

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

SB0011	Third Reading	9
SB0011	Vote Intention	20
SB0273	Third Reading	20
SB0784	First Reading	5
SB0785	First Reading	5
SB0786	First Reading	5
SB0787	First Reading	5
SB0788	First Reading	5
SB0789	First Reading	6
SB0790	First Reading	6
SB0791	First Reading	6
SB0792	First Reading	6
SB0793	First Reading	6
SB0794	First Reading	6
SB0795	First Reading	6
SB0796	First Reading	6
SB0797	First Reading	6
SB0798	First Reading	6
SB0799	First Reading	7
SB0800	First Reading	7
SB0801	First Reading	7
SB0802	First Reading	7
SB0803	First Reading	7
SB0804	First Reading	7
SB0805	First Reading	7
SB0806	First Reading	7
SB0807	First Reading	7
SB0808	First Reading	7
SB0809	First Reading	7
SB0810	First Reading	7
SB0811	First Reading	7
SB0812	First Reading	7
SB0813	First Reading	8
SB0814	First Reading	8
SB0815	First Reading	8
SB0816	First Reading	8
SB0817	First Reading	8
SB0818	First Reading	8
SB0819	First Reading	8
SB0820	First Reading	8
SB0821	First Reading	8

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

SB0822	First Reading	8
SB0823	First Reading	8
SB0824	First Reading	8
SB0825	First Reading	8
SB0826	First Reading	8
SB0827	First Reading	8
SB0828	First Reading	9
SB0829	First Reading	9
SB0830	First Reading	9
SB0831	First Reading	9
SR0115	Resolution Offered	2
SR0116	Resolution Offered	2
SR0117	Resolution Offered	2
SR0118	Resolution Offered	2
SR0119	Resolution Offered	2
SR0120	Resolution Offered	2
HJR0018	Adopted	24
HJR0018	Resolution Offered	24
SJR0008	Resolution Offered	2
SJR0009	Resolution Offered	2
Senate to Order-Senator Harmon		1
Prayer-Shaun Lewis		1
Pledge of Allegiance		1
Journal-Postponed		1
Committee Reports		2
Introduction of Guests-Senator Manar		3
Remarks by Rochester Rockets Coach Derek Leonard		4
Resolutions Consent Calendar-Adopted		22
Messages from the House		23
Adjournment		24

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

The regular Session of the 99th General Assembly will please come to order. Will our Members please be at their desks? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Shaun Lewis of Civil Servant Ministries, here in Springfield, Illinois. Pastor.

SHAUN LEWIS:

(Prayer by Shaun Lewis)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Pastor. Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Cunningham, would you please lead us?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Cunningham)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journal of Wednesday, February 4th, 2015.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

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 -- printed transcript.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Hunter moves to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal, pending arrival of the printed transcript. There being no objection, so ordered. WICS Television requests permission to audiotape and videotape the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Blueroomstream.com also requests

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

permission to videotape. Is there any objection? Seeing none, the leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolutions 115 and 116, offered by Senator Hunter and all Members.

Senate Resolution 117, offered by Senator Brady and all Members.

And Senate Resolutions 118 and 119, offered by Senator Collins and all Members.

They are all death resolutions, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Resolutions Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 120, offered by Senator Sullivan.

Senate Joint Resolution 8, offered by Senator Bush.

And Senate Joint Resolution 9, offered by Senator Haine.

They are substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Biss, Chairperson of the Committee on Human Services, reports Senate Bill 12 and Senate Bill 43 Do Pass.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Kotowski, for what purpose are you seeking recognition?

SENATOR KOTOWSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. It's a pleasure seeing you this morning. You look -- you look as dashing as ever. I just wanted to say that. So it's a great -- a great privilege that I have

