

STATE OF ILLINOIS
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

75th Legislative Day

1/28/2016

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

The regular Session of the 99th General Assembly will please come to order. Will Members please be in their seats? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Father Tom Meyer from the Church of Our Saviour in Jacksonville, Illinois.

FATHER TOM MEYER:

(Prayer by Father Tom Meyer)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Cunningham)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journal of January 27th, 2016.

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, Committee Reports. Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

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Senate Resolutions 1474 and 1475, offered by Senator Connelly and all Members.

Senate Resolution 1476, offered by Senator Haine and all Members.

Senate Resolutions 1477 through 1479, offered by Senator Haine and all Members.

They are all death resolutions, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Resolutions Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 1473, offered by Senator Althoff.

And Senate Joint Resolution 38, offered by Senator Haine.

They are both substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Mr. Secretary, Introduction of Senate Bills.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2333, offered by Senator Syverson.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2334, offered by Senator Anderson.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2335, offered by Senator Hutchinson.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2336, offered by Senator Hutchinson.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2337, offered by Senator Hutchinson.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2338, offered by Senator Righter.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2339, offered by Senator Link.

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(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2340, offered by Senator Lightford.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2341, offered by Senator...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Lisa E. Yuscus -- Yuscus - pardon the mispronunciation - from the Bluestream -- Blueroomstream.com has asked permission to videotape. Seeing no objection, it is granted.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2341, offered by Senator Matt Murphy.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2342, offered by Senator Luechtefeld.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2343, offered by Senator Biss.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2344, offered by Senator Bivins.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2345, offered by Senator Connelly.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2346, offered by Senator Connelly.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2347, offered by Senator Connelly.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2348, offered by Senator Manar.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2349, offered by Senator Righter.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2350, offered by Senator Mulroe.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

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Senate Bill 2351, offered by Senator Martinez.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2352, offered by Senator Martinez.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2353, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2354, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2355, offered by Senator Holmes.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2356, offered by Senator Holmes.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2357, offered by Senator Syverson.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2358, offered by Senator Mulroe.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2359, offered by Senator Mulroe.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2360, offered by Senator Rose.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2361, offered by Senator Anderson.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2362, offered by Senator Biss.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Rose, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSE:

Thank you, Mr. President. First, congratulations to the Clerk {sic} for not getting tongue twisted on cell phone {sic}... I -- I

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have -- but my second thing is, the Republicans request a caucus for thirty minutes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR TROTTER)

Senator Rose moves that the Senate recess for the purpose of the Republican Caucus, lasting approximately thirty minutes. Seeing no objection, the motion is granted. The Senate now stands in recess to the call of the Chair. After the Senate Republican Caucus, Senate committees will meet. The Senate will reconvene after committee meetings for the purpose of reading committee reports and further Floor action. The -- the Senate stands in recess to the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

The Senate will be in order. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we are awaiting paperwork from the House to turn to the Order of Senate Bills on Concurrence. That would be final action. We'd ask all Members to be at their desks. We will be turning shortly to final action. Would all Members please be at their desks? Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Joint Resolution 39, offered by Senator McCarter. It is substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Duffy, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR DUFFY:

Mr. President, for purposes of announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

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Please state your announcement, Senator.

SENATOR DUFFY:

Senator McCarter will not be here today because he's back in his district with constituent meetings.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Mr. Secretary, Introduction of Senate Bills.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2363, offered by Senator Syverson.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2364, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2365, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2366, offered by Senator Stadelman.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2367, offered by Senator Stadelman.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2368, offered by Senator Connelly.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2369, offered by Senator Biss.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2370, offered by Senator Van Pelt.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of the bills.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

WCIA requests permission to video-record the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

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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 concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 2043.

Together with the following amendments which are attached, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2043.

Passed the House, as amended, January 28th, 2016. Timothy D. Mapes, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Senate will stand at ease for a few moments to allow the Committee on Assignments to meet. Would all members of the Committee on Assignments please report to the President's Anteroom immediately? Will all members of the Committee on Assignments please report to the Senate President's Anteroom immediately? (at ease) Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Clayborne, Chairman of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Motion to Concur on House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2043.

