

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

FOLEY: Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the sixtieth day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Williams. Please rise.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, members. Please join me in prayer. Dear Lord, we thank you for today and for all days and especially for day 60. It's a beautiful day, don't let it get away. With COVID, we have faced great uncertainty, but with you, we have confidence in our future. We know, Lord, that whether we knock loudly on your door with our prayers or we offer them in silence, you are listening. Our prayers are answered in a manner and in a time chosen by you. This is the final day of session for six of our members. We thank you for their commitment to our great state. Senators Bolz, Chambers, Crawford, Howard, Kolowski, and Speaker Jim Scheer, you will be missed. As the session draws to a close, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve. We recognize the talents and gifts that we bring to this body are gifts from you. And today, we say a special prayer for all the support staff that have helped us throughout this session; the clerk and his staff, the red coats, the pages, the Fiscal Office, Bill Drafting, transcribers, our office staffs, and all others working in and around the Capitol. And a special thank you and prayer for our families. We recognize that our work is never finished. Help us remain committed to building a better Nebraska. As we end the session and return home, let us be guided by the words of Gordon Sumner as he penned, whenever the sun refuses to shine, whenever the skies are pouring rain, whatever I lost I thought was mine, whenever I close my eyes in pain, whenever I kneel to pray, whenever I think I find a way, I'm calling out your name. Lord, as a team, unified body focusing on our future, we can do great things. Keep us safe until we return in January. Amen.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Williams. I call to order the sixtieth day of the 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?

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Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CLERK: Mr. President, Attorney General's Opinion addressed to Senator Hunt (LB814). An Executive Board report and acknowledgment of agency reports as filed with the Legislature available to members on the legislative website. That's all that I have.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, we have some special guests to be announced this morning. Speaker Jim Scheer has with us his-- first and foremost, his wife, Kris Scheer. Also with us today is Keeli Vrbicky, his daughter from Omaha, Mike Vrbicky, his son-in-law, Stella Vrbicky, his granddaughter, Miller Vrbicky, grandson, Rachel Hoffman, his daughter, Aaron Hoffman, his son-in-law, and Harris Hoffman, his grandson. All those guests are with us up in the south balcony. Could they all please rise so we can welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature? Also, Senator Crawford has a very special guest with us today. Her husband, David Crawford, is with us up in the south balcony. David, could you please rise? We'll now proceed to the agenda. First on my agenda is farewell remarks by outgoing state senators. As each senator is called, please step forward to the Speaker's-- excuse me to the Clerk's podium and deliver your farewell remarks. First to be heard from is Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Good morning, colleagues. First, I want to thank all of the people who helped me earn the privilege of, of serving as the senator from District 29: Kate Wolfe, Brian Mikkelson, Cody Thatcher, Catherine Larsen, Evan Marolf, Grant Thomas, Brendon Polt, my momma, Pam, who's here today, all of my family, and all of my other friends and supporters. I want to say thank you to all of the staff members in this building. You are the heart of the Unicameral. Thank you for staying on speaking terms with me, even when I ask you for the impossible and then ask you to do it right away. Thank you, especially, to my beloved Tami and Sam. Thank you to my sweetheart, Sean, who has listened to me talk incessantly about the Nebraska Unicameral and has yet to file a cloture motion. I talked to him, I think, in part because so much of public service is choosing your words and choosing your battles. But today, colleagues, I speak to you from my heart. Under the glass on my desk, there is a piece of paper with four names written in black Sharpie: Juan, Jorge, Curtis, and Andrea. These are the four victims of Nikko Jenkins after he was released from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Those names are there to remind me how important our work is. It literally can save lives. These individuals inspired my friend and colleague, Senator Lathrop, who I admire deeply and thank for his service, to create the Department of Correctional Services Special Oversight Committee. The committee uncovered deep problems in the Department of Corrections, issued subpoenas, read reams and reams of documents, and

