

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate August 12, 2020

**FOLEY:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the fifty-ninth day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Kolterman. Please rise.

**KOLTERMAN:** Dear Lord, thank you for this beautiful day and a good night's rest. As we wind down this recent session, help us to focus on all of our many successes. We are blessed to live in a state with such-- with such dedicated citizen legislators. We ask that you continue to bless us with good health and prosperity. As we travel home tomorrow keep us safe from accident and injury. Finally, we ask that you bless the six individuals who have served this state over the last eight years with dignity and a whole lot of class: Senator Howard, Bolz, Crawford, Scheer, Chambers, and Kolowski. It's been our pleasure and our honor to serve with them and appreciate all of their accomplishments. Help them enjoy their futures and keep them all safe. We bring all of these requests to you. Amen.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Kolterman. I call to order the fifty-ninth day of One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

**CLERK:** I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

**CLERK:** I have no corrections.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, sir. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

**CLERK:** Mr. President, bills read on Final Reading last evening were presented to the Governor at 8:38 p.m. (LB755, LB755A, LB781e, LB808e, LB808Ae, LB848, LB848A, LB918, LB918A, LB923e, LB963, LB963A, LB965, LB965A, LB966, LB992, LB1002e, LB1053, LB1056e, LB1060, and LB1064e). That's all that I have.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, sir. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following four legislative resolutions: LR349, LR468, LR469, and LR470. Members, we're now going to move to the first item on the agenda which is recognition of departing senators by colleagues. In past practice these speeches tend to run a few minutes. We can give you a little bit of grace there if you need a little bit more. The

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outgoing senators, I believe, will be allowed to speak to the body tomorrow. But these are the recognition speeches this morning, the first of which is remarks by Senator Wishart. Senator Wishart, you're recognized.

**WISHART:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, what will we do without Senator Kate Bolz? These words have been spoken and thought of by so many of us this year as we contemplate a future Legislature without her in it. Kate is one of the most competent and hardworking people in the history of this Legislature, hands down. Don't ask me, ask Chairman John Stinner, who has on several occasions during a heated budget debate, leaned over to me and said, we couldn't do this without her. And it's true, we couldn't. When asked about working with Kate, John said to me, she is one of the most prepared people I've ever worked with. Kate is an intense and caring person with a passion for doing the right thing. At times she's ferocious, but always a team player and a pretty darn good wing woman. I don't know what we'll do without her. It is no surprise to me that Kate arrived at the Legislature with a roll up your sleeves, Nebraska grit, and a tireless commitment to serving Nebraska families. Her love for our state is deeply rooted as a sixth generation Nebraskan who grew up on a working family farm near-- near Palmyra. She earned a bachelor's degree from Nebraska Wesleyan and a master's of social work from the University of Michigan. Her public service in professional life has revolved around helping people in need. She has worked at Nebraska Appleseed to support low-income families and as executive director of the Nebraska Association of Service Providers. As many of you know, Kate recently got engaged to Sean Flowerday, and I reached out to him to give us some words about her. He said Kate has more passion and compassion for our state than anyone I've ever met. When she speaks about our community, her desire to reach out and throw her arms around us is palpable. She keeps our home and community with her in her heart every day. As a Senator, she has been an effective advocate for improving our child welfare system, supporting our disability community, violence prevention initiatives, and ensuring access to health care for working families. Her commitment to improve the quality of life for all Nebraska families has been most visible in her leadership on our budget. Kate has one of the best analytical minds for developing a budget that not only balances but works for all Nebraskans. She has a capacity to deeply understand the different programs and services we fund in our state and how they work or don't work. She never loses sight of the money trail and recognizes that budgets exist as moral documents, a true representation of our real priorities. Sue Crawford said it best. Senator Bolz has been a fierce warrior for individuals across the state who are served by various programs of our state. Her

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budget expertise, attention to detail and diligence, has been invaluable. She's also been one of our most outspoken defenders of the Legislature as a nonpartisan institution, ensuring that we abide by our rules, processes and traditions. I will remind us all that she was one of the senators who led the legendary month-long rules debate to ensure our filibuster remained in place. As a freshman Senator, I was in awe of her composure under the pressure of a session that was ticking away as we debated our process. Kate, is all of these things and more. But to me and many of our colleagues, she is first and foremost a mentor and a friend. I was new to the appropriations process when I was a freshman Senator and made a mistake on a vote. I remember just knowing Kate is the person I need to call about this as I was beating myself up for hours. I called her upset and she told me, OK, you can beat yourself up for ten more minutes about this mistake and then you have to write down what you've learned for the next time and you have to move on. I don't know if I would've made it through these four years without that advice. She's also been a mentor to my friend and colleague, Senator Tony Vargas, who had these words to say about Kate. She is one of the most thoughtful, gifted, and dedicated Senators I have ever had the privilege of working with. She is the unsung protector of our state's budget and its livelihood. She has always put the state's interests ahead of her own. She believes the best in others. Her faith in the integrity of the Legislature has been an example to me and so many others. Although this is goodbye to serving alongside her as our colleague, I am lucky to have made a lifelong friend. I asked Senator Sara Howard for a story about Kate since she has served the longest with her. Sara sent me a text message Kate wrote to her years ago during an especially tough debate. These words of wisdom meant so much to Sara that she's kept that text all these years as a reminder. The message reads. You did the best you could with the circumstances we had. You kept your integrity to the best of your ability under pressure. You didn't cave to inappropriate tactics that undermine the whole institution. You protected women where you could. You have helped keep this whole place together during a rough two years. You should be proud of your grace under fire. Anybody who might in any way make you feel differently is wrong. Kate, these words of encouragement given to Sara sums up how you have served our great state. You did the best you could. You kept your integrity under pressure. You never caved to tactics that undermine our institution. You protected Nebraskans. You have helped keep this place together during tough times and should be proud of your grace under fire. Anybody who might feel differently is just plain wrong. Kate, we wish you all the luck in your future endeavors in public service. I know that future is incredibly bright and Nebraska is so lucky to have you on our team. Thank you.

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**FOLEY:** Remarks now by Senator Pansing Brooks.

**PANSING BROOKS:** Thank you, Mr. President. So after I said I would do the tribute to Senator Chambers, I then thought, what in the world was I thinking? How to adequately describe, exult, rejoice, show gratitude for this giant among us. He's not here. Hopefully he's listening somewhere in his office. But what could I say that could possibly mean anything to anyone and especially to Senator Chambers? His own words, I finally realized, tell his own tale. So I want to give some thanks to the Lincoln Journal star, the Omaha World-Herald, the Ernie-grams, and my own notes for six years. And also to the fabulous Cynthia Grandberry, who has been beside him as beautiful, wise, and strong right hand and walk-- who's walked beside him all these years. Thank you, Cynthia. Senator Chambers has been a teacher, a mentor to the young, a philosopher, a poet, a theologian, a biblical scholar of the "Bibble," an advocate, a fighter, a protector of children, an agitator, a wordsmith, a force, an indomitable force. He's the mountain lion of the Midlands, the master of the uncomfortable, the critical. He's a master of four-decade sacred effort to mold and purify all of us through a fire of pointed and heartrending ferocity. When we take offense, it usually means the shoe fits and we wear it well. What an honor to give the farewell remarks for Senator Chambers, Nebraska's ultimate defender of the downtrodden. Like other Nebraskans, I have followed Senator Chambers' career through many decades, law school, long before I came to the Legislature. I never dreamed that one day I would have the honor to serve alongside him as a colleague and the blessing to be named his goddaughter. A quick history of key points in his life. In the '60s, Senator-- Ernie was discriminated against at the Post Office. He was fired for speaking out. Senator Chambers became the first in the country to stand against apartheid in South Africa. That was 1980. He became the first to envision paying student athletes, 1985. He was the first to stand for LGBTQ and took an AIDS test in 2006 to help people not fear that test or fear what would become of them or the trauma or stigma. He has been an example. Oh, yes, he has been an example, except when he wasn't. Catherine Aird said: If you can't be a good example, you'll just have to be a horrible warning. Well, Senator Chambers was both and often at the same time. He was the first to stand for black lives in the Legislature. He fought in 2000 to close the liquor stores, suggesting the revocation of the liquor licenses in Whiteclay, which is ultimately what did happen. His entire 46-year mission has been for the least, the last, and the lost. Amazingly, he was described by some I spoke to, as a child as very quiet. He never spoke. He was initially going to be a doctor, which some of you, I presume, wish he had. He found his voice in the military when he saw injustices. He decided on

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law to help a community of people overcome injustices, both against people of color and people in poverty. He was always concerned about and is always concerned about those who cannot speak for themselves. Thus, the T-shirt and jeans, the consummate common man, even when he was meeting with President Carter. Senator Chambers has a connection to humility, humanity, and the common soul of man. He always said he didn't have a heart. And that, my friends, is his greatest fabrication. I will miss Senator Chambers, the wordsmith, the poet, and his advanced-- his advanced ability at the art of alliteration. He met-- he's mentioned that someone was not a feckless fellow or a mean man. He criticized someone for being a gutless gutbucket guttersnipe. He pointed out that there are many of-- many among us who cry like rats eating onions. And this year he noted Cyrus the Virus, if he is desirous, will take the lives of all of us. Senator Chambers has been a teacher, a mentor, a role he embraced and valued. He said this year there is much to this world, much to be learned, much to be taught. And teach us he did, from the rules to justice, prison reform to every subject under the sun. Senator Chambers could outthink, outmaneuver, and outlast each of us. When he first joined the Legislature in 1973, imagine '73, he illustrated, I, as a barber, I'm often called upon by individuals who come into the barbershop to improve what nature has done to the top of their head. Well, I am now down here in the Legislature and I am trying to make an improvement on what nature put inside of the head of some people. He-- he pronounced, if I want to bring this Legislature to a halt, I will do it. And you know how I do it? Not with a gun, not by choking people. A loaded brain is more powerful than a loaded gun. I master the rules. And he said that multiple times. Master them he did. He commented that the only thing that might give significance to his being here as long as he-- as he has is the fact that he has not sat here on a quote unquote-- like a quote unquote, knot on a log. Quote, I've been active, forceful, and effective for all of these years. So anybody who has a kind thought toward me because of that, I thank you. That was when he was term limited the first time. He has cajoled us. He said, I speak panther. You all speak mouse. I speak the language of the solitary dweller, like the mountain lion. You all speak the language of lemming. Sadly, too often we do speak the language of lemming. He also said-- he went on to say that the status quo in Nebraska is backwardness. It requires a tremendous amount of sustained effort to produce even the tiniest amount of forward movement. He said that in 1980. Then his crowning work for so many years was on the death penalty. He foretold in 1976, as long as I am in the Legislature, I'm going to work for the abolition of the death penalty in Nebraska. He reflected after the vote in 2015, when we voted to abolish the Nebraska death penalty, he reflected and said, my mountain lions heaved a collective sigh of