Signed, Senator James F. Clayborne, Chairman.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we've called for Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 1 to be distributed to the Members' desks. When that Supplemental Calendar has been distributed, we

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will turn to final action on the Order of the Secretary's Desk, Concurrences on Senate Bills. This will be final action. We'd ask all Members to be at their desks. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, you'll find on your desks Senate Supplemental No. 1. On that Calendar is the Order of Secretary's Desk, Concurrences, and on that Order is a Motion to Concur in House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2043, filed by President Cullerton. President Cullerton, I understand you've designated Senator Trotter to handle that motion. Mr. Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2043.

Signed by President Cullerton.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Trotter, to present the motion.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. House Floor Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2043 makes appropriations to the Student Assistance Commission for the Monetary Award Program and the Community College Board for base operating and equalization grants - the City of Chicago Colleges {sic} (City Colleges of Chicago) will receive a grant - and CTE, adult education and literacy programs for FY'16. It appropriates approximately seven million -- two hundred and twenty-one million point five {sic} (721.5 million) from General Revenue Fund. Specifically, that's three hundred and ninety-seven million to -- GRF to ISAC and 324.4 million of GRF to ICCB.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator Trotter. Is there any discussion? Is

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

SENATOR M. MURPHY:

To the motion, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

To the motion, Senator.

SENATOR M. MURPHY:

We had a little bit of discussion about this in -- in committee and I -- I certainly understand and respect that the -- the -- the -- the Senator is attempting to do what he thinks is best for his district and an institution that's in it. But this is really a hollow, empty gesture. This is an opportunity for some people to go back home and say, "Hey, we passed this bill for seven hundred and twenty million dollars for you, just don't look under the hood and realize that we actually don't have seven hundred and twenty million dollars". We currently have sixty-nine million dollars in the General Revenue Fund to count and seven billion dollars in bills now. So this would put us to 7.721 billion dollars in bills and still sixty-nine million dollars in money to pay them. The only way that this could actually ever make it into the pockets of the Chicago States or the people you're trying to help here is if you give the Governor more broad authority on how to move money around and handle these situations or if you did this in conjunction with a -- a proposal Senator Rose is going to have on procurement reform. I think there's actually going to be a really nice opportunity on a bipartisan basis to look at procurement reform this year. This is a good context to do that in. But just doing this by itself, without saying, "Hey, we're going to take the money from somebody else

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that's getting it today and we're going to give it to Chicago State" - because the only way they get it is if you take it from someone else because we don't have enough money; we don't have -- this isn't creating seven hundred and twenty-one million new dollars; it's just giving appropriation authority to the tune of seven hundred and twenty-one million - it's an empty gesture without the money to back it up or without giving the Governor the latitude he needs to move what limited resources we have around. Rather than doing this, why don't we get down to the business of really tackling this whole thing? And I know saying that to your caucus is really not the right place to lob that charge, because I actually think you guys would have worked with the Governor and us on this side of the aisle going back to last spring to solve this more broadly. But until such time as the Speaker on the other side of this building decides to shift his focus from the politics of fighting with the Governor to the policy of finding common ground on issues like these, you know as well as I do that nothing is going to change and this is simply political cover and an empty gesture. Let's not do any more of those. Let's pressure the Speaker into getting into the game to get a broad solution to this State's problems. In the meantime, I urge a No vote on this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. You know, normally -- be speaking to the bill; however, I just feel compelled to say, you know, the bottom line is, the Governor has a chance and had a chance, one, to fund these programs and all of the programs. You say, let's put it into his hands. He's -- it's been in his hands.