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

today. I have some very, very special guests. We're honored today by the presence of my niece and nephew, Ellie and Chip Kurczewski. They're -- they're wonderful -- they're wonderful kids. They -- they're extraordinary - please stand up - and they're -- they're joined here by their parents, Phil Kurczewski and his wife, Beth Dempsey. They're -- they're significant. Beth is my wife's sister. Right? And Phil is obviously a great -- Beth made a very wise choice in marrying someone of Polish, you know, Polish ethnicity, which is great - there's a great balance - just like her sister did. But Chip and -- and Ellie are very, very accomplished. Ellie loves to read. She wants to be a scientist. She's a very cool kid. And -- and Chip is a Mets fan. I just found this out, Phil. And Phil's a -- and -- and his dad's a diehard Sox fan. But Chip's favorite food is watermelon. Right? And that's -- I think Ellie loves all food. So Chip wants to be an astronomer, an astronomer, and Ellie wants to be a scientist. Could you please give them -- a great Springfield welcome - to our family, the Kurczewskis? Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Ellie, Chip, and the Kurczewski family, welcome to Springfield. Welcome to the Senate. At this point, we're going to turn the Podium over to Senator Andy Manar for purposes of an introduction. Senator Manar.

SENATOR MANAR:

Thank you, Mr. President. All right. Ladies and Gentlemen, my colleagues in the Senate, if I could have -- have your attention for just a few seconds. I want to -- I invited the Rochester Rockets Football Team to the Senate today because they are the proud winners of five consecutive championship trophies for Class

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

4A football in the State of Illinois, an unprecedented run on the part of these young men and their coaching staff. So please welcome them to the State Senate today. As is the case in -- in most communities that -- that we represent, sporting events on the high school level instill pride in young people and their parents and their communities and their neighborhoods. And I think that could not be better said than for the community of Rochester, which, of course, is just a -- a few miles outside of Springfield to the southeast. But the work that has been done by Coach Derek Leonard over the years - ten years, in fact - has led to this amazing run on the part of this school district. So I'd like to invite him up just to say a few words. And, again -- the gallery here is filled. I think there are seventy -- seventy players here today that are sophomores through seniors at Rochester High School. And, again, I just want to offer my congratulations to this team. I'm proud of you. Proud to represent you in the State Senate. I know that your hometown is incredibly proud of what you have accomplished, not just this year, but for -- for the past five years in State football. So please welcome Coach Leonard.

COACH DEREK LEONARD:

(Remarks by Rochester Rockets Coach Derek Leonard)

SENATOR MANAR:

So, thank you. Thank you to all the players for coming. Coach, thanks for coming. I have a hunch that we might be back here for number six in a row next year from the Rockets. Please give the players and the coaching staff one more round of applause. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Althoff, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your point, Senator.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Thank you. And if I could really have everyone's attention, this is an extraordinarily important announcement. We have had an individual who has been on our staff for fifteen years, who actually joined the Republican staff immediately upon her graduation from Knox College. She's been in the background. Many of you can probably recognize her face. She's served on -- as one of our Appropriation staff. Today is her last day. But I want you to really see her, because she's leaving us to go and become the liaison for the Department of Human Services. Jennifer Aring, we thank you for your years of service. You have been phenomenal. We wish you all the best and thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Congratulations, Jennifer. Go, Siwash! Go, Prairie Fire!  
Mr. Secretary, Introduction of Bills.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 784, offered by Senator Forby.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 785, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 786, offered by Senator Hunter.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 787, offered by Senator Steans.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill -- Senate Bill 788, offered by Senator Steans.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 789, offered by Senator Biss.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 790, offered by Senator Bush.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 791, offered by Senator Bush.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 792, offered by Senator Bush.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 793, offered by Senator Holmes.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 794, offered by Senator Brady.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 795, offered by Senator Brady.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 796, offered by Senator Brady.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 797, offered by Senator Holmes.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 798, offered by Senator LaHood.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I just wanted to inform you, we will be turning to 3rd Reading. That will be final action. I'd ask all Members within the sound of my voice to be at their desks. Will all Members of the Senate within the sound of my voice be at their desks? Mr. Secretary, let's pick back up with Introduction of Bills.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

Senate Bill 799, offered by Senator Link.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 800, offered by Senator McCann.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 801, offered by Senator Trotter.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 802, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 803, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 804, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 805, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 806, offered by Senator Kotowski.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 807, offered by Senator Morrison.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 808, offered by Senator Harrison, an Act concerning -- excuse me, it's Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 809, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 18 -- 810, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 811, offered by Senator Sandoval.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 812, offered by Senator Sandoval.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

