

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
100th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

14th Legislative Day

2/16/2017

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

The regular Session of the 100th General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desk? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be (by) Pastor Chance Newingham, from the Lifegate in Africa, Athens, Illinois. Sir.

PASTOR CHANCE NEWINGHAM:

(Prayer by Pastor Chance Newingham)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Cunningham)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Leave has been requested by Lisa Yuscus, of the Blueroomstream {sic} (Blueroomstream.com), to videotape. Seeing no opposition, leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journal of Wednesday, February 15th, 2017.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Mr. President, I move to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal just read by the Secretary, pending arrival of the printed transcript.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Hunter moves to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal, pending arrival of the printed transcripts. There being no objection, so ordered. Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

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SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolutions 171 through 173, offered by Senator Anderson and all Members.

Senate Resolution 174, offered by Senator Barickman and all Members.

They are all death resolutions, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Resolutions Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 170, offered by Senator Koehler.  
It is substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Tom Cullerton, Chairperson of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, reports Senate Bills 87, 705, and 860 Do Pass.

Senator Bertino-Tarrant, Chairperson of the Committee on Education, reports Senate Bills 698, 757, and 865 Do Pass.

Senator Van Pelt, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Health, reports Senate Bill 868 Do Pass; and Senate Resolution 18 Be Adopted.

Senator Raoul, Chairperson of the Committee on Judiciary, reports Senate Bills 61, 822, and 882 Do Pass.

Senator McGuire, Chairperson of the Committee on Higher Education, reports Senate Bill 736 Do Pass.

Senator Landek, Chairperson of the Committee on State Government, reports Senate Bill 886 Do Pass.

Senator Martinez, Chairperson of the Committee on Licensed Activities and Pensions, reports Senate Bills 747 and 772 Be

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Adopted... Let's start over. Senator Martinez, Chairperson of the Committee on Licensed Activities and Pensions, reports Senate Bills 642, 747, and 772 Do Pass; and Senate Bill 589 Do Pass, as Amended.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Righter, do you seek recognition?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

I am, Mr. President. For a point of personal privilege, if I might.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Please state your purpose, sir.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, and good afternoon. I have two very special guests here with me today. They are in the President's Galley -- Gallery, here on the Republican side. This is Olivia Bohleber, who is Miss Illinois Teen USA. She is from Carmi in my district. She is a junior at White County High School. She is a cheerleader. More importantly, though, Olivia, last year she was a member of her school's 4x400 meter relay team that went to State - as a running coach, good job. I promise you, Olivia, there are more Members of the State Senate than what you see right now. If you hang on a little bit, you'll get to see them. Olivia will be competing in the national competition, the exact date of which hasn't been set yet, but in the last two years, the competitions have been in the Bahamas and Las Vegas. So, either way, she's going someplace nice. I wonder if the Senate Members who are here could give her a warm welcome, please, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Please welcome our guest. Congratulations and wish you all

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the best. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Inquiry of the Chair, if I might, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Please, everyone, please keep it down.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

I -- I wonder if you can ask one of the technicians to look into my microphone system. Obviously, my voice doesn't really sound like this, but it's projecting something distorted. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

That will be done, sir. Thank you. Will all Members at the sound of my voice please report to the Senate Floor? Senator Hutchinson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HUTCHINSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

State your purpose.

SENATOR HUTCHINSON:

I -- thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I stand today to offer a moment in Black history. It is still Black History Month and we wanted to share some pieces of history with those that we serve with. I'd like to point out today the Montford Point Marines. The Montford Point Marines were the first African American Marines to serve in World War II after the 1942 Presidential order to desegregate the troops. These men were stationed in Montford Point, which is a -- a place in North Carolina off of Parris Island. One of the things that was significant about this regiment in and of itself was that they

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knew they needed more forces. They knew they needed to open up these -- these Armed Forces to Black people during wartime. The Marines were the last branch of the Armed Services to actually do this. These troops served in an area that was much more difficult than where the White troops served. It was swamp-like. There were snakes, the heat; they didn't eat with the White soldiers; they got the leftovers; they were assigned to food prep; they were also -- once they were dispatched to the Pacific Islands, one of which was Iwo Jima, their job was to bag the bodies and bring bodies back to shore, sometimes under fire. I raise this to say that my grandfather was a Montford Point Marine. And when President Obama awarded this group of soldiers the Congressional Medal of Honor, he did it when they acknowledged -- after both Houses of Congress acknowledged that this was a -- a historical account that had gone forgotten for too long. We know the Tuskegee Airmen. We know the Tuskegee Airmen never lost a flight, never lost a plane, and we have movies to celebrate the historic nature of what they did during World War II. It is not exactly the same for the Montford Point Marines. My grandfather's name was Everett Scoville Walker, Sr., and he didn't tell the truth when he went to go enlist. It was so important to him to go fight for his country that he was sixteen years old when he did it. When I look at the picture of him in his uniform, and you can imagine that he was willing to go die for his country at sixteen years old. He always kept a jar of black sand by the bed and he kept it there until he died. And we, growing up, didn't necessarily know what the black sand was. I learned later as an adult that that black sand came from the beaches of Iwo Jima and he would tell the story that even though those troops were not integrated - they were desegregated,