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He could have used his line-item veto to do this. We wouldn't have to be here. If we left it up to the Governor, we'd have a zero program funded, besides K to twelve, because he signed on to nothing. And you say give him more power? This isn't it. We have the power. Let's do it here today. Let's show him, one, that we have a -- a veto-proof majority, in which would be the first step to passing a real budget which will fund all the programs that are necessary for the State of Illinois. So, just -- just couldn't hold it till the end. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator Trotter. Further discussion? Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Will the sponsor yield, please, Mr. President?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

The sponsor indicates that he will yield. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Trotter, I have a few questions, but I'd like to start by following up on the comment that you just made. The Governor vetoed, in May, the portion of the budget that you and other Members of your party passed, and obviously that budget spent in the neighborhood of four billion dollars more than the taxpayers could afford to send to Springfield. And, you're right, the Governor could have taken that approach, but he didn't. The question I have for you is, why didn't you take up an override of his veto? Why didn't you do that? Why didn't you and your party do that?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

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Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

And my -- there you go. And we did here in the Senate, and not only did we have discussions, but we did take a vote. They didn't call it in the House. But the bottom line is, we did. So if you're specifically asking, what did -- we did? We took the -- the right direction to ensure that all of those people, vulnerable individuals, those people who are in need of assistance, those citizens of Illinois were taken care of. And we asked for the help and especially we asked for the help from the "Caucus of No" to -- to -- to sign on with us and be part of discussions. It never happened. And as a consequence, we are where we are today. Thank goodness we have a third branch of government, the -- the judicial branch, that said these things have to be paid or we certainly would be a bigger laughing stock than we are now nationally.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Yes, thank goodness for the courts and their spending, I agree, Senator Trotter. Just to move on, but for clarification sake: The vetoes for Eastern Illinois, Illinois State, Northern Illinois, the Student Assistance Commission, and Western Illinois, there was never a motion filed in the Senate to override, Senator Trotter. So we're picking some winners and some losers again. But let's move on. It's my understanding that as of this moment, as we stand here, there is sixty-nine million dollars in the General Revenue Fund to count. Your bill costs seven hundred and twenty-one million dollars. How are you going to apportion that

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sixty-nine million, Senator Trotter? Who are you going to pay first?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

...I -- I would like to pay all of them. I think that sort of kick-starts, since we've heard the metaphor of, you know, looking up under the hood of a car. And, you know, this -- this should be the jump-start for us doing some serious talks about passing a real budget. So, once we do that, then those things will fall in line and we don't have to pick and choose as going forward whose going to get paid and whose not going to get paid, 'cause it's all important.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Just one more try on that issue. How are you going to apportion the money, Senator Trotter? The money's not there - the money's not there - as much as you would like it to be there and I would like it to be there and everyone else would like it to be there. It doesn't matter how many magic wands we wave or how much we pray or how much we click our heels together, the money's not there. So tell me how you're going to apportion the sixty-nine million in the checking account amongst the seven hundred and twenty-one million dollars in promises that you are sending out. Tell me what your plan is, because we got to have a plan.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

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...prorate as well, one, then we need to get a real budget and to make sure we're there. And then we need to have a budget, again, not with the -- the -- the spending thresholds that we have, but a new budget with a real revenue plan going along with it as well. That's how we generate the dollars. We look at the dollars that are coming in and spend them accordingly, and that is the process that we can undertake as -- as early as when we come back.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Senator Trotter, while you and I come from different parts of the State and obviously we align ourselves with different parties, we do have at least one thing in common, and that is that you and I both represent a four-year university. Chicago State University - and it's the worst-kept secret in this building and in higher education circles - is in real financial trouble and will run out of money before the semester is over. You are sponsoring a bill that appropriates not one dime to the institutions themselves - not one dime. And I understand - I've been here for a while as have you - I understand that sometimes the Leader in the other Chamber sends things over here and Members of your party feel like, you know what, this is what the House sent us. But there's an institution in your district, Senator, that is being left out. What is the explanation for that? Have you talked to anyone who has given you a straight-faced answer for why the four-year universities themselves are left out of your funding bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

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...aren't entirely left out of this spending plan, because Chicago State has told me that to get their MAP dollars certainly will make a -- a -- a significant difference in them going forward. It is because they had to front the money last semester and being asked to do it this semester; it -- it -- it exasperates another problem because they do not have that revenue stream. So they aren't opposed to this. And -- and as you said, we represent -- two different districts. I also have two community colleges in my district. So -- and they're certainly on board. But, as I -- as I look at -- and -- and four-year universities are important; however, on this bill itself, on the merits, Western Illinois University has signed on, Southern Illinois University has signed on, Illinois State University has signed on, Eastern Illinois University has signed on to this, Governors State University has signed on to this, Northeastern Illinois University has signed on to this. So they realize it's a problem, but they -- they realize that, also, let's not stop some things that are happening, because, again, those MAP dollars will help. But they understand the discussions will continue and we will address their situation as well. And as you're aware, we already have one of our Members who has filed a bill to look at that and we'll be hearing that in committee soon.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Well, on your final point, Senator, that bill, as I understand it, doesn't have any MAP funding in it, so I look forward to your debate with him on that issue. But let me follow up on what you just said. At Chicago State University, where the enrollment is

