed."

Ives: "Thank you. I'd like to introduce Ryan Martin here today from St. Francis High School where is a... finishing up his sophomore year. Ryan is interested in politics, and he is here today as my Page for the day. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Welcome aboard. Thank you. Mr. Long is recognized."

Long: "Thank you, Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "You may go right ahead."

Long: "I have several people to announce here. I have my lovely wife, Patricia, here with me today. Also, up in the gallery I have good friends of mine in my district-there's Travis, his son, Trevor, and his mother, Joyce. And also today I have a Page for a day, Wyatt Anderson from Ottawa High School lives

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in Marseilles. And I would like to offer each and everyone one of them a nice warm Springfield.. Springfield welcome."

Speaker Lang: "So happy you're with us today. Thank you very much. Mr. Slaughter."

Slaughter: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed, Sir."

Slaughter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. My better half is here today, the newlyweds are in the house. All of you know, Katrina and I got married one month ago. And in our line of work it goes without saying that it's important to have a strong partner and a support system. Katrina has certainly been that to me. And so on behalf of all of us, we wanted to say thank you for your support, for your continuing encouragement, and please help me give my wife, Katrina Slaughter, a warm Springfield welcome."

Speaker Lang: "So happy you're with us today. Mr. Severin is recognized."

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

Speaker Lang: "Proceed, Sir."

Severin: "So, yesterday I was home in my district in a parade and I got to meet one of the lady's there that started her own business. So, we have another new business in the State of Illinois. She.. she has created her own salad dressing; it is Crystal's Original. So, I wanted to introduce it to the State of Illinois today. It's called, Crystal's Original Salad Dressing made right here in Illinois. The first person.. since it's Sunday, the first person that can quote a bible scripture to me gets this dressing. Thank you."

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Speaker Lang: "Was that some sort of a free commercial? That's very good, Sir. Representative Jimenez."

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

Speaker Lang: "Proceed."

Jimenez: "I'd like to introduce the Body to a couple of my Pages today if you guys want to stand up. We have Oliver and Weston Whitehurst, they're 7-year-old twin boys, and they go to Farmingdale Elementary. They're going into 2nd grade and they've assured me they've passed their tests so they should do that in the fall. We also have Hailey Winslow, and she is a soph... going to be a sophomore at Glenwood. Please give them a round of applause."

Speaker Lang: "Happy you're here with us. Enjoy your day on the House Floor. Mr. Welch is recognized."

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

Speaker Lang: "Yes, Sir."

Welch: "Mr. Speaker, in the spring of 1990 I was a freshman baseball player at Northwestern University. At the time... thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the spring of 1990 I was a freshman baseball player at Northwestern University. At the time, I was the only African-American baseball player on the team. Two years ago, Northwestern made history and broke the barrier and named its first African-American baseball coach. And today for the first time since 1984, Northwestern University's baseball team played for the Big 10 Baseball Championship. They went into the tournament as the number 7 seed and it's the first time in the history of the Big 10 tournament that a number 7 seed made it to the Championship Game. We came up a little short against the Iowa Hawkeyes

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today, but the future looks bright for Coach Spencer Allen and the Northwestern baseball team. Go Cats. And let's give them a round of applause for congratulations."

Speaker Lang: "Congratulations, Cats. Nice hat, Sir. Mr. Bennett is recognized."

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

Speaker Lang: "Proceed, Sir."

Bennett: "Thank you very much. Page for the day is Daniel Graveline. Daniel if you could, please stand. There you go he's there in front. Glad to have him. Along with him is his mom, Angeline Graveline, and also Ray Williams in the... in the gallery. So, we'd like to have them... If I may for just a moment, Daniel is, again, a Page for the day. He's... loves Science and Math. And he just finished his freshman year at Hoopeston Community High School and he'll be attending the Illinois Math Science Academy in the near future. So, could you please help me give them a warm welcome to Springfield."

Speaker Lang: "Happy you're here with us. Thank you very much. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Bolin: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 442, offered by Representative Nekritz. House Resolution 443, offered by Representative Moeller. And House Resolution 444, offered by Representative Zalewski."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'aye's have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Clerk, Rules Report."

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Clerk Bolin: "Committee Reports. Representative Currie, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on May 28, 2017: recommends be adopted Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 57, Floor Amendment #3 to Senate Bill 675, Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 771, Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 852, Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 1489, Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 1843, Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 1895, Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 1978, Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 2046, Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 2068, and Floor Amendment #1 to Senate... Senate Joint Resolution 10; recommends the following motions... recommends the adoption of the following Motions to Concur: concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 2482, concur with Senate Amendment #2 to House Bill 2516, concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 2538; approved for consideration referred to Second Reading is House Bill 162, and House Bill 1318; and approved for consideration and referred to Consideration Postponed is House Bill 237, House Bill 3447."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Swanson is recognized."

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

Speaker Lang: "Go right ahead, Sir."

Swanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce... I'd like to introduce Chaplain Colonel Jeff Zust, he's a Pastor with 32 years of experience from the southwest... with the Southwest Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America. He has served as a military Chaplain for over 30 years in both the reserve and active duty positions for both the Air Force and the Army. He currently serves as Training

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and Operations Chaplain for 1st Army of Rock Island Arsenal and adjunct faculty in the Ethics and Strategic Leadership Department for the National Defense Leader... National Defense Unit... University in Washington, D.C. He has served overseas in the Balkans, southwest Asia, and Korea. He's a graduate of the Air Force Officer Orientation Course, Air Force Officer Squadron Course, Air Force and Army Basic Chaplain Course, Army Chaplain Career Course, Combined Arms Staff Course Command, and the Command General Staff College, Combat Medical Ministry Course, Air Assault and Airborne Schools, and the Eisenhower School of the National Defense University. As a Battalion Commander, I had a Chaplain also, and the Chaplain is a... is your right-hand person, especially in combat. The Chaplains are one of the most important personnel on the battlefield. They take care of and comfort the soldiers in their times of need. And the Chaplain is a person you can always go to and rely on for help. So with that, it's my great honor to have Chaplain Zust here today along with his wife, Chom, who's up in the... up in the upper balcony. They have five children and five grandchildren and one on the way. So, I would like to ask everyone to help me welcome Chaplain Zust and his wife here today and honor him."