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but they were not integrated - that his job was to make sure that those soldiers got home. And in that black sand, the blood that runs through it, you didn't know whether it was a White soldier or a Black soldier. You just knew that blood ran red. So I stand here to give honor to the Montford Point Marines. I salute the fact that they got a Congressional Gold Medal and that my grandfather was one to receive it posthumously. But I say that in this Black History Month, in this Capitol, in this State, in this country, that African Americans have always served in any way we have ever been asked to for the betterment of our country. We have always been there - from the day the first shot was fired in the Revolutionary War and every war since then. My grandfather didn't get to see me come to the Illinois State Senate or serve in the General Assembly, but service is something that runs through our family, just like that blood in the black sand. Thank you to the Montford Point Marines and thank you for your attention on this little Black history note.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

State your purpose, sir.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Today I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the past and present contributions that African Americans have made to this State and this country. It is an important time in our country and the State's history to celebrate our accomplishments and remind ourselves of the potential, tenacity,

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and the prominence. Just this past weekend, a young man from Chicago, Chance the Rapper, won three Grammy Awards and the first African American to do so in the manner in which he did. He was a independent artist and was not signed to a major record deal, so he did it on his own without any strings attached. Also we've had Serena Williams, who's arguably one of the greatest athletes of our generation, just win her 23rd Grand Slam. We have Dr. Altha Smith {sic} (Stewart), who recently became the first African American to lead the (American) Psychiatric Association. Black history happens every day and I just wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a few Black history notes and wish everyone a happy Black History Month and continue to celebrate the life and legacy of those African Americans who have come before us to set the trail. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Leader Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Thank you -- thank you, Mr. President. I, too, would like to offer a point in Black history. Black women -- regarding Black women's role in education. Black women are often unrecognized for their influences within the -- the -- the American culture as it pertains to education. Whether it's in the workplace, learning institution, public life or in the home, women bear a lot of responsibilities in educating young men -- young men and women of today's society. In the past, there was a great time of social unrest for the Black community. Still today, education is one of the most talked about things in life and in protest of -- for Black Americans. According to the 2011 Census Bureau, by both race and gender, Black women have the highest percentage rating for



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enrollment in college than any other group. So, therefore, it is important to recognize and celebrate the contributions of African American women, as they continue to rise above challenges, break down barriers, and build bridges towards success. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Thank you. Senator Raoul, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RAOUL:

A point of personal privilege, Mr. -- Mr....

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

State your purpose, sir.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Mr. President, I'm going to ask for a twofer here, because I want to touch both on the military that Senator Hutchinson touched on and on education that Senator Hunter touched on. First, with regards to the military, most of you all know that I'm of Haitian descent and -- but most -- many of you all may not know that in 1779, there were hundreds of Haitian soldiers that fought for this country's independence in the Siege of Savannah. It's a oft overlooked point in history -- in American history and also in African American history, 'cause it's overlooked that the -- that the citizens of the first Black republic of the world not only fought for the freedom of slaves, but fought for the freedom of all individuals in this country. Secondly, I want to take us back to 1954 and -- and take us back to the works of Thurgood Marshall in Brown v. Board of Education and kind of think about it in the context of our "grand bargain", because we often look at the case of Brown v. Board of Education, as a case that overturned Plessy versus Ferguson, that upheld state-sponsored segregation, and we

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celebrate Brown v. Board of Education as an accomplishment that overturned Plessy, but as we look at our schools throughout the country and particularly in the State of Illinois, you have to ask yourself, without the funding reform that we've been calling for, have we really overturned Plessy versus Ferguson? If you look at the state of our schools, both the economic circumstance, as well as the racial segregation that exists because of our -- the lack of school funding reform, notwithstanding the great work of Thurgood Marshall, can we honestly tell ourselves that we've overturned Plessy? I'd like for us to think about that as we go forth in our work in Black History Month and -- and as we return in two weeks to do the work that the citizens expect us to do for all the schoolchildren in the State.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Van Pelt, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR VAN PELT:

I would like to share some remarks about Black history.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

State your purpose.