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relief now that I can focus on them. He explained, the United States is the only western country, the only democracy which retains the death penalty. This tragedy is accentuated by the fact that 150 people in the last few years had been taken off death row because they were innocent. I know there are people who want to believe that no innocent person has ever been executed in the-- in this country, he said. But when you have this many people conclusively proven by DNA evidence to be actually innocent, there is no escaping the conclusion that innocent people have indeed been executed. That was 2015. And he brought the legislation, the DNA legislation that freed the Beatrice Six and showed them to be innocent. On black justice, he said in 1967, 1967, listen to his words. You can understand why Jews who were burned by the Nazis hate Germans, but you can't understand why black people who have been systematically murdered by the government and its agents, by private citizens, by police departments, you can't understand why they hate white people? Black people doing ordinary, reasonable, peaceful things in this country are attacked by the police and the police are praised for it. And you talk about giving the police more money and more power, 1967. Describing another, this year he said, quote, his comments are the warp and woof of racism. I just love his words. He continuously affirmed those who are in the minority or alone have to fight and they have to vote. And he-- he went on to say, we have been put in a position to care for others. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. He, of course, had compassion for those in prison. He observed in 1971 after visiting the penitentiary: I don't see how anybody comes out of prison without being filled with an unreasoning, bitter hatred, which would lead him to lash out destructively against the society which degraded him to the level of a subhuman being, 1971. And we all know he adored children. In 1988, he said to some chil-- some elementary children, we have messed up your world pretty good. You have an obligation to do better. You ought to be the most important thing in the world to us. I agree. Our children should be the most important thing in the world to us. And thanks to Senator Chambers, we are the only state to have never adopted a religious exemption for, wait for it, child neglect, the only state not to have created a religious exemption for child neglect. He went on to affirm in 2007, all that I need to have made clear to me is that we're dealing with human beings. This is on LGBTQ. Once that is established, every right, privilege, protection of a person should be extended and nobody should be discriminated against, especially in the area of employment because of sexual orientation, 2007, my friends. He was an agitator and a humorist. He-- he had a lawsuit against God. In that lawsuit he said, quote, plaintiff, despite reasonable efforts to effectuate service upon the defendant, i.e., God, quote, come out, come out wherever you are. But he has been unable to so serve God.

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That was in 2007. He always had humor. He said in 1994, I snack on razor blades washed down by hydrochloric acid, that sweetens my disposition. And he said the king cobra doesn't waste its venom on-- venom on things that are dead. So why am I here now? Sometimes I will attend a funeral. So then there's the religion-- religious part of Senator Chambers. That is integral to who he is and what he has done, whatever you may think. Senator Chambers calls himself and called himself this year God's ambassador without portfolio. He went on at various points to say, [SINGING] you say tomato, I say tomahto, you say potato, I say potahto, tomato, tomahto, potato, potahto, let's call the whole thing off. And then he said, you say Bible and I say "Bibble" and mine is as correct as yours, for how do you pronounce the word b-i-b-l-i-c-a-l? We are left with the invitation to stand up. Senator Chambers invites us to be strong, to access the sacred and holy within. There-- he said this year, there are some things in me, something in me that dictates what I am to do, and it isn't any ghost or spirit. He disclosed at one point in 2016 when people were calling him an atheist. You know why I will not accept the term atheist? I've never referred to myself as an atheist. And when other people hang that label on me, I tell them there are only two labels I accept: my name, which my mother gave me, and black. Black is a term that carries with it connotations: the lynchings, the bombings, the burnings, the castrations, the raping of our women and our children. And then Ernie on Ernie. He described himself as William Ernest Henley said in Invictus, quote, I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul. He explained that, quote, I hate for people to ask what drives me. I'm not a car. Nothing drives me. I think it through, then my intellect guides me, leads me, goads me and bleeds me. He went on to say, I stayed by choice and I lifted my voice to help others. I stayed by choice and I lifted my voice to help others. He expanded, we ought to do what we think ought to be done. We have to say what we think ought to be said, because we don't know whether or not something we do or say will inspire somebody who can take it and do more with it than we could do with it. And then he summarized his philosophy with truth in humor. So my conclusion, he said, is based on the words of the greatest philosopher America ever produced, the greatest thinker ever produced by America, the most rational of rationalists ever produced by America, Popeye the Sailor Man. And here's what Popeye gave to me: I am what I am and that's all that I am. So call me an atheist. Call me agnostic. Call me a nonbeliever. Describe and try to define me in terms of what I am not, but I define myself in terms of what I am. In one of his Ernie-grams in 2019 he wrote: I yam what I yam and that's all that I yam, said Popeye. Here is the key. Because I cannot be all to all, I shall be me to me. Regardless what others say or do, to myself I shall always be true. So thank you, Senator Chambers, for

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being true to you. You have been irascible, aggravating, impossible, and mind-boggling. You have followed the mission of Finley Peter Dunne, a 9-- an 1898 writer who suggested the need for all of us to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. You have been powerful, gentle, inspiring, wise, compassionate, kind and, yes, loving. In short, you have been exactly what Nebraska has needed for 46 years. Thank you. And I want to go on and I do think we should clap for him in a second. But just if he is indeed watching, at the back of the Chamber you will see that there is the statue of Chief Standing Bear that the-- the senators in here gave money to purchase and the extra money, the Ponca Tribe and the current senators have pulled out some money out of their pockets for this major donation to ReConnect, a Nebraska nonprofit run by one of Senator Chambers' best friends, LaVon Stennis-Williams, as well as a farewell tribute, this statue for him to take with him. We hope our longest-serving senator will understand this Standing Bear statue to be a fitting symbol of gratitude for you as you leave the Chamber, Senator-- Legislature, Senator Chambers. Like Standing Bear, Senator Chambers is also a Nebraska legend, whose voice rose and pierced our hearts at times when we failed to live up to our best ideals. I will miss your determination, Senator Chambers, your encouragement, your lessons, your intellectual prowess, and, yes, your limitless ability to make us uncomfortable in our own skin. And for those listening today, I would just say, the very greatest tribute that anyone can do for him and in Senator Chambers' name would be to do everything we can to change things so that they do not remain the same. We must work to protect the least, the last, and the lost. We must vote and believe we can help to change the world for good. Thank you, Senator Chambers, and thank you to all of you.

**FOLEY:** Remarks now by Senator DeBoer.

**DeBOER:** Mr. President, a poem. If our rules should be fair, then so too should our rules chair. And as I'm sure you're all aware, Sue Crawford is not just smart and tall, she's also the fairest of them all. When I was asked to speak this morning in a tribute to my friend Sue Crawford, I had never seen any of these tributes before so mine will be a little less polished. For that, I apologize. However, I decided I should do it in the manner and style of Sue Crawford. Therefore, I will attempt to deliver my speech entirely looking forward only without ever looking away and in tones that are measured and soothing in a way that would make an NPR host jealous. Also, when I was asked to do this, I decided to do it in this-- the flavor and style of Sue Crawford. So I have formed the committee to pay tribute to Sue Crawford committee. I have interviewed a statistically



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significant number of senators and stakeholders and we have prepared our findings in this finding report here, complete with graphs and one pagers for those of you, unlike Sue, who won't read the whole thing. There are many legacy level accomplishments we could speak about if we were speaking about Sue Crawford. She's been our Urban Affairs Chair. She's been our Rules Chair. Sue has fought persistently for paid family leave for the two years that I've been here and I think even before that. She was able to accomplish many things, including starting a pilot program in foster care that would keep children and families united in as many cases as possible. And that pilot program this year, I understand we have now made it more permanent. That is a huge, huge change for families in Nebraska. And we have that to thank Sue Crawford for. She also made a significant change in the way medicine is practiced in Nebraska, making it more affordable and available to everyone by her work to make nurse practitioners able to work on their own without having to have a supervising physician. So we thank her for those and many, many other legacy level accomplishments. But according to the findings of the committee to pay tribute to Sue Crawford committee, I would first like to take us through some of her qualities. Sue Crawford is persistent. If she does not accomplish something in just one year, she's OK with that. Sue has the big picture in mind. Sue will look not just at what she accomplishes this year, but what she starts to have a conversation about, what she moves a little bit forward. Sue doesn't have to have instant gratification for the kinds of changes she makes for this state. She will take even incremental changes. She will take even the smallest advancements, and because of that, we're all better off. Sue is hard working. Sue knows all of the bills, all of the time. If I've ever had a question about a bill, I conveniently have Sue located right behind me. And before these partition things, I would turn back around and I would say, wait, is this good, Sue? And Sue would always tell me in three-part answers the history of the legislation leading up to now, the proponents, the opponents, everyone. And she wouldn't just answer the question whether it's good or bad, but she would give you all the reasoning behind whether, so that you could make a decision for yourself. And as I talk to some of her friends from her HHS days, they told me that working on a committee with Sue means there's always just one more question for the record. Sue is kind and she is down to earth. She's actually the-- the third or fourth State Senator I have ever met. I met Sue third or fourth. The first was Dave Landis. He was my negotiation's professor in law school 20-some years ago. You know, and he's a really chill, normal guy. And then there was a meeting with Bob Krist where I would say he-- it was an intense meeting, and I think I probably told him my name, and that's about all I got out. And then the third senator I met was Tony Vargas when he