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

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

Speaker Lang: "You may proceed."

Ives: "Just moments ago in the House Rules Committee, the Rules Committee that is dominated by the Democrats, in a procedural

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move took SB 9, the Senate Bill that I was in control of in the House, away from me. They used a procedural move to take this Bill from me, which must mean their only intent is a massive tax hike of over 4... \$5.4 billion on the hard working folks in Illinois. If this is your intent, perhaps you guys should know that Illinoisans largely do not want this tax hike. In fact, in a recent poll around half of likely voters said spending cuts should be the only tool used to close the budget gap. Sixty-four percent oppose a state budget that includes raising the state income tax. Fifty-one percent are opposed to raising the state income tax even if it comes with a property tax freeze. Raising taxes in the absence of spending cuts was notably unpopular. That support never registered above single digits. The Illinois Policy Institute did this poll and I think you should take note. Illinoisans do not want a massive tax increase. This is the last thing we should be doing. And for you to pull this Bill from me simply shows that the Democrats are not interested in bipartisan support on what we should be doing with taxes. I pre-filed the Bill... for the Bill back on January 23rd, which is something that anybody could do, so that I could help control the conversation on taxes when that Bill... if that Bill came to the House. So Democrats, by taking back control of this Bill it must mean you only want a massive tax increase. The people should be aware they can expect, once again, the House will most likely pass a Bill without the revenue to support it leaving us worse off in the end. So, if... it's incredible that you guys ignore the facts on the ground. You ignore that business is leaving. You ignore that residents are leaving.

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You ignore the fact that we have the highest property taxes. That every Bill that we see... and again, a Bill in Labor and Commerce that we will see again today, is actually hostile to business. No business, no jobs. No jobs, no people here. No people here, no taxes. So, that is the problem with Illinois. I think we should work bipartisanly on a solution and taking this Bill from me was the wrong approach."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Chapa LaVia, for what reason do you rise?"

Chapa LaVia: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

Chapa LaVia: "You know before I get to why I stood it's interesting that the prior Speaker is saying that we're being hostile when the Bill was not intended for her to pickup in the first place. And she did that to stall the process. So, it's very end... it's bad. I have a note here from one of our trustees at University of Illinois system I'd like to read. 'The ongoing budget impasse is chipping away at a foundation of excellence that has made the University of Illinois System a global leader, not just one of the pack. More than 400 non-instructional staff who've support our world-class academic and research programs were trimmed from February 2015 to February 2017. Peer universities are being poach star facilities who attract top students in research funding, including a renowned... electrical engineering professor from Texas A&M this spring after 25 years at Urbana. Peers are also capitalizing on Illinois' financial uncertainty to lure away the best and the brightest students reflected by a 200-student decrease in the number of freshman who accepted our

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offer of admission next fall in Urbana. And the impasse is affecting nationally ranked... a ranking... a national ranking that help shape our appeal to faculty, staff, and students alike, including declining in programs along ranked among the country's best. Our best in class universities are engineering... the engineers of progress that pump nearly \$40 billion into the state's economy every year while also supporting the workforce and innovation of tomorrow. This is time to invest in the UI System and the future of this state. Thank you, Raymond Cepeda, Trustee University of Illinois System. If we do nothing, we fail beyond belief. Whether you don't want to take a tax increase or not, it's up to us to do what we've been sent here to do. It's time for courageous State Representatives and Senators to do the right thing that might not always be the popular thing back at home, but we have to keep the state going. It's no time, no time to be playing games with people's Bills, especially the budget Bill when the Democrats have put votes on a lot of Bills for this last five years, six years that I've been here to support all the universities in the State of Illinois. I have a handful of Representatives on the other aisle that have helped us do that. So, do not say that we're being... we're being... taking away people's Bills and not working in the process. We have tried to do that. We need a Governor that's going to govern the State of Illinois and do his job. And not make all the... I mean, you... you did robo calls to some of the colleagues on this side last week, but yet you were saying how you wanted to work with us. Please, please come to the table and... and be honest. Be very honest, because you're going to have to take

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a vote that you don't want to take, but we have to take it in order to make the state go forward in the right direction. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Durkin is recognized."

Durkin: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Go right ahead, Sir."

Durkin: "Leader Lang, could you just do us all a favor? There's just way too much chatter. People are trying to make their points. And I hope that the men and women of this chamber would at least provide a courtesy to those who have the microphone. I've heard two conversations, two statements in the last 10 minutes in which basically people are talking on the... and they both made very strong points. So, I would ask that you bring some order to this chamber when people are making statements of this nature. And I know by the smile on your face and I can take as a 'yes'."

Speaker Lang: "Sir, your point is well taken. I have almost cracked the gavel in half about three times today."

Durkin: "Oh, I think you can do a lot better. I've seen you in action. So, the fact is... anyway. Please, let's do that. But secondly, I want to bring up this point about what just happened with Representative Ives' Bill. There's a real simple process which you can do. Go over and ask her to remove herself from the Bill. It didn't happen. Just remember that even though in these days that we're going to have a lot of... lot of tension in this chamber, how about asking a question ahead of time. I think that's the best... a good way to go about it. Now, I... I will respect the statements that are made in this chamber, but I hear about, you know, again the continuing

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noncooperation... noncooperation, but let me just raise one very simple request that was made of me last Tuesday. A request for me to meet with the Speaker of the House, Speaker Madigan, to discuss pension reform. That was Tuesday. It is now Sunday, no response. Again, how do I negotiate? How does this caucus negotiate when there's no one willing to negotiate with us? I received messages from your chief budgeteer stating that we'd like to talk to you about negotiating the budget. I said, I'm willing to work with the Speaker at any time. Dead silence. Dead silence. We've got three days to go. I'm not quite sure where this going, you know, and I'm going to rely upon what I read in the blogs, but the fact is, we've got to tell it like it is."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Harris."

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

Speaker Lang: "Proceed, Sir."