Senate Bill 813, offered by Senator Sullivan.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 814, offered by Senator Martinez.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 815, offered by Senator Righter.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 816, offered by Senator Tom Cullerton.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 817, offered by Senator Tom Cullerton.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 818, offered by Senator Nybo.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 819, offered by Senator Brady.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 820, offered by Senator Link.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 821, offered by Senator Link.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 822, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 823, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 824, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 825, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 826, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 827, offered by Senator Harris.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 828... Senate Bill 828, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 829, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 830, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

And Senate Bill 831, offered by Senator Harris.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of the bills.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, on page 2 of your printed Calendar, on the Order of Senate Bills 3rd Reading, is Senate Bill 11. Senator Lightford, are you ready to proceed? Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 11.

(Secretary reads the bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Lightford, to present Senate Bill 11.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This is the effort to raise Illinois' minimum wage. We need to move forward on this wage this year. As many of you know, the voters went to referendum this past November and over two-thirds of the State indicated that a minimum wage was necessary. That included pretty much all of our areas throughout the State of Illinois. Minimum wage is not a new discussion around here. In

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

fact, surprisingly, the Governor, on yesterday, in his State of the State Address, acknowledged that the State needed to raise its minimum wage. This bill asks you to raise the wage to nine dollars on the first of July and then fifty cents thereafter until it reaches the maximum of eleven dollars in 2019. Over four hundred thousand low-wage workers will be affected by this increase. And our goal is just to help working poor, to help them bring themselves out of poverty. I'd be happy to answer questions, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Murphy, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MURPHY:

To the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR MURPHY:

You know, I made -- I made a -- a joke in committee that fell flat the other day that -- referring to this as the week of Groundhog Day and we're -- here we are again voting on a minimum wage bill in the Senate. And I think that's a testament, Senator, to your stick-to-itiveness on this issue and your commitment to it, and we certainly commend you on that. I think it was important that the Governor made the statement you alluded to yesterday, that he is open to this and thinks this is an important issue as well. He also indicated he wants to work with both sides of the aisle, and you in particular, on this as the Session goes forward. I don't think he is for doing it in the form it's in in this bill right now. The concerns that I think he has raised, and that we

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

have felt all along, are when you make employees more expensive, you price some of them out of the market and some people lose their job. I -- I think what I heard from him yesterday was, while we stairstep up people's pay at the minimum wage, we also want to make it easier for those employers to keep them in their job. I know you're trying to make an effort in that regard with your tax credit. I suspect that has the potential to be a point of negotiation, as you go forward, with the Governor. But I can't support this bill right now as a stand-alone concept because I think the Governor is on to something - that without -- while taking such a large step up in the cost of employees, without correspondingly giving employers the opportunity across the board to maybe save some money in other areas, you run the risk of people losing their job that we want to help. I look forward to the conversation about this issue in conjunction with others throughout the spring, and, again, commend you for your efforts in pushing this issue forward, but respectfully rise to request a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator McCarter, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR McCARTER:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

...bill, Senator.

SENATOR McCARTER:

I'm not going to repeat what I said when this was debated before, but I think it -- it really is not a surprise that the Governor spoke about it, because it had been mentioned a few times

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

now. Maybe the amount and the transition period may have been a surprise to many, 'cause I noticed there was a lot of laughter when that was mentioned. But, you know, this -- I -- I'd like to ask people to go carefully with this, because, as we know, every decision we make now, especially with a new Governor, it's seldom going to be made one topic at a time. There's going to be agreements that concessions are made on both sides. And, you know, there's talk of that and I think we should be open to that. My concern is that, again, we don't really help the people we say we're trying to help by lessening their opportunity. This will have an impact on small businesses that -- we can talk of reforms in the future to workers' comp, unemployment insurance reform, all these things, but the problem is, Ladies and Gentlemen, that these come in time. Thirty seconds after this, you could pass those business reforms and the burden would be on businesses immediately, but they would not see the relief but for three, four years into the future. So, some say, "Well, we're trading." We're not really trading, and there's no guarantee that those -- the benefits of those reforms will actually come about. So I would just ask that you -- you take the Governor at his word that this is something he wants to deal with, you take our side at our word that this is something we want to deal with, and that we continue the conversation. Because an abrupt move like this is not fair. It's not fair to the people you say you're trying to help, nor is it small businesses. So I would kindly ask for a No or Present vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Nybo, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

SENATOR NYBO:

Mr. President, will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

The sponsor indicates that she will yield. Senator Nybo.