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was bowling in a three-piece suit. So my understanding of what senators was going to be like, I set up a meeting to meet with Sue Crawford. I told her she could-- do you remember this, Sue? I said she could-- she could find me because I would have a big red bag. And she said, oh, that's cool. I want a big red bag. And I thought there might be something different about her, but because of my experiences in the past and because I'm me, I researched all of the bills that she had put forward that year. I knew their bill numbers and I was prepared to be grilled and talk to her about them all. And when I got-- when she got there, she met me, found my big-- big red bag, and she sat down with me and she listened to me. She asked me about myself. And she said, why do you want to do this? And we just sat down and talked because Sue has the kind of personality and the kind of patience and the kind of listening that draws you out and lets you tell her about what you really care about and you know that she's actually listening to what you say. When I asked some of the-- the lobbyists, what they had to say about Sue Crawford, they said my favorite thing about Sue Crawford is that she will listen to anyone. She will read what you send her and she will make sure that she is looking in the best possible light so that you can get your entire argument and she knows what it is you're trying to say. I think that's a really rare quality these days. And I admire it about her. In fact, when I was running, after the incident with the big red bag and after I'd gotten to know Sue a little bit, when people would ask me some-- sometimes for some reason, this is a favorite question of lobbyists. They say, what senator in the body would you most like to be like? And, Sue, my answer 100 percent of the time was, I would most like to be like Sue Crawford. I'm still working on that. But the thing that maybe-- oh, I do have to mention one more thing, Sue is polite. Sue is unfailingly polite, even when she's very, very angry at you, she still tells you that she's very, very angry at you in a very polite way. Also, she's fun. Maybe not everyone knows this about Sue, but I remember last year on a snow night, some of us went to a karaoke place and Sue was right up there with everyone singing karaoke, but then, and this was the really unexpected part, she can dance. And I think Tim and-- and she were cutting a rug quite a bit. And I have heard many times that Sue-- Sue can dance. When it was the night of my primary election, Sue Crawford came to be nice to me, to be kind to me, to sort of take care of me because she knew what it was like, and I remember very vividly she made me play a card game with her because that's what someone had done for her. And I could not concentrate on it, but she was very patient with me and made me play cards. So Sue, even in the midst of all the turmoil, knows how to be fun. And everyone in this room, as we're hearing a little bit now, knows the beauty, the music that is Sue Crawford's laugh. Sue, we will miss you. Sue Crawford cares. She

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cares about getting it right, not about whose side is on whose side. She cares about getting it right for Nebraska, every time. She cares about everyone she works with, every single one of us. She cares about her family and her friends. And even in this-- this job that keeps us away from home so much, that is so stressful at times, her colleagues will always say she put David and her children first. And that is an amazing skill that I wish we all had. I am proud to know her, serve with her, and call her friend. Sue Crawford is the ideal lawmaker that George Norris had in mind. There would be no fear, in my opinion, for this institution if we were all a little bit more like Sue Crawford. And in this room, if you listen very, very careful-- carefully, you can hear the echoes of all the voices that have been in here over the years. And I know that in the years to come, if you really listen, future generations of legislators will hear the voice of Sue Crawford in that choir and it will always appeal to them to listen to their better angels. Thank you, Sue.

**FOLEY:** Remarks now by Senator Walz.

**WALZ:** I just need to move the paid family and medical leave notebook. Oh, boy. And then there's Senator Sara Howard. I hope I make it. Thank goodness for Sara Howard. Thoughtful, caring, very intelligent, personable, sweet, reasonable, great character, quiet. All those words describe Senator Howard. And so does this-- and this-- and this, thank you, Mr. President, I'll yield my time to Senator Chambers. As a freshman Senator, I looked for someone I would feel comfortable with, asking all the questions, someone I could trust, and someone that would point me in the right direction. And although I knew we didn't always have to agree on every issue, I needed someone who would listen and give me the best advice to move forward. It didn't take me too long to align myself with Senator Sara Howard. Senator Howard represents a bedrock of principles, as well as many other legislators and friends-- for me, as well as other legislators and friends. First, Sara is a foundation. Much like that house that although the storms came and challenges would arise, Senator Howard had staying power. Standing strong on our principles and values, she was always able to think through situations carefully and gather information and then bring people together to make sound policy that always served, always served the purpose of the people. Secondly, Senator Howard is a moral compass. When something is right, she is willing to overcome opposition for what she knows is truly good for people and for our state. She is ambitious and has the ability to maintain a position of power while knowing there are things she simply will not do just to get to the top because she is a person of integrity and a person of truth. Third, Sara has the ability, as we all know, to build consensus

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while always thinking of the people she represents and knowing-- knowing the strength of her words, she follows her heart and actually believes in what she says. Senator Howard is a content expert. She has excellent leadership skills, and it is apparent that she loves her work and she loves this institution. I don't think I've ever met anyone more passionate about-- passionate about her responsibility as a legislator than Senator Howard. I can't tell you how much I appreciate her ability to train and teach new senators and old senators about the value of the Unicameral. In fact, just last night, it was kind of late, but Senator Matt Hansen and Senator Howard and I came to the Capitol. And Senator Howard took us upstairs and made us lay down and look at the ceiling as she explained the artwork and what it meant. She has the gift to calmly break down a tough subject and explain it so it is understandable to everybody. Senator Howard served as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, and I was always amazed at how well she worked with everyone on that committee. How poised she was with thoughtful procedures, ensuring that every bill was heard. Every bill was discussed and there was clear consensus. Sara has led the way in raising awareness and creating legislation for children in foster care, the YRTC, disabilities in our most vulnerable Nebraskans. And I dare you to mess with her Health Care Cash Fund. But opioid and drug monitoring legislation was clearly the most important work. She helped us all intimately understand the battle with addiction. And through that, we all had an opportunity to learn a little bit about her sister, Carrie. This legislation that Sara introduced passed and has already proven-- already proven to be effective. And it's impacted so many lives in Nebraskans. A true tribute of Senator Howard's love for Carrie. Senator Howard is not only someone I so much admire as a legislator, but she is a true friend, a besty. I'll remember her for being a stateswoman, a strong advocate, a peacemaker, and a role model. We love you, Sara.

**FOLEY:** Remarks now by Senator Quick.

**QUICK:** Thank you, Mr. President. And when I was asked to speak about Senator Rick Kolowski, I didn't hesitate one bit. I was truly honored to be able to speak about Senator Kolowski. And for those of you that-- that don't know, Senator Kolowski came to Nebraska via the Kansas City Chiefs. He was a 12th-round draft choice. And while he didn't end up playing for the Chiefs, he did wind up in Omaha as part of the semi-pro Omaha Mustangs. So Kansas City's loss is our gain. And after moving to Omaha, both the Senator and his wife, Bonnie, started their careers in education. And he doesn't like to talk about it, and it's my understanding he was the founding principle of Millard West High School. Senator Kolowski's entire life has been centered around

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public service. First and foremost as an educator and then as a public servant serving in the learning community, the Papio-Missouri River NRD and also serving in the Nebraska Legislature. A little known fact, but Senator Kolowski has even mentored our own Senator-- Senator Anna Wishart, who worked for him as his legislative aide prior to her own run for the Legislature. We were glad that she is a member of our Legislature and has bene-- benefited from his membership-- mentorship. You might have encouraged her to find a job that paid more than \$12,000 a year. He's had-- he's had other great staff besides Anna, who would like to express their gratitude: Mary Tyrrell, Tom Green, Will Hertzler, and Margaret Buck. And I'm sure, as anybody knows, our staff make us who we are. They're-- they're great, and I'm sure that Senator Kolowski has a great admiration for them and how they've helped him in his career. As a senator he's always championed high quality public education and has served on the Education Committee his entire time in the Legislature. I had the honor to serve with Senator Kolowski on Natural Resources as well my first two years and I learned a great deal from him about water issues and renewable-- renewable energy. And then I talked to him a little bit about how I worked in a coal-fired power plant and my experiences there. There is probably one person in this body who will miss Senator Hilkemann [SIC] the most and I believe that person is Senator Hilkemann. They have known each other for many years and were friends long before they were elected as senators. Their friendship bridges political and policy divides and they set a great example for all of us. They often carpooled during the session and actually I've been hearing some rumors that Senator Hilkemann is taking applications and interviewing potential candidates for a legislative carpool. Now, that candidate will have some big shoes to fill. In all seriousness, I want to thank Senator Kolowski for all your service to Nebraska, your passion for children and helping families. And I also want to thank you for being a friend and mentor to me. You came by my desk most every day and asked how I was doing, and you would always say, hang in there, man. So I really appreciate that. I'm guessing you've probably shared that with a lot of students throughout your career in education and I consider it an honor to have served with you. The last thing I want to tell you is I hope that the COVID crisis will come to an end soon as I have a feeling that you are going to owe Bonnie some cruises and some additional time with your lovely grandchildren. We all wish you well. And we're gonna miss you, and thank you, Senator Kolowski.

**FOLEY:** Remarks now by Senator Hilgers.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues and friends. Thank you for the moment this morning to-- to briefly talk

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about my good friend and our Speaker, Jim Scheer. When I thought about what I might say this morning, I thought maybe I would talk about his brother from another mother, Mark Kolterman, but I realize that's standard issue and probably overdone. And then I thought maybe I could make a joke about the filibuster rule. But it turns out that the first half of my remarks will be today, and the next half of my remarks will be next week, so you have to wait till then to hear the joke on that. And then I thought what I could do was maybe talk about his resume and his background and all his offices, and I thought, you know what, you can look all that up. But I will tell you in my research, I think he scrubbed this from the record and you may not know it, Speaker Scheer lost his first race in the Legislature back maybe 20 years ago. I didn't actually know they had contested races in Madison County for Legislature. Turns out they did. And it turns out that he lost. And his loss was our gain because we had the opportunity to serve with him. But I-- what I thought I would talk about are a few things that are close to my heart and I think a few things that are close to Speaker Scheer. And I would start with what is at the center of his life, which is family. Jim was born the-- the fourth, the youngest of four children to Elise and Les Scheer. You may not know, but his dad Les died when he was only three months old and he didn't know his father, and his mom, Elise, raised him. Now, I didn't have the pleasure to get to know Elise. I didn't know her. But I feel like I do because as she is described to me is that she was just like Jim, independent, spirited, loved politics, loved people, loved problem-solving. And if that doesn't sound like Jim Scheer to me, then I don't know what else does. And even though I didn't meet her and I feel like I know her, I know the impact she had on Jim's life. And I recall a speech he gave this year at one of these events that we all go to, and I remember in part because it was unlike any other speech I'd ever heard at one of these events and you know how they go, they tend to be a little overlong. They tend to be a little self-indulgent. They tend to be a pretty bad joke or two, and they talk about a bill that we might be addressing here in the Legislature, and then you're done. And they're good and they're informative, that's it. But the speech that Jim gave, and I don't remember the event, it was short, one reason I remember it, but he spoke only about his mom. And the love that he had for his mother and what she meant to him and what the relationship meant to him, and how proud he was to be her son and how he wanted his service, his public service to reflect and honor the work that she had done growing up. And I got to tell you, there wasn't a dry eye in that room that night and there wasn't a better window into Jim Scheer than what he said that night and what his mom has meant to him. But it does-- it isn't just his mom, because Jim is a son, but he's also a husband. And here I don't really have a specific