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Floor Debate August 13, 2020

held hours and hours of hearings. The committee followed the early days of Nikko Jenkins' life, uncovered child welfare system challenges and juvenile justice systems problems, assessed his mental health access, and uncovered major issues in the Department of Corrections. I was proud to serve as a member. It was difficult work. It was tedious work. It was work that was politically fraught. It's work that still isn't done, but we have made progress. We have increased access to mental health services, made the Board of Parole independent, funded new staff members. We have done a lot that I am proud of. We have a long way to go. So I continue be-- to be inspired by that piece of paper, by those names, by those lives: Juan, Jorge, Curtis, and Andrea. Juan, Jorge, Curtis, and Andrea. Those names, that piece of paper is my reminder to focus on the ideas that are bigger than politics, bigger than my district, bigger than me; people's lives, their pursuit of happiness, and the American dream. What's on your piece of paper, colleagues? What's written in Sharpie on your desk? What people and issues and values are written permanently in your heart? I ask you, I implore you to serve something bigger than your political party or your own point of view. Serve justice, serve fairness, serve compassion, serve your neighbor. Whatever it is, make it your north star. Write it in permanent ink. Serve the people of this state and the ideas that inspire you. I'm sad to say that I don't think we've done that as well as we could have. I'm sad to say that I think the nation, as a whole, is moving too far away from those fundamental ideals. So colleagues, I want to leave you with this sincere request. Don't worship the false god of politics. Don't sacrifice at the altar of leverage. Don't refuse to forgive people in this room because political pressure is outside of it and don't tell yourselves that the ends justify the means and then ask yourself for forgiveness. We have seen too much of this. We have gone too far. We have seen the virtues of diplomacy and justice and fairness be replaced by the frustrations of our nation's capital. And in some ways, we have forgotten what it means to be a kind, diplomatic, and true Nebraskan. Instead, colleagues, I ask you to remember, to remember the best of us, the best of Nebraska, which is so much bigger than partisanship or political philosophy or whatever is on the day's agenda, to remember to believe in something bigger than your own district or your own political party, to believe in values and principles bigger than political bickering and write them on the chambers of your heart. Looking back, I know that I have not always succeeded in upholding these ideals in any number of ways on any number of days. But colleagues, I have never given up in the trying and that is what I ask of you; to strive for big ideals, to strive for justice, to strive for integrity, and to strive for what's best for Nebraskans because your work matters. It matters to every school kid

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Floor Debate August 13, 2020

and every hospital patient, to every truck driver and every basketball coach. It matters to every farm, village, city, and suburb. It matters to every single Nebraskan. It matters to the families of Juan, Jorge, Curtis, and Andrea. To be sure, our victories in this building are not everything we imagine them to be. You will have some defensive victories. You will have some moral victories. You will have big victories and small victories. You will win some and you will lose some, but please believe that your work, your victories, your negotiations, your efforts, they matter. Please believe that when you're striving is in the name of service, not political gain. When your work is in the name of others and not your own ego, when your efforts are to make the lives of your constituents better, your efforts matter and are not in vain. Please remember and give me a call if you need me to loan you a Sharpie. Thank you, constituents of District 29 for the opportunity to serve you and the ideals of the great state of Nebraska. God bless you all.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Bolz. Senator Crawford, you can step forward, please.

CRAWFORD: Good morning, colleagues. As I was thinking about what to say today, I was thinking about all of the people that I would like to thank. I realized very soon that I could spend hours talking about how grateful I am for so many people here and in the district and all throughout the state. I've only a few minutes, so I can only scratch the surface this morning. First, I want to thank the people of LD 45 for entrusting me with the honor of serving you. Thank you for opening your doors and talking to me and giving me a chance as I was going door to door. I extend a special thanks to those of you who put up yard signs, wrote postcards, and talked to your friends and neighbors. I also appreciate the great working relationships that I've enjoyed with Bellevue and Sarpy County leaders as we have worked to-- together to strengthen our community. Finally, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Senator Paul Hartnett, the former senator for LD 45 for many years, for recruiting me to run. Without his persistence, I wouldn't be here. Next, I thank my family. As most of you know, it takes a patient and supportive spouse to be here and do this work. I often say that our spouses have all of the stress and none of the adrenaline that we have. Thank you, David, for your support, friendship, and valuable wisdom. Many thanks go to my two sons, Nate and Phillip. I appreciate the sacrifices that you made when I was gone, your help in my campaigns, your wise advice, and your tolerance of occasional harassment on my behalf. I thank my mom for her support and encouragement and my dad for his example of public service and civic mindedness. Thank you also to my Creighton University family. I