SENATOR NYBO:

Senator Lightford, I don't think anybody in this Chamber knows how hard you've been working on this issue and how passionate you feel about it. And there are a lot of us on this side that want to work with you on this issue. And we just heard yesterday that the Governor wants to work with you on this issue. So, knowing that we're all in agreement on trying to work together, would you consider holding your bill until we have that opportunity, rather than trying to get this passed one day after the State of the State Address?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator, I think it's important that we move this measure earlier in the Session to allow the House ample time to also consider this minimum wage increase. This isn't the first that the Governor and I have had conversations about the minimum wage. In fact, we talked about it when he was the candidate, we talked about it when he was the Governor-elect, and we've had conversations since he's been Governor. So just because it happens to be the day after the State of the State Address, doesn't lessen the issue, it doesn't lessen the urgency and the concern for us to assist with working poor families. So I think it's important that this is in timely fashion to move the bill over to the House.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Nybo. To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR NYBO:

Senator, I don't disagree with you. This is not the only issue that is important and that we need to deal with on an urgent situation. This is the first week in February. And I would hope that if we wanted to work in a cooperative, bipartisan manner and accomplish things together that that would include not pushing bills through so quickly, before we've given the Governor an opportunity to -- to lay out a path for addressing some of these issues, one of which that we know we share with you. We -- we want something to happen on this issue. So, you know, for -- for the sake of the process, I'm going to be voting No on this, because I think the Governor should be given an opportunity to present a proposal. I think we should be given an opportunity to work with you, Senator Lightford, on getting this very important objective accomplished. So that's why I'm voting No, because I don't think this is the right process that we should be employing.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Oberweis, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR OBERWEIS:

To the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR OBERWEIS:

This is something that obviously has my passion and my interest and my long-term involvement. Many of you know that I filed a bill last year that I believe would have provided some of



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

the same positive -- benefits that increased minimum wage without providing some of the negative effects. The problem with this bill is, it is going to kill jobs for those most in need of those jobs, namely teenagers and particularly minority teenagers. This is precisely the wrong thing to do. The bill that I proposed would have applied a new higher minimum wage, not to different from this bill, to those age twenty-six and older. That would mean that people who have more experience, who presumably should be entitled or able to earn a higher minimum wage, would be guaranteed that higher minimum wage, but it would not put and prevent teenagers and younger workers, and, again, particularly minority teenagers, from having an opportunity to get a job at all. Illinois has gained a reputation for being very anti-business. This bill will help put one more nail in that coffin. It will help to drive more companies away. It means that when Oberweis Dairy and other companies look for places to open ice cream stores or open food establishments or any other businesses, we're going to be more inclined to look more towards Indiana or Wisconsin or Iowa or Florida or Tennessee, rather than Illinois. I don't think that's really good for the State of Illinois. I don't think that's really what we want to do. We already have incredibly high unemployment rates for minority teenagers in this State. This will drive it only higher. There are other alternatives. I will tell you that at Oberweis Dairy we've taken a different approach. Everybody's, of course, guaranteed minimum wage. But we've taken another approach, called our PRP plan, which allows our employees to share in the benefits of higher sales. It pays them. It puts money from every sale into a pot and those employees then divide up that pot based on who was working at that time and what the sales were

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

are that time. That means there's an incentive for the manager to have only the number of employees needed, not extra employees, so there's fewer people to divide it up, and it means there's an incentive for people to -- for our employees to encourage people to buy an extra quart of ice cream or an ice cream pie or whatever because there's more to divide. I'm going to very quickly read one paragraph of a letter that I recently received from one of our employees, who I don't know, by the way. The letter was unsolicited. She certainly doesn't know me very well because she thinks the person running the business is my brother. He's actually my son. But here's the -- here's the paragraph - and I -- I ask you to listen to this 'cause I think these are some very meaningful words that were unsolicited: "All minimum wage workers believe they should get a higher wage, but do all of them deserve it? Of course not. Personally, I think I am worth a lot more than I am paid but instead of demanding more I work to get more because my workplace gives me that opportunity. I believe that if Illinois enforced a system similar to the PRP system used at Oberweis Dairy {sic} it would solve the debate about whether or not these workers deserve their wage. I believe that it will also encourage employees and businesses to be more efficient. If I cut down on labor everyone who has worked that day benefits. If a scooper doesn't try to upsell (to) a customer, the employees lose out." Here's the key part. "If the minimum wage is raised to just a flat rate of \$11 {sic} (\$15) for example, people that slip by doing the bare minimum get the same wage as {sic} (of) someone who puts forth a great effort to do their job." We need to have a system where we can reward employees to encourage employees to be more productive. Raising the minimum wage, taking potential