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memory of Kris and Jim of 45 years, but I have one composite of their time together. And I will tell you, this is true for every time I've been around them. And if you've spent any time with Kris and Jim together, whether it's a minute, 30 minutes, an hour, it doesn't matter, you'll be struck by the joy, the friendship, the laughter, the mutual respect that they have for one another. I'm going to be hitting my 10-year anniversary this Friday, and I know the type of selfless commitment and love it takes to have that kind of a relationship. So when I think of Jim Scheer, I think of his relationship with Kris, and what he has put in in 45 years of love and commitment to his partner. In addition to being a husband, he's also a father. Now Jim talks all the time about his kids, Keeli and Rachel and John, how proud he is. Now when we're back here, the last two years I've spent I've-- I've been by him. I usually try to get work done and Jim gets bored and he talks a lot and he comes over and wants to interrupt me while I'm trying to read a bill and I indulge him, but he always talks about his kids and how much he loves them and how proud he is of his grandkids. And before COVID when I would talk to him on the weekends about some issue, almost all the time he was there watching his grandkids. And I think it's very fitting that tomorrow or the day after tomorrow after we adjourn sine die, the first order of business for Kris and Jim will be to drive-- get in the car and drive to Arizona to see his newest and meet his newest grandbaby. So family is at the center of Jim Scheer's life, but he is also Speaker Scheer. And for many of us, myself included, he's the only Speaker we've ever known. And there's no speaker school that I'm aware of that exists that teaches you how to be a good speaker. But even if there was, I don't think there's a chapter on how to handle a worldwide pandemic. Pretty sure there's probably not a chapter on how to deal with a billion dollar budget deficit in your first year. And there certainly is not a chapter on how to deal with 48 independent, smart, driven people, independent agents in this body. Jim has charted a course for this body through very difficult waters. And as I think of the time that I've spent with Jim as Speaker, it's been firm and he's been fair. We haven't always liked every decision that he has made, but Speaker Scheer knew that whatever he wanted as Senator Scheer, he would have to put that aside for the good of the body. And I remember, my first year, I brought a bill, very contentious, probably the only contentious bill I've ever brought and Senator Chambers didn't like it. It's probably the only bill I've ever brought that he didn't like and I had barely gotten it passed General File, but I did. But Senator Chambers being the legislative strategist that he was had boxed me in. He had boxed me in on Select File and the only way that I was able to get that bill passed was as if I could get an amendment on. And it was a tough-- it was a tough chore for me to do. So I spent many nights looking at the

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rules and I thought, boy, there's three or four ways maybe I could try, within the rules, but a little aggressive. Maybe I could try to get it, but I needed the Speaker's buy-in. And I'd come to Jim and I'd say, look, if I do this, what about that? And I know Senator Scheer, who liked the bill, we were friends, would have likely said, let's do it. Let's see what the body will-- how the body will react. But Speaker Scheer-- Speaker Scheer, who knew that his decisions impacted the whole body, said no, because he knew if it was a bill he liked and it was friend, that it wouldn't be right, it wouldn't be fair. And he also knew whatever rule he had, he'd have to apply across for everyone. He-- he would not pick between people once he set a rule. Now he was also firm and I know sometimes that was frustrating to me, it was frustrating for that bill, but he, once he put his foot in the ground, decided the decision, the right course, he stuck with it. Now his decision making wasn't always, my way, the highway. In fact, it never really was. Every time I spoke with Jim, he listened. He gave me the opportunity to be heard. Many times he took my advice or counsel. Many times he didn't. But I knew that he was trying to get the right decision and he had an amazing ability to see a clear path forward, not a path all of us would choose, maybe not many of us would choose in some cases, but as a path we needed and as a leader of this body he did the right thing. In addition to being Speaker Scheer, he's also just Jim. He's my friend. He's my mentor. The last four years, I've got to know Jim really well. We're in different stages in life. We have a lot of things in common. He loves his family, small business owner, loves his community, loves people, loves the process, loves the relationships. And I've gotten to know him over the last couple of years, and I'll tell you about two weeks ago, we were talking again when he was bugging me about something, he was asking about my family. And he said to me, he said, you know, Mike, I'm really proud of what you've done in your life. And my first thought, I'll be very honest, was I thought he was actually being a smart Alec because Jim sometimes could be mischievous, but he wasn't. And it was one of the highest compliments that I could ever get from someone I look up to so much. So Jim's a friend. He's our Speaker and he's a family man. And sometimes when I walk around these halls, I sometimes pause on the first floor north corridor where all the pictures of the former senators are. I don't know, we walk past it hundreds of times. I don't know, maybe I'm the only one, but I'm sure many of you have stopped and paused and just see who served here before. What were they like? And if you look at those pictures, I think it's fascinating. I always try to see is this picture true to this person, is this who they were? What were they like? Were they funny, were they kind, were they professional, were they a statesman, a stateswoman? Did they do the right thing when the chips were down? And a lot of times you can't



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tell. People have their portrait up. And it's just-- it's just they're-- they're looking one way for the camera and it doesn't really give them a window into their soul. But if you look at Jim Scheer's picture. Generations of senators after us, schoolchildren walking the halls, interested bystanders will look at his picture and know exactly who Jim Scheer is. That big smile, full of life, full of friendship, loving relationships, loving the body, loving the process. The bright eyes, spirited, energetic, engaged, always looking for the next problem to try to solve. And a little mischief-- mischievous grin. He's always up to something. But they'll know who Jim Scheer was, we know him because we served with him, but they will know him just looking at his picture. Speaker Scheer, thank you for leading us over the last four years. Thank you for taking on that challenge. Senator Scheer, thank you for your commitment to your community and your state. You have made this state a better place than how you found it. And, Jim, thank you for your friendship, your guidance, your mentorship. I will cherish it long past the time we served together. I know Elise and Les are proud of you. I know your family's proud of you, and I wish you nothing but the best. God bless, and best wishes, my friend.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, members. We'll now move on with the agenda. Moving now to General File, appropriation bill. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, LB632A was a bill originally introduced by Senator Hughes. It appropriates funds to LB632. Senator Hughes would move to indefinitely postpone that bill, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Senator Hughes, you're recognized to open on your motion.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. This bill became unnecessary yesterday after we passed Senator Bostelman's amendment on to LB632. So I would appreciate a green vote on the indefinitely postpone. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Senator Clements, you're recognized.

**CLEMENTS:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just couldn't resist having a word of my own today. My son gave me this shirt for Christmas, so I decided to wear it today. And early on sitting here, I noticed the tag was out of Senator Chambers' collar. I said, Senator Chambers, your tag is out. He said, I know it is. It bothers people. I like it that way. So I left my tag out today and it's bothered me for four years. Sitting here for four years, it's been interesting sitting behind him. I've been closest to him as he leaned back on the edge of my desk, while at the same time being farthest apart in voting. When I'm green,

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he's red. When I'm red, he's green. Occasionally, when our votes would match, he would turn around and say, are you sure? And give me a smile. Last week I passed a note to Senator Chambers during Final Reading. It said, when the Clerk reads the roll, I hear Howard Hughes and I wonder if we have a ghost. He wrote back, I noticed that from the beginning. It was interesting to see that we occasionally had the same thoughts. I wish I could recall the Bible as well as he does. I pray for him regularly as he speaks, and then I pray for myself for patience and restraint. One of my favorite memories is a bet we made as to whether he could find a year-old cookie in his office and return in five minutes. I said, Senator Chambers, it would be fine with me if you go to your office and stay there. I lost that bet and I learned not to bet against Senator Chambers in whatever he sets his mind to do. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Clements. Senator Hughes, you're recognized to close on your motion. He waives close. The question for the-- the question for the body is the IPP, LB632A. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 43 ayes, 0 nays to indefinitely postpone LB632A.

**FOLEY:** The motion has been adopted. Proceeding on the agenda, Select File appropriation bill. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, LB518. Senator Blood would move to indefinitely postpone LB518A.

**FOLEY:** Senator Blood, you're recognized to open on your motion.

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Mr. President, fellow Senators, friends all. I do this with Senator Linehan's blessing. Unfortunately, because of the budget, this combined bill that protects sex trafficking victims here in Nebraska had to be divided. Part of the bill had a fiscal note, part of the bill did not. Senator Linehan has been very gracious in knowing how important it is to move at least part of the bill forward, and so she asked me to please speak on your green vote to eliminate LB518A because there is no longer a fiscal note on this important bill. And so with that, I would ask for your green vote.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Blood. Any discussion on the motion? I see none. Senator Blood, you're recognized to close on the motion. She waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the IPP motion on LB518A. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

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**CLERK:** 39 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to indefinitely postpone the bill.

**FOLEY:** The motion is successful. Proceeding now to the Final Reading. Members, the first bill before us on Final Reading is LB153. Senator Chambers has a motion on that bill. He's not present. Is anyone present authorized to speak to his motion? We've gotten a phone call at the desk. He wishes to withdraw that motion, so we'll read the bill. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** [Read LB153 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB153 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Chambers, Groene, Wayne. 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB153 passes. Next bill is LB323.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB323 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB323 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Not voting: Senators Chambers, Groene, and Wayne. The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB323 passes. Proceeding now to LB323A.

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**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB323A on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB323A pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstorm, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Not voting: Senators Chambers, Groene, and Wayne. The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB323A passes. Proceeding now to LB126.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB126 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB126 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Blood, Bolz, Brandt, Brewer, Clements, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Holloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz. Voting no: Senators Bostelman, Gragert, La Grone, Lathrop, Murman, Slama, Wishart. Not voting: Senators Arch, Briese, Cavanaugh, Crawford, DeBoer, Hunt, Lowe, Pansing Brooks, Williams, Chambers, Groene, Wayne. The vote is 30 ayes, 7 nays, 9 present not voting, 3 excused not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB126 passes. LB266.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB266 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB266 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski,

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Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Not voting: Senator Groene and Wayne. The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB266 passes. Proceeding to LB312.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB312 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB312 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Not voting: Senators Groene and Wayne. The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB312 passes. LB518.

**CLERK:** [Read LB518 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB518 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Groene and Wayne. 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB518 passes. Next bill is LB534.

**CLERK:** [Read LB534 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB534 pass? Those in favor vote

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aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Briese, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senator Erdman. Not voting: Senators Brewer, Clements, Halloran, Linehan, Lowe, Groene, Wayne. 41 ayes, 1 nay, 5 present not voting, 2 excused not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB534 passes. Last bill on Final Reading is LB540.