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Floor Debate August 13, 2020

wouldn't be able to be here without their support. Our work peers make many sacrifices for us to be able to be here and serve. I appreciate all that my political science department has done. There are also so many Creighton colleagues who have offered their support and expertise over the years. Thank you to all of you. Finally, I thank my church families, Bellevue Christian Church and New Life Baptist Church, for your prayers, your belief in me, and your fellowship that sustains me. Now I turn to those of you here in this room and in this building. I am so grateful for the time I've had to work with you. I've been blessed with great staff over the years. I am so proud of the work that you have done and so proud of the compliments that I so often get about how great you are and I agree. Thank you, Hanna Murdoch, Lillian Butler-Hale, Christina Mayer, Shayna Bartow, Trevor Fitzgerald, Chris Triebisch, Courtney Lyons, Brennen Miller, and Kaitlin Reece. Beyond my office, I'm so grateful for all the legislative staff who make this place work. I'm especially grateful for all that I've learned from Clerk Patrick O'Donnell and for the persistent help of Liz Hruska on many an HHS fiscal note and her fierce work to ensure that the Legislature has the financial information that we need to do our work on bills and legislative oversight. Thank you also to the advocates who work tirelessly behind the scene and usually behind the glass to represent those who could not be, who could not be here to represent themselves. I have fond memories of working alongside so many senators here over the years. I don't have the hours to tell all that I've learned from you and all that we have accomplished together. I appreciate the mentorship of Senator Kathy Campbell and Senator Mike Gloor on my first two committees here. Senator Jeremy Nordquist was a student of mine at Creighton and then became my teacher when I came here and I appreciate that. Senator Annette Dubas sat next to me and then behind me, Senator Brad Ashford and Senator Steve Lathrop were great mentors on the floor as I started here, and Senator Jim Smith was a valuable mentor in our Sarpy delegation. I have a special place in my heart for the senators who are in my class. It has been such an honor to serve with you. I can't resist a special shout-out to Senator Sara Howard, who I had the privilege of working side by side with on multiple committees during my years here. I also wouldn't even be here if it had not been for her help and encouragement during my first campaign. I could go on and on to speak of what I appreciate about serving with each of the senators in my class and each of the senators here today. Thank you for your hard work to serve our fellow Nebraskans. Of all the things that I've learned from mentors here, one key lesson stands out: that is how critical it is to build personal relationships with as many senators as possible. Respect and productive working relationships flow from friendship and trust. Spend time on the floor with different people. When we are back to normal

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Floor Debate August 13, 2020

times, go to those breakfasts, lunches, and receptions and get to know and appreciate one another. Find ways to work together on the floor and in committees. Speaking of socializing and getting back to normal times, I hereby claim a raincheck for one late night of karaoke and dancing when we get back to normal. Finally, I urge you to seek to follow the better angels of our nature. Remember the awesome privilege and responsibility that you have to serve the state and to bring to life the lofty ideals that artists have so beautifully memorialized throughout this building, from the Angels of Virtue in the Rotunda to the representation of justice in this Chamber, to the symbolism throughout this Chamber of the heritage we owe to those who came before us and the diversity of the people whom we serve. In this Chamber named after George Norris, may you seek to live up to the ideals of a nonpartisan, Unicameral Legislature that recognizes the people of Nebraska as the second house. Remember our state motto, "Equality Before the Law." Our duty remains to strive toward this ideal in the situations of our times in this great state of Nebraska. Thank you all. I will miss working with you and I wish you and the great state of Nebraska all the best.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Crawford. Senator Howard, please.

HOWARD: All right, I'm gonna start with two caveats. The first one is that I have always been very judicious about my time on the microphone and so this speech is a lot longer. So I'm taking all that time that I didn't use on the mike previously and I'm using it now, so enjoy. The second caveat is that Deb Fischer always used to tell my mom there's no crying on the legislative floor and we're just gonna put that aside for now, OK, so bear with me. All right. Colleagues, staff, media, family, friends all, for the past eight years, I have entered this building and this Chamber with a grateful heart and I leave with the same today. So I'm going to start with gratitude and then give you my best advice as you forge on here without me. The first people I absolutely have to think are my constituents in LD 9, my Gifford Park neighborhood folks, my field club families, my Morton Meadows moms, and especially my Howard Street family. Yes, I grew up on Howard Street, if you didn't know that. I ran to repay you for taking care of my mom after Carrie died and I'm not sure that eight years truly can show the depth of my gratitude for that. You'll never know how much it meant to me for you to care for my family for the past 16 years and to believe in me enough to vote for me. Next, I want to thank the folks in the media who keep track of us every day. So Martha, JoAnne, Fred, Andrew, Paul, Chris, and others, you tell the story of the Legislature to the state of Nebraska and you keep us honest with your reporting. Colleagues, the journalists in the Legislature are, are an important