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just shy of five thousand students, about eighty percent of those students, according to what you told me in committee, receive MAP grant assistance. So that's in the neighborhood of four thousand students. So, if this becomes law, then when Chicago State runs out of money and has to close its doors, because there's nothing in here for the universities, what are you going to tell the four thousand students who are now eligible for MAP grant funding but have no school to attend? What will you tell them?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

That we had a "Caucus of No" and we had a Governor who did not think it was important enough to prioritize finding dollars to fund an education, to fund for your future. So, as a consequence, we're here and it's only going to get worse. Now it's a message you don't want to give to 'em, because we know that these people who are -- are striving to be better, striving to be competitive, are going to go to other states. So what they'll probably tell me is "bye", because you didn't act accordingly. So it's -- it's a sad conversation that we're going to have to have, but, certainly, it's not through a non-effort on our part to try to address that going forward. They aren't closed yet. Chicago State isn't closed yet. So the thing is, is we -- we can hypothesize what happens to them, well, what happens when the University of Illinois closes? You know, what -- what happens then? So let's -- let's -- let's not just focus on the one university in that system of -- of universities. They're all in jeopardy. The reputation of our State is at risk. Our students are being handicapped and stifled because of our inactions.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you. Senator Righter, might we contain our remarks to what's in the bill instead of what's not in the bill? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

To the -- to the motion, Senator.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

I'm sorry. To the motion. Thank you for the correction, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, anyone who has served here for any period of time whatsoever has seen this practice - and now I'm talking about process for a moment - the practice of eating the Speaker's crow. Okay? The Speaker decides that he doesn't like one institution or a group of institutions, or whatever is going on over there, and so he sends something over here that every one of you know is incomplete. When I asked this question in committee, Senator Trotter told me that he shared the concern that the universities - and that was his word - that the universities was not part of this solution. There isn't anyone on your side of the aisle who thinks this is the right way to go - no one - and yet here we are. It will be a wildly incorrect and insufficient answer to tell the four thousand students at Chicago State, if they wind up in that position, that "Hey, we did everything that we could", particularly if you're sponsoring a bill that says, Chicago State, you get no money. I -- I mean, no one will be able to say that with a straight face. There are almost two hundred thousand people who attend the State's four-year universities and the message that you and anyone who votes

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for this bill is sending to them is, "You know what, you're just not that important to us." We're more interested in playing the game that's being put out on the table by the Speaker than we are pushing back with an actual viable alternative, whether that is Senate Bill 2338 and 2349, which not only appropriates to all three legs of higher education but also gives us an opportunity to pay for it, or the bill that will be filed soon that will attach - again, an appropriations bill with all three legs of higher education - and links it to procurement reform - something that's real. This is not real and is another step forward, yet another chapter in what a growing number of Illinoisans and now the students at the four-year universities look at and say, "They're not serious; they're just playing a game." Vote this motion down, please, Ladies and Gentlemen, and let's start with something serious. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

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

SENATOR MCGUIRE:

To the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

To the motion, Senator. Please proceed.