Harris, D.: "Just for a moment. I'd like to echo what the Minority Leader said by way of reference to the previous Sponsor of Senate Bill 9. And Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we are three and a half days away from the end of Session. Not a lot of time. Things get tight... get tense and tight. But you know, civility and courtesy still should prevail in this House. It would have been very easy to simply ask the Sponsor will you give up Sponsorship of the Bill. And it's happened with other Bills. We had the Gentleman from Barrington who gave up Sponsorship of a Bill to a Democrat. You could've asked the Sponsor of Senate Bill 9 if she would have done that. Maybe she would have said no. And if she said no, guess what, there are things known as Amendments. You could have taken that

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Bill, stripped it out and put it on another Bill. It doesn't take a genius to figure that out. It did not need to be so discourteous to the Lady who... absolutely Sponsored the Bill. Maybe she should not have pre-filed for it in your mind, but the courtesy of a request is in order simple as that. We've got three and half days, let's maintain some courtesy in this chamber. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ammons."

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

Speaker Lang: "Go right ahead."

Ammons: "Thank you. In the last week or so I've sat and listened to countless requests suggesting that Members on the right would love to work with Members on this side of the aisle to get a budget. And over this last several weeks, and even the previous months, there have been numerous opportunities for Members on the right to demonstrate their willingness to work with Members on the left. We have passed seven Appropriation Bills, Democratic Sponsored Bills, with only Democrat votes on those Bills. And one of those Bills included Republicans on those Bills which was to save Higher Ed with a lifeline budget. And it came after very difficult conversations and toil by many students who come to the Capitol begging us to pass a budget. Listening to the earlier Speaker just took my breath away. This Speaker who picked up Senate... the Senate Bill said on the news that it is her intention to not pass the Bill. Not only was it her intention, but she picked up the Bill intentionally to make sure that the Bill was not put forward. Her immediate conversation was that I would not pass

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any such tax hike on the people of Illinois. I want to remind them on the right, as I just visited a very small town called Greenup, Illinois, and I know their Representative is over there. And Greenup is not a wealthy community. It's not a community of color. It doesn't have a lot of poor black people or Latinos. It's primarily a white community that has few resources and much needed support. That community is very close to Eastern Illinois University which is suffering under the weight of inaction in this chamber. They are suffering with the fact that if Eastern Illinois closes or does not get a budget, the small community of Greenup where many of the people in that community work at Eastern Illinois University, they are public employees, many of them will lose their jobs and possibly their livelihood, healthcare, pensions, and everything else. And so, while we are suggesting that Illinois residents, the people of our state, do not want a massive tax hike... let me remind you that this massive tax hike would not be necessary if the Governor of this state would stop insisting that in order to get a budget that they will only give us a budget at the expense of his turnaround agenda that is politically motivated and backed by millions of dollars. It is important to remember that when I came to this chamber, there was a very short request made by that same Governor of this state to the Democratic Leadership asking them to allow the temporary tax to expire. And in doing so adding some 2 billion plus dollars to our current deficit each and every single year. And so, if you are so inclined to vote against a budget that would fund the needed services of this state, none of us over here want to vote for a massive tax hike I

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assure you. I do not support a tax hike on many of the things that are being proposed, but I suggest to you that before I would allow Eastern Illinois University, Chicago State, University of Illinois, or any other college community along with Parkland College where I represent, all of our retirement pensions, all of the people who are annuitants now. Before I would suggest that any of them should bear the burden of what you are holding out for, I would suggest that we pass a budget out of this chamber in the next three days so that people... real people, not the people with the big multi-million dollar mansions, but real, regular working day people that those people would begin to see an immediate shift in their reality on June 1st. I hope that that is what we do in this chamber."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Phillips."

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

Speaker Lang: "Go right ahead, Sir."

Phillips: "Give me just a second. Where are the... where's the camera? I want to get my best shot just in case I decide to run for Congress or something like that. I want to make sure I get my four minutes. Okay. I want my fame. Greenup happens to be in my district. Eastern Illinois University is also in my district. I know... I think some of the comments are so disingenuous. I mean, I brought a Bill to one of the speakers that was talking earlier... to her committee. A thousand jobs, bipartisan support. Jobs. You know, putting everybody to work. You're talking about playing games that was the biggest game player I've ever seen. And she gets up and speaks about playing games on this side and what we're doing? Oh, for crying out loud, how disingenuous. It's time to get to the

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real facts. And people already know the facts that's happening. And it's time for us to get to the work and try to get a full budget. I'm for funding higher education. Let's put it together. Let's do it. We're standing over here. Let's do it in the next 24 hours. I'll stay, whatever time it takes. Okay. Let's get her done. Thank you. Hope my camera got my best side. Thank you..."

Speaker Lang: "Ladies and Gentlemen, Senate Bills-Third Reading, page 5 of the Calendar. Senate Bill 822, Mr. Moylan. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 822, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Martin Moylan."

Moylan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 822 provides that the Secretary of State shall immediately revoke the license, permit, or driving privileges of any driver who violates the provision of the Code relating to the offense of overtaking and passing a school bus when the driver in committing the violation is involved in a motor vehicle accident that results in the death to another. And I respectfully ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Harris."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Harris, D.: "I'm just curious, Representative, if this makes Illinois great again?"

Moylan: "It... it... not only great, it's the best state in the whole Continental United States. All other states pale in

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comparison to the great State of Illinois. This is a huge Bill for us."

Speaker Lang: "Thanks, Representative Harris. We appreciated that. Mr. Andersson."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Andersson: "Continental United States? So, apparently Hawaii and Alaska beat us? "

Moylan: "Including those two."

Andersson: "Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Gentleman'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? Flowers. Please take the record. On this question, there are 109 voting 'yes', 2 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 838, Representative Scherer. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 838, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Scherer."

Scherer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm presenting Senate Bill 838. And what this Bill does is, it's a good Bill to be falling on Memorial Day weekend because it... it helps veterans be more aware of the chance that they may have contacted Agent Orange and other cancerous things from when they were in battle. And there are other parts to the Bill as well that... basically it's just making veterans have a better chance of

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being aware of what they could have been exposed to. Appreciate an 'aye' vote."

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 110 voting 'yes', 1 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk, Rules Report."

Clerk Bolin: "Representative Currie, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules, reports the following committee action taken on May 28, 2017: recommends be adopted Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 3157, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 3450, and Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 3462."