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part of the process and having watchdogs here forces us to do our best work. And none of us love their tough scrutiny, right? But I appreciate that Nebraska has such smart, hardworking people as them to be their eyes and ears in this Legislature. There is an army of people who keep this place running for us that we don't see and don't thank enough: that's our Clerk's Office, especially Dick and Diana, Brandon, Carol, Laura, Kim, and Vicki; Vicki, who kept track of me for eight years when I was constantly checking out; our IT staff: Gary, Mike, Bill, and Benjamin; our Sergeants at Arms, especially Doug, Laurie, Gerry [PHONETIC], and sweet, sweet Charlie; our state patrol folks who keep us safe every day; our Unicameral Update staff who we don't see and thank enough, especially Kate and Kyle; our Bill Drafters; our transcribers, and our janitorial staff, especially this fellow named Henry, who when I had late nights and he came to pick up the garbage, would just chat with me for a few minutes about his puppy and his daughter. And it just kind of made a-- gave me a really bright spot in my day. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the folks in the Fiscal Office for all of their hard work, especially my dear friend Liz Hruska. You always took the time to talk to me about how I was doing, even though I knew that you were super busy, had so many demands on your time, and I want you to know that those small gestures really mattered. I noticed and I'm grateful for them. To my HHS committee members, so John, Matt, Lynne, Ben-- Ben, who's not here, who should come to work-- Machaela, Dave, thank you for an amazing two years and for your patience as I grew as a leader. Here's what I want for you. I want you to walk away from these two years knowing you did incredible work for the state with good practices and a deliberative process. Those kids at the YRTC's, our Medicaid recipients, parents who need childcare services and all those barbers, podiatrists, reflexologists, medical nutritionists, these are people who are never gonna write us thank you notes, right? But the seven of us know the impact of our work and my wish for you is that you walk away from every session knowing that you did good work together for kids and families in our state. To my three wise men, John, "Marky-Mark," and Matt, thank you for always guiding me well, providing me nachos in Gering and letting me yell at you about eating sugar and restoring my faith in the caliber of people I get to work with. Matt, I remember the first time I met you. I drove out to Gothenburg and spent almost two hours talking just about this and that in 2014 in the bank building. And what I remember most is getting in the car with Doug afterwards and saying if that's the caliber of person coming into the Legislature, we're going to be just fine and I still feel the same. I would like to petition you to add a new member, a fourth wise man, if you will, and that's my good friend Steve Lathrop, who, when he left in 2014, literally handed me, on the floor, all of his files on opioid statutes

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Floor Debate August 13, 2020

and forced me to pick up where he left off and started me on a journey that would lead to my proudest work here. I am so glad I got to have two more years working and learning from you, which brings me to my gal pals in the Legislature, so Machaela, Patty, Wendy, Carol, Anna, Megan, and Lynne. I was asked recently if this was a bad place for women and I really struggled with the answer. I acknowledge that this is and will continue to be a hard place for you all because you put your whole hearts into this work. And when you do, there's a danger that it will break your heart. Just know that every time I thought my experience here broke me, it always turned out to have made me stronger, more thoughtful, and more effective because getting the wind knocked, knocked out of you is the best way to remind your lungs how much they love the taste of air. So don't take those heartbreaks too seriously. They're here to teach you something for the future. To my fellow departing senators, Rick, Jim, Ernie, Kate, and Sue, Kate and Sue, it has been a privilege and an honor to be confused with you for the past eight years. It's also been a thrill to have a front row seat to your accomplishments. You made me a better legislator and there is no one else I would have chosen to spend eight years in shoulder-to-shoulder work with. Actually, before it had said shoulder-to-shoulder combat, but I changed that to "work." Dr. Kay, thank you for always being so supportive of me. And Jim, thank you for teaching me lessons about leadership. Ernie isn't here, but I've never known a Legislature without Senator Chambers. And while I never expected friendship from him, I do believe that we respect one another and that to me is far more valuable. If he's watching, I hope he has enjoyed all of the time that I have yielded him over the past eight years. OK, to my office staff. I've been fortunate to have had very little turnover in my staff. I lost my friend to Performance Audit, but beyond that, my staff has stuck with me through all the good time-- good and bad times in this building. T.J., it's been an honor to be your first boss in this building. You have learned so much and are still growing, but I'm so excited to see what you'll accomplish in the next few years. Sherry, it's been an honor to be your last boss in the Legislature and I feel so lucky that you were willing to share your last years with Team Howard. Your heart is so big. Dave, you've been with my mom and I for 16 years. You've seen our highest moments and our lowest lows. Thank you for always serving us and the district with dignity, discretion, and efficiency. Jennifer, I didn't think I could find someone who could diligently serve as legal counsel to the HHS Committee in the exact way I would have done myself, right? But I did and it was you. I don't know what great fortune led you to our team, but please know that I am incredibly grateful for the enormous amount of work you have accomplished and I can't wait to, wait to see everything you'll do as the Inspector General for Child Welfare. I am