SENATOR MCGUIRE:

To the motion, excuse me. Thank you. There have been several mentions of one particular institution and I'd like to offer a statewide perspective regarding this motion, a perspective which I gained when the Higher Education Committee held hearings in four sites across the State with participation of Senators from both sides of the aisle, which I sincerely appreciate. Here's what we

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heard. At each of our four stops - a collar county, the City of Chicago, southern Illinois, and east central Illinois - we heard compelling stories from students such as these: A student, a single parent, who testified in tears, who told us that she has two children, one of them with special needs, and she fears she won't be able to complete her education without the MAP grant. We heard of a young man who explained to us that his parents can't contribute to his college education because they're facing foreclosure, fighting to stay onto their -- hold onto their home. We heard from an adult, in far downstate Illinois, who described the four sources of financial aid she has amassed - institutional aid, federal loans, MAP, and her own job - and explained every penny counts. She wouldn't be able to continue her education without MAP. And at one of the hearings, I asked a student, "What would you" -- "If you didn't have MAP, what would you replace it with?" Here's what she said, "Nothing. I'd have to quit school and work in retail for the rest of my life." Now, the hundred and twenty-five MAP students who would benefit from this bill, just about a year ago filed their FAFSAs - right? - completed the FAFSAs, applied to schools, enrolled in schools, made arrangements - daycare, transportation, their work schedules - and they did this, all that work, in the faith that Illinois, ISAC, we, would provide the financial aid which had been promised to 'em. And I don't use -- I use that word "faith" deliberately, 'cause that was a word that we heard repeatedly - to my surprise frankly. Students told us they have faith that earning an associate's degree, earning a baccalaureate degree will led to a better life, a life that's more productive and more fulfilling - better for them and better for our State. We heard the word "faith" used when students told

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us that they had faith that we, the State of Illinois, will honor the promise which our Governor made when he included money for MAP in his own proposed budget. A promise was made to the poorest students in the State of Illinois. So this motion gives us the opportunity to repay that faith, the faith that these students have that education will lead to a better life, and we can demonstrate our faith that we believe that access to higher education for every Illinoisan, regardless of income, we can demonstrate our faith that helping them with the badly needed financial aid they deserve, will build a stronger and more equitable State. So I urge a Yes vote on the motion.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. The final two speakers seeking recognition are Senators Van Pelt and Lightford. Let's turn to Senator Van Pelt. For what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR VAN PELT:

To the motion.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

To the motion, Senator.

SENATOR VAN PELT:

Thank you. I -- I come from a little different perspective than I've heard from the other speakers. I originally worked as a steel mill operator, a drill press operator. I studied machine shop and had plans on becoming a machinist. The steel mill shut down, and at that time, I was making really good money, enough to take care of my family and pay for housing and everything. The steel mill shut down and I found myself working in a store as a clerk, making a third of what I was making. If it had not been for the MAP grant, if it had not been available, if some Governor

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had just cut it off, I may still be at -- working as a clerk somewhere. But as a result of being -- having access to the MAP grant, I was able to get an associate's degree in natural science and begin to start -- get -- I got a better job and I started going back to school, got a master's in public administration. Later got a master's and a doctorate degree - not with the MAP grant, but the MAP grant gave me the lift I needed to be able to just get back to where I was. I was a taxpaying citizen. I had contributed to society, but I found myself in a bad situation. And we have many people out there that - some are probably even listening to this debate - that are in -- that are in the same situation that I was in. We owe it to them to make up the difference. And I think that we have a lot of bickering going on, you know, across both sides of the aisle about this bill, but what's important is that we meet the need that is before us. A lot of bickering is not going to get us to where we need to go. But we need to meet the need before us because the people in this State depend on us and I'm -- I'm a living example of it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Our last speaker seeking recognition is Senator Lightford. For what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the motion.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

To the motion, Senator.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I'd like to thank the previous speaker for finally speaking up for Chicago State University. There's been many years that we've

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debated budget bills to support Chicago State University and I know that he's not supported not one of those bills. So it's so surprisingly today that he decided to come out and be in great support of Chicago State University. So we thank you for that. We just want you to put your vote on it in the future. I think what's important for us to notice is that this budget impasse that we're in is affecting the lives of so many young people who really just need a start in life. And we all pride ourselves on saying how important education is. Here's an example today where we can actually put our votes where our mouths are. Right now many of you are in your districts saying how important education is; yet, this bill will allow for students to -- ensure that GED testing take place, that adult learning continues on, that we re-enroll students in alternative opportunities, and that Lincoln Challenge exists. How can we not pride ourself as a state to protect these very programs that help young people get a -- a healthy start at life and, actually, adults who really need that second chance? So I rise in support of this legislation because of the process that the previous speaker spoke about, the process that has shown me over the last six years that the "Caucus of No" has been the "Caucus of No". You voted No on every single education initiative that has come across our desks as an opportunity to help people out, and then you find an excuse. You find an excuse. You find a way to say, well, if it doesn't include universities, to hell with all the other students who attend community colleges, who would actually attend those universities. The MAP grant would also be helpful and beneficial to them. So, in a indirect way, the universities will still receive some support, because there's thousands and thousands and thousands of students on these