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

jobs away from young workers, is a step in the wrong direction and I urge a No vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

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

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. To the -- to the bill. Today, yes, we are here again. The political realities are different, and the rhetoric is heated, but the needs of the working people of Illinois remain the same. Their needs and the wishes of the voters we represent ought to guide our consciences and our votes - today and in the future. That -- this legislation -- first of all, I want to commend the sponsor for her hard work and working with negotiating this bill. And I am proud to be a cosponsor. I believe this legislation will give workers more money to spend in their local -- local communities, boosting our economy, making our State more competitive and more compassionate. That's the mantra I heard a lot of yesterday. I want to say that no studies bear credible documentation and data that -- to claim that raising the minimum wage is bad for business or leads to higher unemployment. Matter of fact, in those states who have raised the minimum wage, there has been an increased job growth. Based on the principle "basic economics 101", is that when you provide more moneys in the pockets of consumers, they have a tendency to spend and put it back into the market. But I want to say also, that what we know for sure and certain is that low-income individuals are more likely than higher-income individuals to spend additional earnings quickly and locally. So, there was a comment made on the other side that,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

yes, we do have a very high unemployment in the African-American community, but it's not based on the policy of raising the minimum wage, it's based on governmental policies that have been in effect for the last thirty years that put up barriers to the access to jobs - poor educational systems, as well as the lack of. As an example, yesterday I heard that while the Governor wants to increase parole officers and prison officials, workers, he's cutting moneys that would equip -- to social services that would equip our youth to have access to the job market by developing their job skills set and their opportunities to move into jobs because they have given the skills to navigate the job market. So, to me, that's ironic, hypocritical, and somewhat of a -- a quandary that I have. So let me just end in saying this, let's not let the pursuit of perfect be the enemy of what is possible today, what is good today, and what is right. I ask for a strong Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. There being no further discussion, Senator Lightford, do you wish to close? Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank -- thank you, Mr.... Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I appreciate the conversation that's just taken place around an issue that has been on the table for the last three years. This isn't anything new. We have negotiated a minimum wage increase for the last three years. And in fact, there were nine additional states -- the country recognizes that we need to do more in this area. There were nine other states, just January 1, that increased their minimum wage. That would be Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

Oregon and Washington. There is a need across this country to help the working poor. As long as they're getting up every day, trying to do best for their families, we should not keep them heavily reliant on government assistance. And that's exactly what we're doing by finding every excuse we can to not pay them fair and livable wages. And just because they're minimum wage workers doesn't necessarily mean that they're unskilled. It means that they're working to provide a means for their family until other job opportunities exist. There was one comment that was made earlier in debate and the number was twenty-six years old. Those aren't teenagers at twenty-six years old. They're grown adults. They have working -- their families. They -- they're taking care of children at twenty-six years old. They're not teenagers. And so I don't want you guys to think that this is a bill to bash teenagers. This is a bill to help all of them have access, to have living wages and to be able to take care of their families. I did not mention in my opening, Mr. President, quickly, that there is a tax credit for small businesses with fifty or fewer employees that will assist with the maximum of fifteen hundred dollars per employee, per year, which is about seventy-five cents an hour, which pretty much covers the difference of the minimum wage increase for the first three years. So I just want to leave us with the fact that there is hundreds of thousands of minimum wage workers right here in the State of Illinois who work every day and still realize that they're in poverty, and this would be a great first step to help them remove themselves out of poverty and rely much less on government assistance. I ask for an Aye vote, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

Thank you, Senator Lightford. The question is, shall Senate Bill 11 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question -- on that question, there are 35 voting Aye, 18 voting No, 1 voting Present. And Senate Bill 11, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Continuing on our Calendar on page 2, still on the Order of Senate Bills 3rd Reading, is Senate Bill 273. President -- Senator Muñoz, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MUÑOZ:

Mr. President, I want to go on record I wanted to vote Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

The record will reflect your intent. Thank you, Senator Muñoz. Senate Bill 273. President Cullerton, do you wish to proceed? Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 273.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

President Cullerton.