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

so proud of you and I am so proud to call you my friend. Timoree-- be cool, OK-- I never thought I would find a person to work with who would become such a good friend. L.M. Montgomery said in *Anne of Green Gables*, "Kindred spirits are not so scarce as I used to think. It's splendid to find so many out in the world." I truly believe we are kindred spirits. From searching for a happily ever after in all things to a similar taste in junk food to a heart for helping people, I can't imagine a better person to have been by my side all these years at the office looking in the same direction as you. I can't tell you how long the list of wonderful things I want for you is because you deserve every best thing. Thank you for taking care of me so that I have the stamina to do this incredibly difficult work. To my dear friend Patrick, there's a poem that I love by Robley Wilson that says, "I wish in the city of your heart / you would let me be the street / where you walk when you are most / yourself." In this job that often requires one to put a smile on when they're not feeling that way, I always felt most myself when I got to talk with you. Thank you for the respite, the good counsel, the martinis, and the friendship. I am forever in your debt. To Doug and Mom, it is strangely appropriate that COVID kept you from the Chamber today because when my mom gave her last speech, she actually insisted that I not come down. And it was just happenstance that I stopped by a lobbyist's office at the moment when she gave her speech and I didn't miss it. When I spoke in 2012-- when she spoke in 2012, she talked about how this body had seen the Howard family at their lowest when we lost Carrie. Since that time, you've also seen us at our highest, most notably when I got to marry Doug in the Chamber across the hall. My husband is one of the kindest, gentlest, sweetest men in the world. He's taught me how to spit and understand football and more than anything, has given me a soft place to land when this place was rough on me. Thank you, Doug, for being my best cheerleader and the person I call home. All right. They say don't meet your heroes, but I got to grow up with mine. My mom raised my sister and I by herself after my dad was killed in a car accident three months before I was born. She took care of us on a social worker salary, clipped coupons, and sent us up to Wohlner's on Leavenworth for milk just to get us out of the darn house. When my mom first started in the Legislature and was truly struggling because she'd been a social worker and it was a very different environment from social work, which we all know now, she went to DiAnna Schimek and she said, DiAnna, does this job work out for everybody? And DiAnna said, no, it doesn't, but it will work out for you. And I'm so grateful that it has. So to my mom who's watching, thank you for being my role model, for forging a path to this Legislature for me, for telling me not to do this job because it would break my heart and then making me a tuna casserole to help me heal that heart after it