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university campuses where the universities were kind enough to let them return for a spring semester after receiving no MAP grant dollars for their fall semester. But there were some colleges who said we can't afford you. So we have a lot of students that were not able to return to learning, not able to return to learning because we fell short on our part. I think this gives us an awesome opportunity to tell people that we really care about them, that we want to help them, that education has amounted to so much dollars that apparently they need our help. So, if you find it in your heart today, if you find it in your heart today, to not only save the community college but to save all the other programs that will allow our people an opportunity - all of our people across the State - an opportunity to better improve themselves so that they can have a better life, just like Senator Van Pelt just described to you, instead of leaving them as clerks in stores that they can, too, earn a higher education, then you will vote Aye. If you want to sit back and continue in your same diluted process that you've been killing the State and killing family dreams, then you will vote No. I encourage an Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Trotter, to close.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. You know, I'm -- I'm not going to continue the -- the negative dialogue. I want to thank everyone that spoke positive on the bill and -- and thank the others who brought up important points. One, how are we going to pay for this, and what we need to do next, and -- and do we want to include other schools. Those are positive thoughts. We all know what we want to do and -- and what we need to do in this State, so -- so

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let's get past the rhetoric. Let -- if nothing else, let this be the start of real action being taken in this -- in this Chamber. You know, we have the capacity to be leaders, let's act like 'em. And I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2043. 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 36 voting Aye, 12 voting No, and 3 voting Present. Having received the required constitutional majority, the Senate does concur in House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2043, and the bill is declared passed. President Cullerton, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

For an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your announcement, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I wanted to take a moment to recognize the work of one of our staff leaders as he prepares to embark on a new career. Dave Gross has been my Chief of Staff for the past four years. He's guided staff and the caucus through interesting times and tremendous accomplishments. This is his last week before he's off to something we call the "private sector". Dave has been a steady, guiding force among Senate Democrats for more than three decades. Dave is, was, and will always be a true Senate man. His first day in the Senate staff

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was March 1st, 1984. Senator Hastings, you remember that, you were three years old. You want a better comparison. Senator Haine, a thirty-something with no grandchildren at the time - that's when Dave started. So I'd like to thank Dave for all he's done for me the past four years, all he's done for the Senate throughout his career. I wish him the best in his new endeavors. Hope that he gets to spend more time with his wonderful wife, Barbara, and family. Dave, thank you for your service and congratulations.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

President Cullerton.

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

So, a further announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Did -- did... Senator Radogno, are -- are you seeking recognition on the last issue?

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

Go ahead.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

...very much. I would like to add the accolades on our side of the aisle to Dave Gross, even though he did run the first race against me. He has turned out to be a true professional. And that always hasn't been the case; we've had testy relationships. It's never ever been the case. I know he'll do very well and we look forward to working with him in his new capacity and to welcoming Kristin Richards as well. So, thanks, Dave, and best of luck to you.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

President Cullerton.

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

Yes, and therefore we need a new Chief of Staff. And therefore, starting next week, Kristin Richards will be the new Chief of Staff. So, thank you very much, Kristin. Good luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

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, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the resolutions are adopted. 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 118.

Offered by Senator Link.

(Secretary reads HJR No. 118)

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Adopted by the House, January 28th, 2016. Timothy D. Mapes, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

On the Order of Resolutions is House Joint Resolution 118. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Joint Resolution 118, offered by Senator Link.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Link moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of the immediate consideration and adoption of House Joint Resolution 118. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Link moves for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 118. All in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. There being no further business to come before the Senate, pursuant to House Joint Resolution 118, the Senate stands adjourned until noon on the 10th day of February 2016, or the call of the President. The Senate is adjourned.