SENATOR VAN PELT:

This year's national theme for Black History Month is "The Crisis in Black Education". And I believe this is a very timely topic because we have been in a crisis and African American communities has been in a crisis, you know, throughout history when it comes to education. We've had to fight for equal treatment and equal rights in America on every hand. And while the actual battles may have changed, the heart of the issue stays the same: African Americans have been systematically disenfranchised when it comes to education and in -- also in many other areas of our lives.

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Since the days of slavery, education has been a key issue for African Americans. Slave owners worked hard to keep slaves from learning how to read and write for fear that education would somehow lead them to freedom. After slavery -- slavery was outlawed, African Americans were forced to go to separate schools. They said they were separate but equal, and we know they were underfunded, extremely underfunded, and extremely unequal. In yet another attempt to suppress the African Americans, Brown versus Board of Education changed the laws, but it didn't fix the crisis in Black education. Today, Illinois has the least equitable school funding formula of any state in this nation. Schools in predominantly Black areas continue to be underfunded, and schools aren't being given the resources they need to provide students with the best education possible. MAP grants that provide a path for the most vulnerable students to go to college are being held hostage by the Governor now, leaving so many students, including African Americans, unsure of whether or not they will be able to attend college in the next semester. After-school programs that provide vital services and -- and care for -- are being defunded. Under the Governor's -- Governor Rauner's proposed budget yesterday, there were cuts of 2.4 million dollars from After School Matters, five million dollars from the lowest performing schools' line item, and fifteen million dollars from the Healthy Communities Grant, and -- and that provided, also, funding for after-school programs. The Governor's budget also includes more than twelve million dollars in cuts to employment programs for youth. These programs help the most vulnerable in our State, including African Americans in Illinois, with tools for success, for they continue to be undervalued -- yet they continue to be undervalued and

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underfunded. And this is unacceptable and that's why I'm happy to be able to stand here today and speak. I'm proud to be a State Senator in Illinois and I'm proud to be with my life and my work fitting in the context of the historical struggles that we have had throughout history in this country. So, at this time, I just want to say, I hope the Governor will join us in this fight and be -- be sure that all this inequality and inequity is brought to a close in this term. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. President. And I would like to join my other colleagues in providing some remarks as we celebrate Black History Month. As we observe Black History Month, I think it is quite fitting that one of the most popular Hollywood films this past year was Hidden Figures. It's rewarding to see a story about Black women being recognized for using their mathematical gifts, talents and intelligence to help America achieve great scientific advancements. Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughan were three Black women whose dogged determination and dedication helped the United States compete in the space race. When there occurred discrepancies in IBM calculations for astronaut John Glenn's capsule reentry, it was Katherine Johnson's coordinate calculations that ensured his safe and successful landing. Their story is an inspiration, because it reminds us that when we respect each other and work together, regardless of race, religion and gender, we make America better and stronger. And as President Reagan so eloquently articulated, it makes "America a shining city upon a hill whose beacon light guides

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freedom-loving people everywhere". Katherine Johnson went on to calculate the trajectories for Apollo 11 and Apollo 13 missions. In 2015, when she was ninety-seven years old, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This movie, I encourage everyone to see, because it provides us with a teachable moment, where we are confronted with societal stereotypes and false assumptions. This Black History Month I encourage everyone to look beyond the myths and falsehoods that seek to disparage and demean the dignity of others. We can only grow stronger as a nation by empowering all Americans to fulfill their God-given potential and reach beyond the horizons of hope. This Black History Month let's focus on fostering a society of fairness, justice, and equity. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Leader Lightford, do you seek recognition?

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I'd like to join the other previous speakers who have shared a moment in Black history and I would like to relate our moment here with the Springfield NAACP, the longest-serving civil rights organization in the nation. A relationship began with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus as a result of the Springfield riots of 1908. The NAACP was established in 1909 and Jim Crow laws were in full effect. Black elected officials would ride from Chicago and East St. Louis in the segregated section of the train. Arriving in Springfield gave them no options to eat or sleep in local restaurants or hotels due to segregation. With -- with few options, Black members of the General Assembly called on the Springfield NAACP who in turn contacted pastors and members of church congregations for accommodations in their homes, which was