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Governor Rauner has asked legislative leadership to work with him on legislation to address the projected 1.5-billion-dollar gap in the current fiscal year State budget. As you are aware, this gap is affecting programs like the child care service program that we had testimony on today, and I understand various State agencies face

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

significant operating holes in their budget. So this bill has a finance title. We are taking it up today to but a vehicle bill in motion to respond to the Governor's request. For context, in fiscal years '92, '10 and '11, the General Assembly, in response to projected deficits and revenue reductions, had provided the Governor with expanded authority to manage appropriations that this Body had approved. The Senate Republican staff, along with our staff and staff from the other caucuses, have been meeting with the Governor's staff while the Governor refines components of his proposal. So with that, I would ask that we pass this bill. Be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall Senate Bill 273 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Aye, none voting No, none voting Present. And Senate Bill 273, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator McCann, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR McCANN:

Thank you, Mr. President. For a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your point, Senator.

SENATOR McCANN:

Thank you, sir. I would like to introduce, in the gallery on our side of the aisle, some guests that I have visiting today from out of State. Three of them are from Washington, D.C. They're here representing the Legislative Prayer Caucus -- the

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

Congressional Prayer Caucus. They're Lea Carawan, Summer Ingram, and Mike Morisi. I would also like to introduce some special guests that we had here earlier in the Rotunda. Four-year-old Grace Anna Rodgers sang the National Anthem at the kickoff, the rollout of the Legislative Prayer Caucus, which is nondenominational, nonpartisan. We have members from both Chambers and both sides of the aisle. And if you haven't joined yet, we would hope that you would do so. And I would like to introduce Mike {sic} (Jeff) and Angie Rodgers, Grace Anna's parents, Anna Rodgers -- or Grace Anna Rodgers, and my wife, Vicki McCann. If they would rise and we could give them a warm Springfield welcome.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Will our guests in the gallery please rise to be welcomed to the Illinois State Senate? Welcome. Thank you for being here. 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 HARMON)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the resolutions are adopted. Senator Raoul, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RAOUL:

Point of personal privilege.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your point, Senator.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the -- the Senate, yesterday many of us lost a friend. Dean Sweitzer, made his transition yesterday morning. Dean never characterized himself as a lobbyist. He called himself a "hobbyist". I met Dean ten years ago, shortly after I was appointed to the Senate. And I met him in his office, which was at The Globe at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel. And within about a month after I'd started here, I was confronted with a very uncomfortable situation at The Globe, where two -- two people from Chicago approached me about an ordinance in Chicago and I tried to sidestep it and they began confronting me with the N-word, repeatedly. And Dean Sweitzer, who I had only known for a few weeks, came to my defense. And from there, our relationship grew - same way as many of you-all had that -- your own unique relationship with Dean. He's -- he was one of a kind. I know everybody had their -- Dean was the type of guy that wasn't afraid to say anything to anybody. He used to call the old Senate President "Idiot". He'd say, "Idiot, let's go out for a smoke", and -- jokingly. And only Dean was allowed to do something like that, because of the relationship that he built with all of us. And I'd just like to request that we do a moment of silence on -- on behalf of all -- of all our friend, Dean Sweitzer.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please rise for a moment of silence. (Moment of silence observed) Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

6th Legislative Day

2/5/2015

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 No. 18.

Offered by Senator Clayborne.

(Secretary reads HJR No. 18)

Adopted by the House, February 4th, 2015. Timothy D. Mapes, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

On the Order of Resolutions is House Joint Resolution 18. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Joint Resolution 18, offered by Senator Clayborne.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Clayborne moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of the immediate consideration and adoption of House Joint Resolution 18. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Clayborne now moves for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 18. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 12 noon on the 17th day of February, 2015. The Senate stands adjourned.