Speaker Lang: "Senate Bill 864, Mr. Davidsmeyer. Out of the record. Senate Bill 865, Mr. Mitchell. Please read the Bill. Sir, you have a Floor Amendment? Please put the Bill on the Order of Second Reading, Mr. Clerk, and please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 865, a Bill for an Act concerning education. The Bill was read for a second time on a previous day. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Christian Mitchell."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Mitchell."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment 2 is in response to a commitment made by the Sponsor over in the Senate, Senator Manar, as well as the request of Mr. Pritchard to include state contribution to CTPF and healthcare for CPS

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on the report card. I'll explain the underlying Bill on Third Reading."

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

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

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. Senate Bill 885, Representative Gordon-Booth. Out of the record. Senate Bill 889, Mr. Welch. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 889, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Welch."

Welch: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 889 is a very simple Bill that amends the Jury Act to prohibit a juror from being excluded from jury service on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. The Federal Government has this in Federal Law, the State of Illinois does not currently. And this would match what Federal Law has. I would ask for approval. I'm not aware of any opposition."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Andersson."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Andersson: "And I think, Representative, this is codifying existing case law as well on the subject of preemptory challenges based only on those categories. Is that correct?"

Welch: "You know, I said that in committee and I believed it then... but I was corrected by the Illinois Lawyers Groups. It... it does codify a 1948 Federal Statute in State Law."

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Andersson: "Okay. I... I for some reason I believed it also that there's been more recent case law in that. But the only question then that I have is, we're not eliminating preemptory challenges we're just making clear that the basis for the preemptory can't be these... these sorts of classifications?"

Welch: "That is correct."

Andersson: "It's an excellent Bill. Thank you."

Welch: "Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Thapedi."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Thapedi: "Representative, I think this a great Bill. In fact, you're familiar with the Batson case are you not?"

Welch: "I am familiar."

Thapedi: "And what happened in the Batson case, and what does the Batson case primarily hold?"

Welch: "Well, it pretty much said that you couldn't strike jurors based on the basis of race."

Thapedi: "And so, this Bill is basically codifying Batson from a civil perspective, correct?"

Welch: "I... I think so, yes."

Thapedi: "I urge an 'aye' vote, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Gentleman'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? Leader Currie. Flowers. Please take the record. There are 111 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 898, Representative Mah. Please read the Bill."

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Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 898, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Mah."

Mah: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. Senate Bill 898 is an expansion of the Physical Therapy Practice Act to include dry needling as a modality of practice. It's a Bill that was worked out with a range of stakeholders. And there's no opposition. I ask for your 'aye' vote. 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 take the record. On this question, there are 110 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 899, Mr. Rita. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 899, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Rita."

Rita: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. 899 is an initiative of the Illinois CPA Society. It was identical to a House Bill that I had. This is all agreed language and clarifications for their Act. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Gentleman'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, Members. Hoffman. Mayfield. Please take the record, Mr. Clerk. There are 87 voting 'yes', 22 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional

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Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 986, Representative Jesiel. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 986, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Jesiel."

Jesiel: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 986 would simply extend the sunset date of the Human Trafficking Task Force to June... or July 1, 2018 rather than July 1, 2017. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Those... those in favor of the Lady's Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Olsen. Please take the record. There are 112 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 1029, Mr. Bennett. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1029, a Bill for an Act concerning government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Bennett."

Bennett: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning or actually, Good afternoon everyone. Senate Bill 1029 has to do with preserving and maintaining the public and private lands that we currently have today. Today the Illinois Department of Natural Resources possesses the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund for the main purpose of purchasing ground for future generations, our children and our grandchildren. The money for this comes from the Real Estate Transfer Tax. This Bill creates the Illinois Natural Area Stewardship Act. It allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to use some of their funds to preserve the natural preserves ground that they already have.

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Some private nature preserves are maintained by volunteers, but many public preserves have not been maintained since first purchased. So this Act allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to create a Competitive Match Grant Program to assist non-profit land trusts in caring for Illinois Nature Preserves. Helps them in clearing of invasion species, fencing, prescribed burns, and other action to ensure a quality habitat. Again, this Bill acts.. only allows the Department of Natural Resources to use some of the funds in the ongoing maintenance of the nature preserved grounds that they already have. It's a partnership between public and private lands. It's a win-win. So, please note this Bill does not create any new taxes or fees, but it simply changes the allowable purpose of the fund and gives flexibility to the Department of Natural Resources to care for important state conservational lands. The Department of Natural Resources supports, the Farm Bureau is neutral and the SIERRA Club has called several Members in support as well. And I truly appreciate the bipartisan support that we've had for this Bill. So, I do ask for your support please."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Meier."

Meier: "I just wanted it to note that I have a conflict and I'll vote 'present' on this Bill."

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? Wallace. Please take the record, Mr. Clerk. There are 108 voting 'yes', 2 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional

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Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 1085, Mr. McAuliffe. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1085, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. McAuliffe."

McAuliffe: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Senate Bill 1085 has language which would allow IDFPR to conduct and share background checks with other states in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act. I'd be happy to answer any questions and would like an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Gentleman'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 take the record, Mr. Clerk. There are 111 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 1094, Mr. Zalewski. Mr. Zalewski. Out of the record. Mr. Zalewski. Please call the... please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1094, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Zalewski."

Zalewski: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 1094 is an initiative of the nurse anesthetists that would allow them to pursue the similar licensure that they've had in the past. I'd ask for any 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Gentleman'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? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are

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111 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 1223, Representative Lilly. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1223, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Lilly."

Lilly: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen. I rise to present Senate Bill 1223. This Bill creates an Accelerated Placement Act for the State of Illinois. Acceleration Placement Acts minimize... at minimum includes early entrance to Kindergarten and 1st grade, accelerates a student in a single subject, compact... compact curriculum, grade acceleration, grade telescoping, and early high school graduation. This Bill is for those young people who are brilliant and need the support that they need to be successful citizens in our great state. If you have any questions, I'll take them at this time, if not I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Ives."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Ives: "Representative Lilly, I understand the intention of this Bill. This... the intention of this Bill is basically to catch people that are... or students rather that are actually not identified as gifted or talented, correct? It's not those who are way off the charts in terms of ability. It's basically those who fall in the middle group that should have the propensity to move ahead. Is that correct?"