**CLERK:** [Read LB540 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB540 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Groene and Wayne. 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB540 passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following legislative bills, LB153, LB323, LB323A, LB126, LB266, LB312, LB518, LB534, and LB540. Do you have any items for the record, Mr. Clerk?

**CLERK:** Not at this time, Mr. President, thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We'll now proceed to the agenda to legislative confirmation reports. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, first report. Senator Howard, as Chair of Health and Human Services, reports on the appointment of Stephanie Beasley, Director of Division of Children and Family Services.

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**FOLEY:** Senator Howard, you're recognized to open on first of five confirmation reports.

**HOWARD:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. And you'll have to bear with the Health and Human Services Committee this morning, because we have-- we'll be taking five votes on five separate confirmation reports, so bear with us. Today, I bring you the nomination of Stephanie Beasley as director of the Division of Children and Family Services for the Department of Health and Human Services. As a reminder, the Division of Children and Family Services oversees the state's child welfare system and our economic assistance programs. Those include TANF, child care subsidies, LIHEAP, ADC, Aid to Dependent Children. Ms. Beasley comes to Nebraska with vast experience and deep knowledge of child welfare issues in particular, as well as experience serving families facing financial instability. With a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and sociology, and a master's degree in social work from Indiana University, Ms. Beasley worked for-- for years as a frontline case manager and investigator in child welfare and then later worked in the central office for Indiana's Department of Child Services, including serving as a lead for the federal Child and Family Services Review of the C-- CFSR and later served as the director of field operations supervising the provision of child welfare services in all 92 counties in Indiana. She began as the director of Children and Family Services in Nebraska in late February, and her start in Nebraska coincided with the start of the pandemic in the state. Ms. Beasley had to move quickly in a new role and a new system to ensure that our child welfare system, one that relies intensely on in-person visits and investigations, was still safe for kids and families. To that end, much of the child welfare services were delivered virtually, and where safety was an issue, PPE was provided so that in-person investigations and home visits could continue in our state. In economic assistance, Ms. Beasley and her staff had to take advantage of waivers available at the federal level to provide families with additional economic and food support, as well as support for child care providers and the children they serve. It was clear from her resume and from the committee's conversation with Ms. Beasley that she has significant experience working in collaboration with community partners and providers in the system. Ms. Beasley brought that collaborative approach to the division's response to COVID. At her appointment hearing, Ms. Beasley noted that she had been encouraged and impressed by the collaborations already in place in Nebraska, particularly around prevention efforts in child welfare. The committee did receive two letters of support for Ms. Beasley from the Nebraska Alliance of Family and Child Service Providers and the Nebraska Alliance of Child

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Advocacy Centers. The HHS committee voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Beasley, and I would encourage your green vote-- vote on her appointment. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SCHEER:** Thank you, Senator Howard. Those wishing discussion, Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

**CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. I rise in support of this confirmation. I think that Ms. Beasley is going to do a great job. She already has done an amazing job for the children of the state and especially during this pandemic. I did want to take a moment to speak about something that happened yesterday, and I didn't want to take any time on anyone's bills to do it. Senator Vargas and I discussed his bill, and I know-- I'm sorry, gonna have to-- having a hard time with this. First of all, I have so much admiration for Senator Vargas' willingness to work through the process and the rules in this body to try to do something during an exceptional time for people that are extremely vulnerable, that have been declared essential workers in this country, and are dying at a higher rate than anyone else. I am grateful to Senator Vargas for being willing to take up the mantle on behalf of this body to bring together senators to hear from people that work in meatpacking plants across the state over the summer months to bring a-- a motion to suspend the rules to do something exceptional. I'm disappointed that that motion was not successful, but I am grateful to the leadership of-- of Chairman Hansen in allowing a hearing to happen on Senator Vargas' amendment to his own bill. I'm sorry to my friend, Senator Vargas, that we were not able to do more. I'm sorry to the people of Nebraska. I'm sorry to the meatpacking plant workers and food processing workers and all essential workers that we as a body didn't push harder. I wish-- I wish for our future to have the strength and the political will to do hard things. And I am so grateful that Senator Vargas is willing to do hard things. What he did yesterday was hard. And I just wanted it in the record that I am grateful to you, Senator Vargas, and your father would be so proud. Thank you.

**SCHEER:** Thank you. Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Howard is welcome to close. She waives closing. The question for us is adoption of the confirmation report from Health and Human Services. All those in favor, please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

**CLERK:** 34 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the confirmation report.

**SCHEER:** Report is adopted. Mr. Clerk.



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**CLERK:** Mr. President, Health Committee would report on the appointment of Daniel Rosenthal to the State Board of Health.

**SCHEER:** Senator Howard, you're welcome to open.

**HOWARD:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. This morning, I'm pleased to bring you the nomination of Daniel Rosenthal as a new appointee to the State Board of Health. He's a professional civil engineer working through a group he formed called Rega Engineering Group in 2003. Prior to that, he was a civil engineer and designer for the Nebraska Department of Transportation. He has extensive experience working on the design of streets, public water and public drainage facilities among other things, and he played an instrumental role in the design of the interchange at 60th Street and the I-80 interchange in Omaha. He has a lot of experience with the rules and regs process and which is one of the key functions of the State Board of Health. And fun facts about your State Board of Health, it has a spot on it for a licensed engineer because the Board of Health and the Health and Human Service-- the Department of Health and Human Services licenses engineers in our state. He's being appointed through August 2023 and his appointment was advanced unanimously from the Health and Human Services Committee, and I would urge its adoption on the floor today. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SCHEER:** Thank you, Senator Howard. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Senator Howard waives closing. The question before us is the adoption of the confirmation report. All those in favor, please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted? Please record.

**CLERK:** 37 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

**SCHEER:** Report is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, the Health Committee chaired by Senator Howard reports on a number-- a number of appointees to the Nebraska Rural Health Advisory Commission.

**SCHEER:** Senator Howard, you're welcome to open.

**HOWARD:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning. Colleagues, today I bring you six nominations for the Rural Health Advisory Commission and we'll go through these as quickly as I can. Our first nominee is Marty Fattig, who is-- who's being reappointed to the Rural Health Advisory Commission until September 2022. He served on the Rural Health Advisory Commission since 2004 and currently serves as the Chair. He's the CEO of the Nemaha County Hospital and has extensive experience in

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rural health having worked in many capacities all around Nebraska in places like McCook and Scottsbluff, and the Nebraska Hospital Association submitted a letter in support of Mr. Fattig's nomination. Our second nominee is Dr. Lynette Kramer, who is being reappointed to the Rural Health Advisory Commission until September 2022. She is a family physician and the chief medical officer for the Boone County Health Center in Albion. Dr. Kramer was first appointed to the Rural Health Advisory Commission in 2018. She has a special interest in population health, value-based care, and healthcare policy. Our third nominee is Jessye Goertz who is also being reappointed to the Rural Health Advisory Commission until September 2022. Ms. Goertz spent nearly 30 years as-- as an extension educator for the University of Nebraska's extension office in Broken Bow until her retirement in 2018. During that time, Ms. Goertz also served on a commission created by Governor Heineman, which was tasked with helping expand the public health departments in Nebraska. Currently, Ms. Goertz is co-owner of the Double Heart Diamond Cattle Company and resides in Custer County. Our fourth nominee is April Dexter, who is also being reappointed to the Rural Health Advisory Commission until September 2022. Ms. Dexter is a family nurse practitioner in Atkinson, who has always practiced in rural Nebraska. In addition to working at West Holt Medical Services in Atkinson, Ms. Dexter also travels to Grand Island to help at Twin Rivers Urgent Care Center. Our fifth nominee, Dr. Benjamin Iske, is being reappointed to the Rural Health Advisory Commission until September 2022. Dr. Iske is a dentist in Bridgeport, where he set up his dental practice in 2015. Dr. Iske testified that he has enjoyed the last three years on the commission and has learned a great deal, particularly about hospital administration. What he learns through the commission he can then share with his community. Our final nominee for the Rural Health Advisory Commission is Dr. Sandra Torres. This is a new appointment until September 2021. Dr. Torres is a second year family medicine resident at UNMC and has been assigned to OneWorld Community Health Center. Dr. Torres was born in Mexico and raised in Lexington and is bilingual. She testified that being bilingual has been very helpful in her current position at OneWorld as they treat COVID patients. Dr. Torres plans to return to Lexington to practice family medicine. Her love of her hometown was clear, and she testified that she is passionate about wanting to address the unique challenges and obstacles in providing healthcare in rural areas--

**SCHEER:** Excuse me, Senator Howard. Thank you. Please proceed.

**HOWARD:** Thank-- thank you, Mr. President. All right. --including geographical isolation and limited access to specialists and subspecialists. She is excited to join the commission to help address

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these issues and bring her own personal experience and perspective to them. The committee held virtual hearings on May 27 and May 29 for all of these nominees. Those hearings were live-streamed and recorded. The committee also held an in-person public hearing to allow for public comment on these nominees on July 28. The committee voted to advance each nominee unanimously and I would urge your green vote on their nominations today. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SCHEER:** Thank you, Senator Howard. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Howard is welcome to close, which she waives. The question before us is the adoption of the report. All those in favor, please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

**CLERK:** 38 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

**SCHEER:** Report is adopted. Mr Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, fourth report from Health Committee involves the-- an appointment to the Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee.

**SCHEER:** Senator Howard, you're welcome to open.

**HOWARD:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. This morning, I am pleased to bring you the nomination of Dr. Rui Yi for a reappointment to the Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee. Dr. Yi is a professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. His field of study includes small RNA pathways in mammalian stem cells and cancer. Dr. Yi is an accomplished researcher who is actively working on three different research grants currently. He has received numerous awards, been invited to give nearly 40 lectures throughout the world, and has published over 35 pieces related to his work. Dr. Yi has served on the Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee since 2017 and explained to the committee that the main focus of the work of the committee is to evaluate grant applications from Nebraska institutions and then decide on where to award the funding. In addition, he is part of a study section evaluating grants and studies regarding the pneumatic development of stem cells. Dr. Yi's nomination was advanced by the committee unanimously, and I would urge your green vote today. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SCHEER:** Thank you, Senator Howard. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Senator Howard waives closing. The question before us is the adoption of the report. All those in favor, please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted? Please record.