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eagerly offered. Local Black churches, such as Zion Baptist Church, Union Baptist Church, and St. Paul A.M.E., whose members were affiliated with the Springfield NAACP, offered places to eat, sleep, as well as transportation to the Capitol. Black members of the General Assembly, in the process of making laws for change, could not break the laws that kept them from segregated hotels and restaurants in the surrounding areas. The Springfield NAACP, being a civil rights organization, felt it was important to work with the Black legislators to get Jim Crow laws changed as riots persisted in the Metro East. The Jim Crow laws on a State level did not change until seventy years after the first Black elected official was sworn in in 1886. On the federal level, they were not changed until the Kennedy and Johnson administrations' formalization of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. So I'm proud to share this information with you. Last night, we honored the Springfield NAACP at our Black History Soirée and it was a very moving and touching opportunity to just give back and thank those whose shoulders we stand on as Black legislators and having the freedom to stay in any hotel we'd like to, eat at any restaurant we'd like to, and transport ourselves as we like. So please continue to acknowledge all of those civil rights movements and Black history movements that's made a difference in all of our lives. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

On the top of page 2 on the Calendar of the -- in the Order of Senate Bills 2nd Reading. Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, may I please have personal privilege?

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

State your point.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you. I would like to introduce my staff from the district office. Miss Marla Skinner - she is my district operations. She runs the office. She's been with me seven years and she's just a wonderful joy to have. And Miss Joyce Simmons. Joyce was a neighbor, watching me grow up for years. I think we became neighbors in the seventies. So it's really nice in her retirement to come back and work in the district office and to also lend us a hand for our constituents. So if you all could please welcome my wonderful staff here to the Capitol. Thank you so much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Senator -- Senator McConnaughay.

SENATOR McCONNAUGHAY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Personal privilege, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

State your point.

SENATOR McCONNAUGHAY:

Thank you. I'd like to introduce my Page for the Day, Charlie Burke. Charlie Burke is a seventh grader at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Batavia and he's thirteen years old. He loves politics. His mom describes him as a die-hard Republican. He's the huge -- he was a huge supporter of Governor Mitt Romney in 2012 and was disappointed that he did not run again in 2016. A lot of us were disappointed about that. He loves to golf and hopes to make it to the Vanderbilt golf team. And his life goal is to start his own

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business and I'm already trying to convince him to start that business in Illinois. So, please join me in welcoming Charlie to the Illinois State Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Welcome, Charlie, to the Illinois State Senate. Good luck in all your endeavors. We look forward to probably seeing you again in this Chamber as a representative. Thank you. Again, on top of the Order of 2nd Reading, we have Senate Bill No. 2. Senator Lightford, do you wish to proceed? Senate Bill No. 2. Mr. Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

3rd Reading. Senate Bill 55. Senator Jones. Senator Jones, you wish to proceed? With leave of the Body, we'll come back to Senate Bill... Senator Jones. Senator Jones. He signals that he wishes to proceed. Please proceed. ...Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 55.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

3rd Reading. Senate Bill 69. Senator Hastings. Senator Hastings. Senate Bill 584. Senator Barickman. Senator Barickman, do you wish to proceed? Senate Bill 654. Senator Biss. Senator



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Biss. Senator Biss signals that he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 654.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

3rd Reading. Senate Bill 667. Senator Martinez. Senator Martinez. 667. She says that she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 667.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

3rd Reading. Senator Martinez, on Senate Bill 674. You wish to proceed? She signals that she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 674.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

3rd Reading. On Senate Bill 684, Senator Rose. Senator Rose? Thank you. Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

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A Message from the House by Mr. Mapes, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed bills of the following titles, in the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Bill 284.

We have received like Messages on House Bills 373, 386, 434, 479, 489, and 616. Passed the House, February 16th, 2017. Timothy D. Mapes, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

With leave of the Body, we'll go back to Senate Bill 69. Senator Hastings. On 2nd Reading, Senator Hastings. He indicates he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 69.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

3rd Reading. Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

A Message from the House by Mr. Mapes, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Joint Resolution 29.

Resolved by the -- offered by Senator Muñoz.

(Secretary reads HJR No. 29)

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Adopted by the House, February 16th, 2017. Timothy D. Mapes, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

On the Order of Resolutions is House Joint Resolution 29. Mr. Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Joint Resolution 29, offered by Senator Muñoz.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Muñoz moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of House Joint Resolution 29. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Muñoz moves for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 29. All in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. We will now proceed to the Order of Resolutions Consent Calendar. With leave of the Body, all those resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Mr. Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any resolution on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No objections filed, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries. And the resolutions are adopted. There no -- being no further business to come before the Senate, pursuant to House Resolution {sic} (House Joint Resolution) 29, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 12 noon on the 28th of February 2017, or until the call of the Senate President. The -- the Senate

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stands adjourned.