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Lilly: "That is correct."

Ives: "Okay. So we have a gifted and talented program, many school districts have that. Are you then saying then that essentially school districts are disregarding the acceleration of students?"

Lilly: "No."

Ives: "So, then why are we having this Bill? I thought this was what the responsibility of superintendents, their huge administrative staffs, the principals, their staffs? I thought they should identify students and accelerate them through... through. Are you saying that schools are not doing this? That they're not accelerating schools... students when necessary or when available?"

Lilly: "We had a young man age of nine... excuse me, age of eight who testified in our public hearing, and he indicated that they were not. He has been in classes that because he is gifted, he has not learned one thing. And the principals and the teachers have kept him in that class for far too long. He is... in his words, I... my parents are tax paying citizens. I deserve the same type of education that meets my standards as every other child. So, Oliver at the age eight indicated that he has not been placed in accelerated classes where he can gain the interest of his education to his fullest ability."

Ives: "So, in to... so what's the intention of this program? How will it really work? What will the program look like? What will be required of schools? What will parents eventually be able to sue over because they think they're child should be accelerated and the school says, no? How is this really going to operate? And in your case with the nine year old who

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testified, are you saying he was more than gifted and talented? It sounds like he was in gifted and talented and that still was not enough for him. Are you saying that they wouldn't move him into the next grade? So, I'm trying to get some details about what you're thinking about doing here?"

Lilly: "That... that is correct. And that was not done. And his parents were concerned just as he was. This program is... will develop the tentacles, if you will. Each school may be different but this Act... this Accelerated Placement Act will be put in place where the principals, the superintendents can work together with the school district and the board to make sure that this... these individual... these gifted individuals as you have mentioned has that opportunity to accelerate if need be."

Ives: "So, accelerate to a different grade? Not accelerate within the grade to a different program?"

Lilly: "Say that again, Representative?"

Ives: "So, essentially, this is a program that accelerates you to a grade one or two above your peers rather than a grade internal... internally within your grade. Accelerating from a program to one."

Lilly: "It could be either."

Ives: "It could be either? So... and we're going to set in state statute that everybody must do this, but we're not going to put in the provisions which qualify for acceleration?"

Lilly: "Those provisions will be established."

Ives: "And how widespread is it from your testimony that you heard in... in committee... how widespread is the problem that

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principals and superintendents are denying children the ability to move beyond their grade?"

Lilly: "I believe if Oliver who is eight years old, which is one student, is far too many. And he really, really was passionate about some of his classmates who find themselves in that same situation. He spoke to... spoke to some of his classmates who were just bored to death and doing things that were just not right because they were just not being educated at the level that they would need. So, I would say..."

Ives: "I... I sympathize..."

Lilly: "...it's happening."

Ives: "Yeah. No, I absolutely sympathize with students that are stuck in schools that don't provide them the type of environment for them to accelerate their... their learning. And that's why I'm a huge advocate of school choice where parents and children decide what school is the most appropriate for them. And that's why we need a school choice program in the State of Illinois to provide that type of option for kids. So, I agree with you. I just think that going down this path is the wrong direction. You're putting in an unfunded mandate on schools, you're possibly going to cause them a lot of angst in terms of battering against parents on where their child should be placed. And it's also... basically you're insinuating that superintendents and principals from around the 862 school districts that we have are absolutely negligent in accelerating kids. And I don't actually think that that's the case. I think when people have a reasonable reason... request that the school actually does abide by that request. And I think it could be settled more at the local level than a

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statewide program that sets this in statute. I appreciate your concern. I'm concerned for kids. I agree they need to be challenged. They should be challenged every single day in school, but I think that this is the wrong approach. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Turner in the Chair. Chair recognizes Representative Wallace."

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

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor will yield."

Wallace: "Thank you, Representative Lilly. I... if I'm understanding this correctly, this particular Act would be similar to providing individualized education programs as we do for students who have special needs and need specialized programming to facilitate better learning. Would you agree that this is similar to that but for gifted students?"

Lilly: "It's... it's for gifted students that we're making sure that, which is a different kind of scenario that you're speaking to. This particular policy and Act will make sure that the gifted students are on pace based on their needs. And we... we shouldn't be holding our youth back when they are gifted. Even the alliance..."

Wallace: "The School Management Alliance?"

Lilly: "...the School Management Alliance, they're neutral on this, because they understand the importance of not holding our young people back when they are gifted."

Wallace: "Thank you. To the Bill. As an educational psychologist, I wholeheartedly am behind this particular Act. What we understand is that gifted is also a form of special education in that some students are so able... so able to grasp concepts

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quickly and move on a lot faster than others that when they are in a learning environment that does not keep up with that, they actually lose gains in their educational progress. That's why there are theories such as multiple intelligences, differentiated instruction and in this case, creating a new accelerated plan for those students who are in classrooms with individuals who may be at grade level, but that child may actually be severally levels ahead. I think it is incumbent upon us to make sure that we're tapping into that. Because by the time a child reaches 4th grade if they're not engaged, and that's academically engaged, invested in their own education, we know that there's a drop off in terms of how far they'll be willing to progress. It's all science. It's all researched. It's all there. This is an excellent Bill and I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Flowers is recognized."

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

Speaker Turner: "The Sponsor will yield."

Flowers: "Representative, I'm trying to understand the purpose of this Bill because... who makes the decision now as to if this child will be placed in this accelerated program and who will make it under your legislation?"

Lilly: "The district... the school district currently has that responsibility. This policy or this Act creates the guidelines for the districts to do just that which we... so all... with all the parents and all the input, so that we make sure that we have the best guidelines for the district to follow."

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Flowers: "But... but it appears to me that you are... according to the analysis, Senate Bill 1223 create the Accelerated Placement Act? And it's making some changes and it's removing the language concerning a required appeal process for the Accelerated Placement Act? So..."

Lilly: "It's... I'm sorry, let me correct you or correct myself... get clarification. This is not a new Act, it's within... it's within current statute."

Flowers: "I'm sorry?"

Lilly: "For the Amendment. The Amendment has current statute. It's expanding upon the current statute."