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**CLERK:** 40 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

**SCHEER:** Report is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Fifth Report, Health and Human Services, Mr. President, involves the appointment of Carolyn Petersen to the Board of Emergency Medical Services.

**SCHEER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Howard, you're welcome to open.

**HOWARD:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. This is our last confirmation report today. This morning, I'm pleased to bring you the nomination of Carolyn Petersen as a new appointee to the Board of Emergency Medical Services. Ms. Petersen served as an emergency services dispatcher in Cherry County for over 20 years before becoming the campus coordinator at Mid-Plains Community College. In her current role at Mid-Plains, part of her job is to coordinate the administration of the educational programming that EMS volunteers must complete. In our conversation with the committee, Ms. Petersen noted the challenges rural areas face having to rely on volunteers without any pay to ambulance services. There are some communities where EMS services are now essentially defunct in our state. In some areas, the ambulance can be an hour ride away from the person in need. Ms. Petersen believes that her experience allows her to recognize the differing needs and opportunities inherent in small, somewhat isolated communities. Ms. Petersen is being appointed to a term through December 2023, and the committee advanced her nomination unanimously and I would urge your green vote-- vote today. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SCHEER:** Thank you, Senator Howard. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Senator Howard waives for the last time and the closing. The question before us is adoption of the report. Those in favor, please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted? Please record.

**CLERK:** 39 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the Health-- Health and Human Services Committee.

**SCHEER:** Report-- report is adopted.

**CLERK:** Thank you, Mr. President.

**SCHEER:** Mr. Clerk.

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**CLERK:** Mr. President, Transportation, Chaired by Senator Friesen reports on several appointments to the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards.

**SCHEER:** Senator Friesen, you're welcome to open.

**FRIESEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I ask that you confirm six gubernatorial appointments to the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards. This 14-member board assist the Department of Transportation in developing the functional classification system for Nebraska road and highways. In our hearing, we interviewed five appointees by telephone and one appeared in person. There is one new appointee and five reappointments. The new appoint-- appointment is Steven Rames. He is a representative of municipalities. Mr. Rames, who has been in the transportation industry for 35 years, an engineer who is in the public works director for the city of Norfolk. The rest, the appointees, are reappointment. Roger Figard, who is the current board chairman, appeared in person. He is a municipal representative of large cities and has been on the board since 2008, Chairman since 2010. He is a civil engineer with the city of Lincoln. John Krager III is from Omaha, the civil engineer with HGM Associates. He is a lay member of the board. Lisa Kramer represents counties on the board as a Washington County commissioner from Kennard, and in addition to her elected position in Washington County, she's a physical therapist with Methodist Physicians Clinic. Darold Tagge is a lay member, lives in Holdrege, and has been on the board for more than 25 years. He's retired from his own engineering firm but still works on a part-time basis as a highway superintendent for the city of Lexington. Timothy Weander from Omaha worked for the Department of Transportation as a district engineer in Omaha representing DOT on the board. He also previously served as district engineer in Bridgeport. Committee endorses-- endorses the confirmation of these appointees to serve on the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards, and I urge you to vote to confirm these individuals. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SCHEER:** Thank you, Senator Friesen. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Friesen is welcome to close. He waives the closing. The question before us is the adoption of confirmation report from Transportation and Tele-- Telefonex. All those in favor, please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

**CLERK:** 38 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report.

**SCHEER:** Report is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

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**CLERK:** Mr. President, General Affairs Committee reports on the appointment of Shane Greckel to the State Racing Commission.

**SCHEER:** Senator Briese, you're welcome to open.

**BRIESE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I present for your approval today the appointment of Shane Greckel to the State Racing Commission. Shane Greckel appeared before the General Affairs Committee on Monday, August 3, via telephone. Mr. Greckel is a resident of Bloomfield, Nebraska. He has had experience serving on other boards and commissions, including the Nebraska Information and Technology Commission, Invasive Species Council, and as a Knox County Farm Bureau Board Chairman. The committee appreciated Mr. Greckel's interest in serving on the commission and willingness to answer questions regarding the outlook and challenge affecting racing and his desire to help support horse racing and the horse racing community in Nebraska. Following discussion, the committee voted to approve his appointment to the State Racing Commission. I'd ask the body for your support in the appointment of Shane Greckel to the Nebraska State Racing Commission. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Briese. Any discussion of the report? I see none. Senator Briese, you're recognized to close. He waives close. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the General Affairs Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 31 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the confirmation report.

**FOLEY:** Confirmation report is adopted. Next report, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, General Affairs reports on the appointee, Shelly-- Shelby-- Bakenbus-- Bakenhus to State Racing Commission.

**FOLEY:** Senator Briese, you're recognized to open on the report.

**BRIESE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I present for your approval the appointment of Shelby Bakenhus to the Nebraska State Racing Commission. Shelby Bakenhus appeared before the committee on Monday, August 3, via telephone. Ms. Bakenhus is a resident of St. Edward, Nebraska, and works as a CNA at the Genoa medical facility. Ms. Bakenhus is a new appointee to the commission, and the committee appreciated her enthusiasm for beginning work with the commission and her interest in horse racing and its history here in Nebraska. Following discussion, the committee voted to the-- to approve the

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appointment of Shelby Bakenhus to the State Racing Commission. I'd ask for your support in the appointment of Shelby Bakenhus to the Nebraska State Racing Commission. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Briese. Discussion on the report? I see none. Senator Briese closes-- waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report of General Affairs Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 32-- 33 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** Confirmation report of the General Affairs Committee is adopted. Next report, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, the Education Committee reports on the appointment of Marjean Terrell to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges.

**FOLEY:** Senator Walz, you're recognized to open on the confirmation report.

**WALZ:** Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. Today's appointment to the Nebraska State Colleges Board of Trustees is Marjean Terrell, a new appointment. The Education Committee voted on August 4, 2020 to bring a report of approval for Marjean with seven votes in favor, zero nay, and one not voting. Marjean Terrell is from Hastings, Nebraska. Together with her husband, Vern and family, she operates Terrell Farms and Ranch. Prior to that, she had a career as a medical laboratory scientist and a part-time teacher at Chadron State College for nine years, and was appointed adjunct faculty for UNMC for their medical laboratory science program. She has served eight years on the Chadron State Foundation with the last two years as shary of-- excuse me, as Chair of the Board of Directors. Prior to that, she served for 12 years on the Northwest Rural Public Power District as director, the second woman in the state to do so. She currently serves as a minority member of the Sheridan County FSA committee. She has also served for three years on the Grand Island Diocesan Pastoral Council, as well as numerous other boards and organizations over the years. Thank you. And I would ask you to approve the confirmation of Marjell-- Marjean Terrell. And thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Walz. Any discussion of the report? I see none. Senator Walz, you're recognized to close. She waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report

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from the Education Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 39 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** The confirmation report of the Education Committee is adopted. Next report, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Natural Resources. Their first report involves three appointees to the Environmental Quality Council.

**FOLEY:** Senator Hughes, you're recognized to open on the first report.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I present for your approval three appointments to the Environmental Quality Council: Karl Barfuss, Dennis Grams, and Seth Harder. Mr. Barfuss appeared before the committee on February 13. He lives in Norfolk and works as the environmental manager at Nucor Steel. After graduating with a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering from South Dakota School of Mines, he immediately started working at Nucor. Dennis Grams is a reappointment to the EQC. Mr. Grams lives in Lincoln, has been a licensed professional engineer in the state of Nebraska since 1973, working on an industrial engineering-- in industrial engineering then and as an environmental engine-- engineer, most recently as a government consultant. Mr. Harder appeared before the committee on February 20. He lives in Plainview, Nebraska, works as an ethanol plant general manager at Husker Ag LLC. The Environmental Quality Council was created by the Legislature in 1971 as a public body which adopts rules and regulations for the Department of Environmental Quality to administer. The council consists of 17 members who are appointed by the Governor to serve staggered four-year terms. The committee advanced all three of these appointments by an 8-0 vote. I ask for your confirmation of Karl Barfuss, Dennis Grams, and Seth Harder to the Nebraska Environmental Quality Council. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Any discussion on the report? I see none. Senator Hughes, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor vote vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 39 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** Confirmation report is adopted. Next report, please.



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**CLERK:** Mr. President, Natural Resources reports on two appointees to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

**FOLEY:** Senator Hughes, you're recognized to open on the report.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I present for your approval the appointments of Dallen Juelfs and John Rundel to the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Mr. Rundel came before the committee for his appointment hearing on February 19, and Mr. Juelfs appeared before the committee on March 5. The Oil and Gas Commission was founded in 1959. Its mission is to permit the development of Nebraska's oil and natural gas resources up to the maximum efficient rate of production while promoting the health, safety, and environment with the residents of Nebraska. The commission consists of three members, all appointed by the Governor. At least one member of the commission shall have had experience in the petroleum-- in the production of oil and gas, and shall have resided in the state of Nebraska for at least one year. Each of the other members shall reside-- have resided in the state for at least three years. Dallen Juelfs currently lives in Lincoln, but he was born in Sidney, Nebraska, but his family had oil and gas business in Kimball. Mr. Juelfs graduated with an accounting degree from the University of Wyoming and began working in Casper for a number of years in the oil and gas finance, as well as other areas of industry for much of his life. He wanted to retire back to Nebraska and thought the commission would be a great way to give back and still fulfill the passion of his. Mr. Rundel is a reappointment to the Oil and Gas Commission. Mr. Rundel lives in Trenton, Nebraska, and has served as Chairman of the commission for the last two years. He is a farmer as well as a self-employed geologist consulting in the oil and gas wells in his area and around the state. He is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Both Mr. Juelfs and Mr. Rundel impressed the committee and it is clear that they are both very knowledgeable assets to serve on the quasi-judicial commission that serves the state's oil and gas resources. The committee voted to advance both Mr. Juelfs and Mr. Rundel's appointment by an 8-0 vote. I ask for your confirmation of Dalid-- Dallen Juelfs and John Rundel to the Nebraska Oil and Gas Commission-- Conservation Commission. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Any discussion on the report? I see none. Senator Hughes, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 37 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

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**FOLEY:** Confirmation report is adopted. Next report, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, the appointee Felix Davidson to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board from the Natural Resources Committee.