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

happened. Thank you for always believing in me and not being upset when I ignored your good advice. No, I will never take a scope of practice bill again. Thank you for bravely walking this path so that I could follow in your footsteps. I have to believe the people of Nebraska, kids in the child welfare system, our state workers, our constituents, and most of all, Carrie are proud of what we've done for the past 16 years. And I hope-- I know that we have tried to leave this place better than when we found it. OK, so I'm gonna give you five pieces of advice. I couldn't narrow it down. OK, so the first one is resilience. OK. On my very first day of the session, I had not been sworn in. I came down with my mom and like a seasoned senator, she knew we didn't have to be upstairs until the very last minute. And so we rushed upstairs, we came in through this door-- my seat was actually Senator Slama's seat so there's good juju in that. And Senator Harr sat in Senator Albrecht's seat and not knowing how dangerous those steps are and having to step around a lot of camera tripods, I tripped on the steps and fell literally flat on my face. I actually think I heard Burke Harr say ouch, that looks like it hurt when I went down very tactfully. So in that half second, which literally felt like an hour to me, I remember thinking to myself, how you jump up from this fall is going to be how you handle everything here. So get up, dust off, and get to work. Colleagues, you will have hard times in this building and in this room in particular. You will feel like the very people you're trying to help are the very ones standing on your cape. You will get close to losing your faith in yourself and in humanity. But just know, as Rilke said, no feeling is final. You are far stronger than you know and you get to decide how you get up from all of your falls. Two, keep your good humor. My favorite memory from my first couple of years here was when Russ Karpisek made a mistake on a Chambers bill and voted incorrectly. He just didn't vote for it. It was a mistake. He missed the vote. We were on Final Reading. It was the last couple of days and it, it was really uncomfortable. And Ernie was upset, he was about to go crazy, and Senator Karpisek got-- got on the next bill, got up and said his only comfort was that he could run faster scared than Senator Chambers could run mad. And suddenly, everybody started laughing, the tension broke in the room, and we were able to finish our work. So try to remember to keep your good humor even through the tough moments and to leave disagreements on the floor. Don't take them home with you. Don't put them on social media. Leave them in this room because that's where they belong. OK, third, take care of yourself. Take care of yourself, take care of each other. This has been-- third-- this has been the smallest-- it has been the smallest kindnesses in this body that have kept me doing my work. Whether it was a supportive, anonymous note on my desk-- I'm looking at you, Senator Blood-- or a quick text or a pat

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Floor Debate August 13, 2020

on the back, all of these made a difference. I truly believe if you take a moment to show that you care about your colleagues, build a relationship with them-- just like Senator Crawford said, so do like Senator Crawford-- it will make your work here a lot more pleasant and a lot easier. Remember that each person here brings their own unique brand of magic to this place and that all of our progress moves at the speed of the trust we have for each other. OK, four, focus on the work. All right. My mom used to say that her favorite thing about working here was 25 votes on the board. And even though the 2020 version is 33 votes on cloture, the idea is still the same. My advice to you is focus on the work. Learn how to count votes, become an expert voice so your colleagues-- colleagues can trust on issues, stay close to the process, read as much as you can, and debate in good faith. I was reminded that Bill Avery used to say that here on the floor, there are workhorses and there are show horses. Be a workhorse and never forget that there are people who are depending on us to do this job well and I'm not talking about political parties or advocates or lobbyists. I'm talking about regular folks in our state who need us to work hard and make meaningful changes on their behalf. OK, last one. Five, be intentional about the institution. When I first started here in 2013, I took for granted that the unwritten traditions of this body that were passed to me from my mom would just always stay in place. But in 2017, I learned that traditions are only as strong as the people who wish to participate in them. I've watched us talk more about process, civility, the integrity of the institution, and the dignity of our work these past four years, even in the past 17 days, frankly, than I've ever seen on the floor. And while I know it's easy to tune out these conversations, they give me an incredible amount of comfort as I leave and here's why. One of my favorite poets said if more people were screaming, then I could relax. Well, colleagues, your conversations about the institution tell me that you will keep fighting to define this place for each other, that you'll be sure to teach new senators how important, not just what we do here is, but how we do it, and that you'll keep allowing this Legislature to evolve and grow with our state. The Unicameral isn't one fixed thing. We can all look at it differently, but keep having conversations about what it means for us to uphold our highest values here and represent this state with dignity, integrity, and civility. This place-- this is a place Nebraskans should be proud of and that all rests on you. It's a lot-- no pressure. OK. All right. Finishing up, I had a friend share with me a letter that Willa Cather wrote to her life partner, Edith Lewis. In it, Cather was talking about watching the stars at night. And she said to Edith, we-- meaning us, humans-- are the only wonderful things because we can wonder. It has always been a wonder to me to get to work in this place with all of you, to have shared