Flowers: "Okay. But you're making some changes to the current statute, am I correct? You're making changes. And in the changes that you are making, you are removing language concerning a required appeal process for the accelerated placement. You're removing the appeal process. If I was a parent and I wanted my child placed in this program and I want to appeal the decision, that's being removed. Why?"

Lilly: "In talking with the School Alliance Management, they asked for this to be changed. And that's not something that currently exists, so that's why we agreed to their language."

Flowers: "Yeah, it does exist because it says it's removing that language."

Lilly: "That's from the underlying Bill that was presented, they removed it from there."

Flowers: "Right."

Lilly: "Not current statute."

Flowers: "Also, Senate Bill 1223 requires all school districts to adopt a policy... a policy, not this policy, a policy on

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accelerated placement of students. So, will they be able to adopt any policy?"

Lilly: "In the guidelines of this legislation as written, they will be utilizing the guidelines to move forth with the parents, with the teachers, with the counselors to move forth with a policy that's really, really addressing this gifted population."

Flowers: "Okay. I just have one more question. And I just want clarity. Once again, who is making the decision now as to who will be in the accelerated program? And who will be making the decision? Because I'm really confused by this legislation. It looks like this legislation is trying to do something different. And as far as making information public, what information will be made public and why?"

Lilly: "Again, the school district currently makes those decisions and they will continue to make those decisions with the support of parents, teachers, counselors, all of those entities to help them to make the best, best policy for this gifted population. But the school district will make those determinations."

Flowers: "Thank you, Representative."

Lilly: "You're welcome."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Fortner is recognized."

Fortner: "Thank you, Speaker. First, a question of the Sponsor."

Speaker Turner: "The Sponsor will yield."

Fortner: "What we're debating here is basically Floor Amendment 1 which... House Floor Amendment 1, which became the Bill. Is that correct?"

Lilly: "That is... that is correct."

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Fortner: "To the Bill. I just want to make sure that everyone understands what we're trying to do here. What it does, what it doesn't do. Is this a mandate on schools? Well, yes. But it's a mandate in the sense that that they need to make sure they have a policy, because there are talented and gifted students for whom some school districts might not have thought about the problem in advance. And left to that and faced with a child who has needs because of their talents and gifts, the school district may not always have the time to make a well-considered decision that they would be able to do if they had a policy. So, we're saying put together a policy. So, what else is in this mandate? Really nothing more than outlining some of the things that have to be in the policy. And it's a pretty simple list. It basically says, you have to have a process that involves the child's parents as well as licensed education professionals. You have to have the written consent of the parent or guardian to go through this process. There has to be a clear and transparent mechanism for informing the parents what the process is. That's what we're talking about. It's just to make sure that that policy is adequate and doesn't limit to just the things in here. If the school district wishes to go beyond that in the policy, this legislation would let them do that. If they feel that it's helpful for their decision making to go into greater detail, they're not required to do that. They're just required to do this minimum of things to make sure that they are prepared in a way that when a child who is gifted and talented and has the needs to be assessed to determine whether

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or not some type of advanced placement is required, the district is ready for it. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Lilly to close."

Lilly: "Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen for the healthy discussion. I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Turner: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1223 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. 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 a count of 99 voting 'yes', 11 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present', Senate Bill 1223, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Lang, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Lang: "I rise on a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Turner: "Please proceed, Representative."

Lang: "Thank you. Could we have some order in the chamber? Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, I was reading the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Sunday Tribune*, sometimes enlightening. On one of the early pages there's a headline that says, Joliet DCFS Investigators Competed For \$100 Gift Cards Given for Closing the Most Cases. And when you read the article, it's actually saying that it's... people would get these gift cards for being in a hurry to not investigate cases and closing them. And the people that closed the most cases would get gift cards. The first paragraph of the article says, as state child welfare investigators probed allegations of abuse into the Joliet Township home where 17-month Samaj Crosby would later be found dead, their supervisor was launching a contest that awarded \$100 gift cards to the two workers who closed

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the most cases in a month, according to agency interviews and emails examined by the *Tribune*. The third place winner would get a \$50 gift card. The article goes on and on and I think we should all be reading this article. Later it talks about the *Tribune* reporting on shortcomings marring three other DCFS investigations where children were beaten, starved to death by caretakers. Investigators did not interview key witnesses the *Tribune* found missing signs... obvious signs of abuse and failing to gather medical reports and other evidence. Well, it's no wonder, Mr. Speaker. For closing a file, they're going to get \$100. The more files they close, the more money they make. And on top of all of this, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen, the Inspector General's Office has been after State Government to provide expedited payments to complete investigations. On January 20, May 2 and as recently as May 16, Denise Kane's office, the Inspector General, indicated there were outstanding payments that threaten to halt investigations into 'misconduct and malfeasance and violations of rules, procedures or laws by DCFS employees, foster parents, service providers, and contractors with the department'. According to Dr. Kane, these payments are for payroll and staff salaries for people directly involved in Inspector General investigations. These staff are hired in coordination with the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois-Chicago. And there's a whole series of unpaid vouchers. And then they go on to say, this is from the Comptroller's Office, it is unprecedented and it has never happened before that... and the Comptroller's Office has received a hardship letter from an

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agency Inspector General. A hundred dollar gift cards for closing cases? Unpaid vouchers to the Inspector General to investigate these cases? What kind of nonsense is going on at DCFS? Which of us care about the nonsense going on at DCFS? If you care about the nonsense going at DCFS, raise your hand. There's a few hands over there. I'm good... glad to know that. This deserves some investigation by this chamber and by this General Assembly. One hundred dollar gift cards to urge people not to do their work when their work involves dead children, abused children. One hundred gift cards to case workers who were told to close their files so they can be paid more. An Inspector General who doesn't get the payments she needs to do her job where people have walked off the job at the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois-Chicago because they haven't been paid because they don't get cooperation from the State Government to do the internal work that that agency needs to do to protect abused children. This cries out for some action, Ladies and Gentlemen. It also speaks to dysfunction at DCFS, the understatement of the year. It also speaks to dysfunction in the Governor's Office. The Governor, Ladies and Gentlemen, in case you weren't sure, is ultimately responsible for the actions of each agency, each action, and I haven't heard a word yet from the Governor's Office about what's going on at DCFS. Have you? Thank you, I didn't think so. I happened to be up early, I read this at 6 in the morning. Let's assume the Governor's Office didn't read it until 9 in the morning. It's 5:07, 5:07. Bribery to close files, so that we can pay these folks more? It's not right, Ladies and Gentlemen. And each one of us in this

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chamber and each citizen of the State of Illinois should be speaking out on behalf of abused children who are not getting a proper shake today in the State of Illinois. We can do better."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Flowers is recognized."

Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank Leader Lang for bringing attention to this matter. We had a hearing last week on DCFS and it was outrageous to know that for the 32 years that I've been in this office it's been the same old, same old in regards to our children. And we should be sick and tired of it. We should be offended by the fact that taxpayers is paying monies to be disrespected and violated. We should be outraged to know that families are crying out for help. And this is the service that our dollars give to them. This is the service. These families are in need of quality assistance. They have loved ones who's fought in one... not one war, not two, but three various wars. They have jobs that have been lost. They have children that's in need of care. And then there's a redetermination in regards to public aid where they may be getting the care that's needed and they may not. They may be getting the food stamps they need or may not. They may be getting the TANF that they need, they may not. And when I tried to pass legislation on creating jobs, if you... if we are going to require these people to work, we should at least make sure they have a place to go to work. Not try to shame them. They have nothing to be ashamed of because they are poor. Because the bible says, the poor will always be with us. We have a job to do. We have job vacancies. We passed the law that required them to have work experience.

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But yet, we will not hire them. Yet there's vacancies. Yet we lose their applications. Yet we shame them. We have news media coming to their homes saying how dirty their houses are, but what they didn't tell you... what they didn't tell you, Ladies and Gentlemen, is that we have funds. We have state funds. We have federal funds. We have grants. We even have the children's funds because we take their parents' social security to abuse them and misuse them. The Norman Fund, just so you know, is a fund that is supposed to... is supposed to bring services to these families. Help them find decent housing. Help them with running water. Help them with clothes. Help them with beddings. That's what the Norman Fund is supposed to be for. Intact Family Fund is funds for those families who can be saved because the purpose of DCFS is to re... reunite family not to divide them. And there's other funds out there. But to know that there's purchase orders. There are purchase orders. People are benefitting from the poor every day. Every day that we wake up and to know what Samaj, this baby is dead. And to know that a worker came to her house, not 1 time, not 2 times, not 3 times... what the hell was she there 16 times for? To do what? Did she bring her some food? No. Did she help with the running water? No. Did she get the gas back on? No. That baby is dead. And then at the... after that baby dies, what happens? You have 4 different state agencies bringing tons of people walking through the house. Now, let's count up the payroll on that. Let's count up the pension. Let's count up the overtime. Under the pretense... under the pretense of helping. Well, Representative Lang, I want you to join me 'cause I called for the

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investigation. And I want to thank our Inspector General, Denise Kane, because she wrote a report in 2016 and I would encourage all of you all to read it. In 2016 she talked about how we have let the children down in this state. That's what Denise Kane said not Mary Flowers. Then 2017 comes, you should read that report. It's real simple. Once again, we failed the children. We... these people have not had a cost of living in regards to TANF. The other day I ran off some numbers in regards to the State of Wisconsin. You know Wisconsin with that Republican President. Well, a family of three there makes \$600 a month. New York, California, oh, but here in the State of Illinois. How do you expect a family to pull themselves up by their boot straps making four hundred and some odd dollars a month? You live off of it because I'll be doggone if they can. And furthermore... furthermore, in the newspaper... the newspaper had the nerve to talk about all the people that was coming into Samj... Samaj's home. Well, guess what, we allowed those strangers to come in. Because we're not paying the families enough, so therefore, the mother is obligated to get some help from strangers, from uncles and aunts and other people that they know is not conducive to be around their children. But they don't have a choice because DCFS has them going over here, public aid have them going over here, and somebody else could have them going someplace else. Enough is enough. So, thank you, again, Representative, for bringing this to everyone's attention because I've been dealing with it for 32 years. And just like you, I'm sick and tired of it. And it's time for us to really not give lip service, not to use... you will no longer use my children off my back and off

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these poor people's back. I'm sick and tired of you getting your contracts, letting out the contracts, Chase Bank and others making the Medicaid cards. The Medicaid cards that's made of paper that can be ripped. And then, once they get ripped in the washing machine, where do they go? How long do they wait? And our senior citizens, tell me about the senior citizens who suffer from mental illness and Alzheimer's disease and they're supposed to a re... do a redetermination form. Tell me. And why is it that they're not getting their... their prescription drugs? And we can getting ready to move into a new building right over here on 9th street. This building is older than I don't know what. Enough is enough, Ladies and Gentlemen. Stop pimping poor people. Stop blaming poor people for being poor when you have made them poor. That's the only way a lot of you can stay in a job. You have contributed to the problems of the poor people in this state. And it's time for us to have a real conversation and do something about it. And Representative McSweeney, I want to thank you for calling me and offering your help and your services because I look forward to it. And thank you, Representative Ford, for making me do something that I was just tired of doing. But thank you for being the young man that you are, with the energy pushing me and making me every day do the things that I know that has to be done, to speak up for all the children of the State of Illinois. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Leader Bellock is recognized."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And all of us in this chamber I think would agree with some of the statements that Representative Lang and especially Representative Flowers

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have said. This issue is about the children and there should be no child that should go as to what the last story was in Joliet or any child. I agree with you, Mary. I've said, after the hearing you called and I agreed with you calling that hearing that we should form a task force, go throughout the state, have other hearings and find out how we can change the system. But I will tell you that you have been dedicated to DCFS making changes since I have been here in 18 years. I agree with you. But I will say that it has been a revolving door with the Directors of DCFS since we've been here. I think we've gone through 6 or 8 in the last 15 or 16 years. I think that this administration looked all over the United States to bring in someone that did know more about child welfare than just about anybody in the United States. A person who had dealt with child welfare for years. But he, himself, has said that in order to make the reforms of DCFS it's going to take a long time not just one or two years. Which isn't suitable for all of us when we see that children are dying in that care, I agree with you on that. But the bottom line is, I feel that this is the first person in the last several years that has made an attempt... remember he first came in he was the one that saved the 18 to 21 year old program because he understood how we could get Medicaid funding for that program. There's a lot that has gone on and I... I don't know about what the credit cards or whatever the cards that he talking about today. But this is something that all of us care about. This is not a partisan issue. All of us care about children being taken care of, children being neglected and abused. And all of us should be part of the solution to this problem. It

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should not be on one or the other. And certainly not on this administration that brought in one of the best experts on child welfare in the United States and is trying to do something about saving our children and reforms on neglect and abuse. The stories that we hear are the worst you could possibly hear. And I agree with you, Representative Flowers, that we need to do something and all of us need to be a part of that. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Ammons is recognized."

Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor... just a point of personal privilege, please."

Turner: "Please proceed."

Ammons: "I want to certainly thank both Representative Lang and Representative Flowers for the many years of service they've given to the subject of DCFS. The unfortunate death of the baby who is a member of my extended family, my daughter's side, father's... it is her cousin who is... passed in Joliet. I'm from Joliet originally, and know the family and the background of the mother. It is an unfortunate... unfortunate story that reveals the difficulty that poor mothers experience in this country as a whole, but certainly in our state with no budget. I am reminded of a young woman at the University of Illinois, only a couple of months ago, who recently was sentenced for unfortunately the murder of her baby. And both of these mothers have something in common, although they're ethnically different. Both of them were alone, both of them were suffering post-partum depression and poverty had its place in both circumstances. But something that I understand as a former social worker at one of our

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agencies in this state before I came here, social workers, teachers are the lowest paid workers as a profession. And we have not done a good job looking at those professions as professions. And holding them not only accountable to the work that they do but to make sure that their professions are also appreciated and rewarded. This is a tragedy all the way around. Because the baby who died in this situation won't grow up to tell her story. And the mother who is suffering from deep depression will be vilified by the same system that created it. And so, if there's going to be reform in the Department of Children and Family Services that reform has to look back to its institutional foundation that created it in itself. It has itself tied to the criminal justice system. It has itself tied to lack of education and access. It also has itself tied to poverty and the resulting effects of poverty. And so I applaud our Representative and support the call for an immediate full investigation into this matter and so many others that have happened over the last year for children who are in custody. And I will tell you that there are many children who in custody of the Department of Children and Family Services who may not need to be in custody. Many children who are removed from their family strictly because they are poor and have poor habits and should not be on the caseload. And social workers have caseloads that are enormous and well above best practices. And so, in the investigation Representative Flowers, I hope that that investigation reveals what actually needs to be done with the Department of Children and Family Services, which is a complete reorganization of it and its purpose. And also to examine the

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racial implications involved in the Department of Children and Family Services. That cannot be left out of the investigation as to the deaths of these black children. And so, I thank you all... thank you so much, Representative Flowers and thank you, Representative Lang, for bringing it forward."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Ford is recognized."

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

Speaker Turner: "Please proceed, Sir."

Ford: "Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I think that many things happen for a reason. And I am very happy Leader Lang and Leader Flowers spoke today. And so, I think we owe as a Body to baby Crosby a show of solidarity that her death will not be in vain. I think that we as a Body should stand for a moment of silence for baby Samaj Crosby and show that her death will not be in vain and together we rise for the improvements of DCFS. That we don't have to fight, all we have to do it work. And show that because of her death, our state will be a better place. Because of her death, there will be no more baby Crosby's in the State of Illinois that die because of our neglect to the families of Illinois."

Speaker Turner: "The Body will take a moment of silence. Thank you, Representative Ford. Representative Flowers, your name was mentioned on multiple occasions."

Flowers: "Yes. I'll be very brief. To the previous speakers, in regards to the Director. I don't care if it was one Director or 10 Directors. There's a policy in place as far as the work ethic of those social workers. That's number one. And that's the most important thing. And... but it was under this Director's watch, did the... the changes come about that the

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pay to play... to pretend like you're working closing cases that caused harm. It was under his watch. It was under his watch that in the... in Cook County there was a program called, Blue... I forget what the other part is, Blue something... he created that to close cases. There was bonuses given almost twice as much a person made to close those cases, Representative. But see my point is not to stand up and put blame on anyone. There's a problem here. And this last baby's death and the... her family situation is a wakeup call to all of us because we don't know how many more out there waiting to be destroyed. And as some of the previous speakers spoke and said, there are so many other children that is locked up for a better word. I... because I can't come up with a better word, but they are locked up within DCFS because there comes a price with them. There's about 16 young African-American men that's been locked up for a very long time because their parents don't have a home to take them to. So, we would rather give a contract to... of \$100,000 per person rather than help that family get a home. And remember, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is the Department of Children and Family Services. The entire family needs to be serviced and helped if we want to help lift them up out of poverty. And this... the laws that we pass and the things that we do on this floor that negatively impact their lives. So, once again, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to have that opportunity. And to know that the caseloads of these workers is way out of control. That should not happen under this Director's watch. And so, there's some questions that need to be asked and answered. Thank you."

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Speaker Turner: "Members, Democrats will caucus in Room 114 immediately following adjournment. And now, allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Currie moves that the House adjourn until Monday, May 29 at 10 a.m. Monday, May 29, 10 a.m. All in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it and the House is adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Committee Reports. Representative Daniel Burke, Chairperson from the Committee on Executive reports the following committee action taken on May 28, 2017: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1775, Senate Bill 1947. Representative Hoffman, Chairperson from the Committee on Labor & Commerce reports the following committee action taken on May 28, 2017: do pass as amended Short Debate Senate Bill 81; recommends be adopted is Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 2699. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Human Services reports the following committee action taken on May 28, 2017: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 3060, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 3161, House Resolution 422. Introduction of Resolutions. House Joint Resolution 62, offered by Representative Hoffman. House Joint Resolution 63, offered by Representative McSweeney. And House... and Senate Joint Resolution 31, offered by Representative Hayes. These were referred to the Rules Committee. Introduction and First Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 643, offered by Representative Currie, a Bill for an Act concerning government. First Reading of this Senate

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Bill. Second Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 81, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. Senate Bill 1775, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Senate Bill 1947, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Second Reading of these Senate Bills. They'll be held on the Order of Second Reading. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."