**FOLEY:** Senator Hughes, you're recognized to open on the report.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. I present for your approval the appointment of Felix Davidson to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board. Mr. Davidson came before the Natural Resources Committee for his confirmation hearings on March 5. Mr. Davidson lives in Valley, Nebraska. He currently works as a chief operating officer at Bridges Trust in Omaha. The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board is comprised of nine members, all appointed by the Governor, three districts are represented by three members each. Mr. Davidson is a reappointment to fill the 2nd District Board seat. The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board was established in 1992 to conserve, enhance, and restore the natural environments of Nebraska. It was created on the conviction that a prosperous future is dependent upon a sound natural environment and that Nebraska could collectively achieve real progress on real environmental issues if seed money was provided. The committee advanced Mr. Davidson's appointment by an 8-0 vote. I ask for your confirmation of Felix Davidson to the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Any discussion of the report? Seeing none. Senator Hughes, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 35 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** Confirmation report is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Natural Resources reports on the appointment of Elizabeth Hilyard-- Hilyard to the Nebraska Power Review Board.

**FOLEY:** Senator Hughes, you're recognized to open.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I present for your approval the appointment of Elizabeth Hilyard to the Nebraska Power Review Board. Mrs. Hilyard called into her confirmation hearing on February 19. Mrs. Hilyard lives in Gering, Nebraska, and is the director of finance for the city of Scottsbluff. She is also a former member of the Scottsbluff City Council. She is a licensed CPA and is a

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member of several CPA affiliation groups. The Nebraska Power Review Board is comprised of five members, all appointed by the Governor. The board must include an engineer, an attorney, an accountant, and two lay persons with no geographic boundary restrictions. Mrs. Hilyard is a new appointment to the board and will be filling the accountant position. The Nebraska Power Review Board is a state agency created in 1963 to regulate Nebraska's publicly owned electric-- electrical utility industry. As we know, Nebraska is the only state in the country served entirely by consumer-owned public power. The committee advanced Mrs. Hilyard's appointment by an 8-0 vote. I ask for your confirmation of Elizabeth Hilyard to the Nebraska Power Review Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Any discussion of the report? I see none. Senator Hughes-- he waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 39 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** Confirmation report is adopted. Next report, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Natural Resources reports on the appointment of Timothy Else to the Ethanol Board.

**FOLEY:** Senator Hughes.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, only three more, hang with me. I present for your approval the reappointment of Timothy Else to the Nebraska Ethanol Board. Mr. Else came before the Natural Resources Committee for his confirmation hearing on February 19. Mr. Else lives in Belvidere, Nebraska and works in production agriculture. This is his fourth reappointment and will be his fifth term on the Nebraska Ethanol Board. With the new administrator of the board, Mr. Else provides an excellent source of institutional knowledge to all members of the board. The Nebraska Ethanol Board is a state agency created in 1971 by the Nebraska Legislature, the first and only state agency in the United States devoted solely to the development of the ethanol industry. The Nebraska Ethanol Board is comprised of seven members, all appointed by the Governor. Each member represents a specific area or interest related to Nebraska's ethanol industry. Mr. Else represents the sorghum production position on the board. The committee advanced his appointment by an 8-0 vote. I ask for your confirmation of Timothy Else to the Nebraska Ethanol Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

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**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Any discussion? I see none. Senator Hughes waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 40 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** Confirmation report is adopted. Next report, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Natural Resources reports on the appointment of Dan Kreatmen-- Kreitman to the Games and Parks Commission.

**FOLEY:** Senator Hughes, you're recognized to open.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I present for your approval, the reappointment of Dan Kreitman to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He came before the committee for his confirmation hearing on February 12. Mr. Kreitman lives in Wahoo, where he farms and ranches his personal property, as well as owning and maintaining other pieces of land in several different counties as well. He is a retired dental tech once owning Dan-- Danter Dental Lab, Inc. Mr. Kreitman has served as a commissioner for four years and has enjoyed his position and is eager to continue to be part of the ongoing projects. The agency is covered by a nine-member board of commissioners. Each member, which is appointed by the Governor to a four-year term. Eight commissioners serve each of eight districts across the state, and the ninth serves in a role at large. Commissioners serve in a volunteer capacity and meet in various locations across the state approximately every two months. The Game and Parks Commission is charged with stewardship of the state's fish, wildlife, state park, and outdoor recreation resources. The commission is also charged with issuing state hunting licenses, fishing licenses, and boat regulation. It conducts education programs for hunting and boater safety and also provides other resources for those who wish to learn to enjoy the outdoors. The committee advanced Mr. Kreitman's reappointment by a 7-0-1 vote. I ask for your confirmation of Dan Kreitman to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Discussion of report? Senator Erdman.

**ERDMAN:** Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, everyone. The appointment of Dan Kreitman comes up today. Mr. Kreitman and I have had several conversations over the last year. I have nothing personal

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against Mr. Kreitman, but Game and Parks is probably the most poorly managed agency of the state. And because Dan Kreitman serves on the board and now is Chairman of that board, it is their responsibility to see that it's managed in a way that makes sense for the common citizen and protects the rights and the property tax owners of the state in Nebraska, and they pay little regard to the people that feed and care for the animals. And I told Mr. Kreitman in our conversation, I would not vote for him. I will not vote for him. We have to get Game and Parks under control and the only way is to send a message to those people where the buck stops, and that is with the board of directors. And so I don't want to belabor the point, but I am going to vote red and I would encourage you to vote red also. We need to send a message to Game and Parks that we are going to get this agency under control, whatever it takes. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Erdman. Is there other discussion on the report? I see none. Senator Hughes waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 25 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** Confirmation report is adopted. Next report, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Natural Resources reports on the appointment of Donna Kush to the Game and Parks Commission.

**FOLEY:** Senator Hughes, you're recognized to open on the report.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, this is the last one. I present for your approval the appointment of Donna Kush to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. She came before the committee for her confirmation hearing on August 4. Mrs. Kush lives in Omaha and she is the President and CEO of the Omaha Community Foundation. She has more than 28 years of corporate experience in public affairs policy, communications, and marketing. She was born in Monroe, Nebraska, where a love and appreciation of the outdoors, including hunting, fishing, and camping, were part of her family's culture. She hopes that her experience in building public-private partnership and her love of the outdoors will help bring a new perspective to the commission. She's excited to showcase park facilities and programs to new audiences and to contribute in providing opportunities for the next generation. Mrs. Kush will be the District 2 representative on the commission. The committee advanced Mrs. Kush appointment by an 8-0 vote. I ask for

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your confirmation of Donna Kush to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Is there any discussion of the confirmation report before us? I see none. Senator Hughes, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 36 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** The confirmation report is adopted. Members, we're now moving into legislative resolutions. The first six will be taken up as a single vote. They're on the agenda only because we're on the fifty-ninth day. Otherwise, they would not have been on the agenda. But we'll ask each senator just to introduce the resolution, maybe 30 seconds or so. And then we'll take it to a single vote on all six. Start with LR471. Senator Linehan.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. This is in honor of Jack and Eldora Vetter, who are celebrating 45 years as the proud founders of Vetter Senior Living. One of their homes is in my district. I've also had a sibling who has spent time in-- at rehab in one of these. And they've been friends for a long time, and I think many of you have signed on. I'm very proud they have 2,500 seniors living in their homes. They employ 3,800 compassionate-- compassionate team-- team members. In 2008, they were recognized as one of the best places to work in Omaha and nationally in the top 20 best places to work. So with that, I'd ask for your green vote. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Linehan. Next resolution, Senator Ben Hansen, LR472.

**B. HANSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'll keep this brief here, but this is a resolution to extend sympathy to the family of Henry Donscheski. Henry Earl Donscheski served in the U.S. Air Force in 1944 to 1945. He was one of the thousands of Americans and Allied troops who stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and at the Rhine River. Henry was a fire chief in Tekamah and eventually returned to Omaha Beach for the 70th anniversary. And on an interesting side note, Henry Donscheski is the uncle of one of our esteemed Sergeant at Arms, Doug Donscheski. On May 12, 2020, Henry passed away at the age of 99 years old, and May 30, 2020 was declared as Henry Donscheski Appreciation Day in the city of Tekamah. I'm proud

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to introduce this resolution honoring Henry for his lifetime of service and dedication. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Ben Hansen. Senator Bolz, LR473.

**BOLZ:** Thank you, Mr. President. This has been an extraordinary year in a number of ways, and I think we need to take this opportunity to thank some extraordinary people in this building, the custodial staff who have taken extra efforts and put in extra hours to keep us healthy and safe and make our important work happen. So I urge your support of LR473 and personally want to thank everyone who serves on our custodial staff and has worked to fight this pandemic with us. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Bolz. Senator Arch, LR474.

**ARCH:** LR474 recognizes September as National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month. Approximately 1 out of every 50 individuals in the United States has a brain aneurysm, mostly undiagnosed of bulging, weakening areas in the wall of the artery in the brain. Typically no warning signs. More than 30,000 individuals in the United States suffer from ruptured brain aneurysm, and the early detection of brain aneurysms can save lives. This is an effort for all 50 states to identify September-- recognize September as National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Arch. Senator Vargas, LR475.

**VARGAS:** Thank you very much. This resolution is in honor, expressing sympathy for Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen and her family. She was murdered on April 22, 2020, at the age of 20 after experiencing sexual harassment by another soldier. Every year, the Department of Defense reports 6,236 sexual assaults and recorded a 3 percent increase in the number of sexual assault cases compared to the previous year. I'm heartbroken and angry about the sexual assault and murder of Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen, and I'm heartbroken for her mother and who is bearing this unimaginable pain. And I am angry on behalf of those individuals who experience sexual abuse, harassment, and violence perpetuated and supported and validated by an unjust system. In this moment, I'm especially angry on behalf of those that are serving our country in the Armed Forces, and even more outrage for women of color in these positions who are disproportionately impacted and often underrepresented in reports and statistics because they are less likely to report their sexual harassment or assault out of fear of retaliation. With that, I bring this resolution to extend sympathy to

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her family, her friends, and all those across our country that are mourning and are asking for more to be done in this arena. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Vargas. And finally, LR476. Senator Hilgers.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. LR476 is really a very special legislative resolution. And I want to thank the members of the Executive Board who all co-sponsor this resolution. As you all know, our Revisor of Statutes, Joanne Pepperl has been with the Legislature 43 years, 40 of which has been at-- at the-- as the Director of the Revisor of Statutes Office. And if you have worked at all with the Revisors, which is to say, everyone here, you have been struck as I have, I am sure, by the tremendous professionalism, diligence, and work that that office does to keep the Legislature moving. It is truly critical to the plumbing of this body and the work that we do for the people of Nebraska. And Joanne has run that office for 40 years with incredible professionalism, diligence, and dedication. This resolution recognizes that because earlier this month I got very bittersweet news, and that is that the Revisor, Joanne, is going to retire as of December 1 of this year, which will end the marking of an end of an era, a true era here in the Legislature with her dedication to leadership at the helm of that particular department. We're very sad to see her go. I will tell you, on behalf of the Executive Board, her work has been instrumental. For those of you have ever come to a Referencing meeting or a meeting of the Referencing Committee, I think really no one has. I think sometimes Senator Wayne jumps-- jumps in and-- and observes. Her knowledge of the last several decades of work here in the Legislature and the nuance and the incredible level of detail is a-- is a body of institutional knowledge, frankly, that is unmatched almost anywhere in this institution. It will be a great loss for this body. I am very sad to see her go. But I will tell you, I'm excited, though, for her and her family. She told me one of the things that she will do when COVID settles down and Costa Rica starts accepting American travelers again, or American mail apparently, they don't even accept mail from the United States as she plans to spend more time in Costa Rica. And so, please join me on behalf of the Executive Board and the entire Legislature for congratulating and thanking Joanne Pepperl for 43 years of tremendous service to this body.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hilgers. Members, the question before you is the adoption of the six resolutions that you have just heard. Those in favor of adopting those six resolutions vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.