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

incredible successes and agonizing losses. What an absolute wonder to have had this opportunity. Colleagues, for now, my watch has ended and your watch begins. Please take care of this place and these people in it and each other. Do it for me, do it for yourselves, and do it for the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Good morning, everyone. I really looked forward to this opportunity and-- to speak to all of you this morning and I'm not going to repeat all the platitudes that have already been spread throughout this facility because of the, the time involved this morning. But I do want to say some very special things to special people. I was first elected to the Legislature in 2012. At that time, it was a very important time in my life and I'd put in 41 years in public education and had an opportunity to do some additional work in this particular area. And it rings true with my undergraduate major in public-- political science at Lake Forest College and it, it was an opportunity that I didn't want to pass up. In those eight years that I have been here, I made a lot of friends and enjoyed many wonderful moments with other senators, both inside and outside of the Legislature. I want to thank my-- one of my close friends, Bob Hilkemann, for the years we spent together driving down and the many discussions we've had every morning talking over issues during our commute. That was a very important structure within the overall ranks of what we were able to accomplish. I've been privileged to be able to protect and guide education policy, privileged to work with many shareholders on this particular issue, and, of course, my local school district, privileged to be a part of the Education Committee and the Natural Resources Committee and the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee over these eight years. One of my greatest joys this year was working with the students of Prairie Hill School on their climate change resolution. That was not only a teachable moment, but months of teaching and helping these-- those middle school students about their Nebraska Unicameral. I want to thank everyone of the professional individuals that works in this building that have guided us over these years and given us the information that we've needed when we've needed it. Clerk's Office, Sergeant at Arms, all the other groups, thank you, all of you, for what you've done. When I look at the people we're honoring this morning and those of us who have given-- been given a chance to talk, Senator Bolz, Crawford, Howard, Scheer-- and I do add Senator Chambers to that list. Ernie and I have worked together for the last 12 years at the learning community in Omaha, four years before I was elected to come here in the Legislature. He has been remarkable to watch and to work with and I

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

consider him a friend and a colleague and have for many, many years. I want to thank Anna Wishart, Mary Torell, Tom Green, Will Hertzler, and Margaret Buck as my staff members over these past years and the things that we've been able to accomplish because of their dedication and the things that we have prioritized within our, within our work. I want to thank my wife, Bonnie, as an educator and a life partner, for what she has done and the work we have accomplished both together and with our family. I want to thank my son-- sons, Jason and David, and their families for their love and affection for the truth that they have lived in their lives and for the things that have made a difference with them. I will look at Brett Lindstrom here in our midst and I think you're the only Millard West graduate in this association at this point time and it was a privilege be a principal with, with Brett as one of my students and at this particular place, look forward to what you're going to be doing in the future and we're very, very proud of you. Quality education is my major goal and I think we've stuck to that and did that over the time we've had together. I am very thankful. I'm not going to repeat all the things that have gone on before with the other speakers, but I do want to say thank you for the education you have given me and the things we've been able to share together. We have a great state. We have a great university system. We have a great deal to be proud of in this Chamber. Lastly, as I look at this Chamber and the things that we've done in the last eight years together, just look around, look at the plexiglass, look at the wood, look at the, the things that are here, the, the issues that we are dealing with in our country at this particular time. It's a very challenging time. It can be a very dangerous time. It's an issue that we must meet and overcome in our future to keep the goals alive that are meaningful and, and mean so much to us in all that we've been able to accomplish. I thank each of you for your friendship and your dedication to us over the, over the last years and I wish you the very best as we move on. Thank you very much.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Kolowski. Speaker Jim Scheer.

SCHEER: Well, to start out with, I gonna tell you I'm gonna break down at some point in time and probably right away. In the respect of true honesty, I did not grow eight inches while I was walking up here. I am standing on a platform so I just wanted to make that-- sure everybody realized. I've had a very fortunate life. I have been able to do the things that I have truly wanted to do and been able to accomplish the things that I've ever wanted to do-- I'm not used to being that tall-- but we that sit here on the floor do not do this on our own. My wife, Kris, of 45 years, has supported me in every endeavor that I've ever tried to attain. Although she doesn't realize it she is a sounding