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**CLERK:** 43 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the LR471, LR472, LR473, LR474, LR475, and LR476, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Resolutions have all been adopted. Proceeding to the next two resolutions. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, LR306 was a resolution originally introduced by Senator Wishart. It asked the Legislature to urge Congress and the President of the United States to enact HR1878 to fully fund individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Wishart, you're recognized to open on your legislative resolution.

**WISHART:** Thank you so much. How much time do I have?

**FOLEY:** Ten minutes.

**WISHART:** Thank you. Colleagues, I'm here today to introduce LR306, a resolution that urges Congress to honor their promise to cover 40 percent of the average cost to educate a child with disabilities, a move that would help improve special education for children in need and alleviate local property tax investments. In 1975, the federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act was enacted mandating that all children with disabilities be provided a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. The act also promised states the federal government would provide 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure to help offset the costs of this federal mandate. In 1990, the act was amended and renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. IDEA remains the cornerstone of federal statutory mandates governing special education. The purpose of the original act, as declared by Congress, was to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education, which emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs to assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents or guardians are protected, to assist states and localities to provide for the education of all children with disabilities, and to assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities so that they can grow up and live a fulfilling life as independently as possible. As I mentioned earlier, when this federal mandate was first enacted in 1975, Congress promised to cover 40 percent of the average cost to educate a child with disabilities in public elementary and secondary schools. In 1982, the act was amended by Congress to require the federal government to pay up to a maximum of 40 percent. This change was not supplemented with any significant changes to the

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federal mandate, thus requiring states and local communities to cover the cost of this mandate. Since the beginning of IDEA, the federal government has never paid the promised 40 percent share of their mandate to support the needs of children with disabilities. For many years, Congress paid less than 8 percent, less than 8 percent of the excess cost of educating children with disabilities, forcing the states and local educational agencies to cover the remaining costs. In turn, becoming a main contributor to high property taxes at the local level. As the Nebraska student population requiring special education related services continues to grow each year, schools, disability rights groups, and parent groups have been advocating to our federal representatives to bring IDEA appropriations up to their promised full funding of 40 percent of average per pupil expenditures, the maximum any state can receive per student with disability. These efforts have yet to succeed, and in 2016, federal funding only represented 16.3 percent of its share while short of the promised 40 percent level. Thus, the challenge of serving children with special needs continues to fall in the state and local school districts, which leads to both cuts and vital educational therapeutic programs and tax increases. In addition, there are significant penalties associated with the state or local community not being able to pay for this mandate. If a student with special needs does not receive the care from a school, that school district is subject to lawsuits. Additionally, IDEA includes a maintenance of effort provision that places a requirement on state and local educational entities to demonstrate that their funding remains consistent from year to year. Right now, colleagues, the bill stands on the floor of the House of Representatives. HR1878, known as the IDEA Full Funding Act that aims to reach the 40 percent full funding level by the fiscal year 2028 through incremental increases in the federal share of federal funding each fiscal year. I respectfully urge Congress and the President of the United States to enact HR1878 to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The time is now for the federal government to fix their broken promises, meet their funding obligation for special education, and help join the initiative to support children with special needs and reduce increasingly high property taxes in Nebraska. Colleagues, I encourage you to vote in support of LR306. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Wishart. Any discussion on the LR? I see none. Senator Wishart, you're recognized to close. She waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of LR306. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

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**CLERK:** 36 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. President, on adoption of the resolution.

**FOLEY:** LR306 is adopted. Next resolution, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, LR466 sign-- signed by Pansing-- Senator Pansing Brooks and a number of members. It's a resolution asking the Legislature to affirm the United States Supreme Court decision, Bostock v. Clayton County.

**FOLEY:** Senator Pansing Brooks, you're recognized to open on LR466.

**PANSING BROOKS:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, Nebraskans. Our state's unique motto is "Equality Before the Law." So know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey and whomever you love, we want you here. You are loved. So LR466 affirms and celebrates the June 15 U.S. Supreme Court ruling prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. After designating LB627 as my priority bill for this year, the Supreme Court issued the landmark Bostock ruling written by Justice Neil Gorsuch. Subsequently, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission confirmed to me that this decision fully covers all the components of LB627 and more. It would be a good idea for us to harmonize our statutes with the federal ruling, and it is common for us to do that and provide that kind of clarity when federal decisions change our legal landscape. However, I decided to bring LR466 as a replacement for my bill, LB627, because of time constraints this session. Twenty-seven of you joined me as co-sponsors of-- of this LR. I want to thank you for that. As you know, the Nebraska Legisla-- the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, as well as other Chambers of Commerce across the state, have been very supportive of my work place discrimination efforts, of all of our efforts. And they fully support the message we are sending with this resolution. Business leaders have been clear that work force development is our state's number one business need, and we need to do more to make sure that our state competes for the talented young workers that we need. With that goal in mind, this resolution states in part, quote, The Nebraska Legislature sends a strong message to current and prospective employers and workers that Nebraska is committed to being a welcoming and inclusive state for all, including LGBTQ+ families and individuals and that Nebraska is open for business, end quote. With this resolution, we are demonstrating an ongoing commitment to inclusivity and we are affirming the value and worth of LGBTQ+ individuals and families as written in Bostock. I will continue my work in the coming years to ensure Nebraska fulfills a commitment to inclusivity through further protections for the LGBTQ+ community. Current and-- and

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prospective employers are paying attention to what we are doing. Future workers are paying attention to and looking for places to bring their talent and paying attention to what we are doing. And young Nebraska kids watching at home today wondering where they belong in this state, whether our state supports them and cares about them, they are paying attention to what we are doing. So let's send a strong message with an overwhelming green vote here today. Let there be no vote-- no doubt that as far as the Nebraska Legislature is concerned, our state welcomes everyone and is for everyone. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Discussion of the resolution? Senator Clements.

**CLEMENTS:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'm not in full agreement with this resolution. I'd like to discuss some of my objections. The second whereas says, sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, and I think that's distorting the original meaning of the 1964 law where it was really just dealing with male and female. And next whereas says, it's impossible to discriminate without discriminating against that individual based on sex. And that is not true in my opinion. And the final resol-- be it resolved, number one says the Legislature affirms the Supreme Court decision. I'm not in agreement with that five to four decision. My concern is that it may conflict with Nebraska Constitution Article I, Section 4. Religious freedom. All persons have a natural and indefeasible right to worship almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences. It shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass suitable laws to protect every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship. I think it would be appropriate to at least include this language in LR66 [SIC--LR466]. And I'm not in favor based on those beliefs. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Clements. Senator Murman.

**MURMAN:** Yeah, I also have deep reservations about supporting this resolution. The Bostock decision had major implications against religious institutions and faith-based organizations. Justice Alito reflected that warning. He said briefs filed by a wide range of religious groups, Christian, Jewish and Muslim, expressed deep concern that the position now adopted by the court will trigger open conflict with faith-based employment practices of numerous churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious institutions. They argue that religious organizations need employees who actually live the faith and that compelling a religious organization to employ individuals whose conduct flouts the tenets of the organization's faith forces the group

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to communicate an objectionable message. And some Christian conservatives have spoken openly against the Supreme Court decision. Russell Moore and Franklin Graham both expressed concern that the decision would impact religious freedoms and affect faith-based employment. And as Senator Clements mentioned, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, when it was passed, was aimed at-- at addressing racial discrimination and also discrimination because of sex. But sex at that time, of course, meant only two sexes, male and female, the only two that actually exist. And also, this decision has healthcare implications. Employees could use the Bostock decision to seek coverage under group health plans for certain procedures that traditionally have been excluded from coverage such as gender reassignment surgery. And it could-- such exclusion-- exclusions could violate the protections under Title VII. So I speak in opposition to this, and thank you very much.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Murman. Is there any other discussion? I see none. Senator Pansing Brooks, you're recognized to close on your resolution.

**PANSING BROOKS:** Thank you, Mr. President. And I appreciate the comments made today. Of course, the resolution is quoting Supreme Court dicta with the majority opinion and there are protections already in the Hosanna-Tabor for-- so that religious people can discriminate, continue to discriminate against LGBT if they choose. But this case speaks strongly about the fact that these are Americans and citizens and Nebraskans, and we will support them and be kind to them and welcome them. And it is-- it is what we must do as a kind and civil society. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Members, the question for the body is the adoption of LR466. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 28 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the resolution.

**FOLEY:** The resolution has been adopted. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following LRs: LR471, LR472, LR473, LR474, LR475, LR476, LR306, LR466, LR351. Items for the record, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, bills read on Final Reading this morning were presented to the Governor at 10:45. (Re LB153, LB323, LB323A, LB126, LB266, LB312, LB518, LB534, LB540) Have a new study resolution from the Revenue Committee, will be referred to the Executive Board (LR477). Name adds: Senator Quick to-- Senators Quick, Gragert,

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Kolterman, Williams, Geist, McCollister, Wishart, Clements to LR471, and Senator Geist to LR476. Mr. President, Senator Lindstrom would move to adjourn until Thursday morning, August 13, at 9:00 a.m.

**FOLEY:** Members, you heard the motion to adjourn. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are adjourned.