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

board, she's more of a backstop, I guess. Sometimes she puts me in the right frame of mind and sometimes she really ticks me off, but after I'm all over it, over it, I realize that what she probably said was true and that's the worst part about it. But I also know that I've shorted my family. We all have. Every one of us that are sitting here, their family has paid the price for your service; not just now, wherever you came from, whatever you've done before, whatever you'll do before-- after this. You can't get back the time. And by the way, you folks are gonna lose about 10, 15 minutes here that you're never gonna get back. I'd like to thank my kids, Keeli, Mike, Stella, Miller, Rachel, Aaron, Harris-- and I've heard from my son, John and Kendra who are in Phoenix, they're watching-- Delani, Sloan, Dalton, Quinn, and the new love of my life, Leighton, that I'll meet tomorrow. Thank you for allowing me to do what I've been able to do because it's come at a price to you. I have not always been there when I should, but when I was there, I hope that I fulfilled your needs, your love, and my utmost respect for everything that you've done and accomplished in your lives. I couldn't be prouder. OK, got that over. I've been really fortunate too in my office. I have had Patty Wade with me since day one. And there's sort of a strange story how Patty and I got together, but I don't want to blow 20 minutes of your time, so I won't go into that. But Patty has been remarkable. She has always been there and I appreciate her so much. Katie Linehan started with me my first year and went on to bigger and better things. Spencer Head filled in for her. Spencer was there for over five years, did an excellent job. Then Laurie Weber, when I became Speaker, was in the office with me. I got to tell you, there's not a more exceptional person that I've ever met in the job that she does. We are truly fortunate to have her. And by-- I don't mean me, I mean we because she really does a magnificent job as part of my office. Denny Vaggalis started with me last year when Spencer left and got dropped into a pretty big position and has served me very, very well and I appreciate everything that he's done. The two years that I was in the Business Committee, Bill Marienau and Jan Foster, I worked with. Both did admirable jobs. Jan's retired since, Bill is still there. God knows how long he'll be there, but I do appreciate that because we all know that we just get to do the stuff we want to do and your staff has to do the-- all the stuff that has to get done. And it just makes you look that much smarter, that much brighter, that much more organized, which normally I'm not. And a special gratitude to Patrick. When I first considered running for the Speaker's position, there had been talk that Patrick might retire. And before I finally made a decision, I went and talked to Patrick. I said, Patrick, you've got to tell me if you're going to be around because if you're not around, I'm not interested, because I sure as hell don't know what I'm doing and if I've got somebody that doesn't

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

know what they're doing in your place, we're going to be in a world of hurt. I just-- I'm, I'm not gonna put the institution in that position. And he told me he'd stick around. Thank you. OK, that's the end of my notes. I'm gonna reminisce a little bit. I, like Sara, my first day, I sat where Senator Gragert is sitting and Kathy Campbell happens to be sitting where Senator Cavanaugh is at. And Kris and I and I believe, Keeli and Rachel were here as well. We were sitting and they had the chairs in between when we are all stuffed in there and there's still a little bit of time left and I'm thinking, I'm going to get a cup of coffee and be cool about this. I'm not gonna act like anything's going on. So I got back and got some of that terrible coffee. And I, I got to tell you, I-- if any of us can get together and give them money for new coffee machines, God bless us, because that is the worst coffee in the world. But anyway, I did not know it at the time, so I went and got a cup of coffee and I'm walking back and like Sara, I'm just trying to-- walking down. Well, I missed the first step and I'm flying and I've got a cup of hot coffee in my hand and I start spinning around. And thankfully, Kathy Campbell was talking to somebody and her chair was there and I ended up in her lap. I did not spill the coffee. That's how my career started here. It's been a wonderful eight years. I tried to work and, and think about how many people I've been associated with on this floor and it's been over 100. I didn't realize it had been that many, but, you know, you do the math and you're here for eight years, you're gonna probably work with close to 100 different senators, every one I call a friend. You can't spend this much time together and not build relationships. It's impossible. I don't have any golden advice on how to live your lives by the institution, but I will tell you, I look at things differently than most. I don't view my bills as my bills. I don't view Senator Slama or Senator Arch or Blood or Linehan's bills as theirs. I view them as ours. I don't know that any of us can take credit for anything that's accomplished because last time I knew the minimum, it's gonna take us 25 people to vote for it. So that means there's got to be 24 people that agree with you and sometimes 32. It's not your bill. It's our bill. We have to learn that every bill that's introduced is introduced for someone or somebody. It's to help them. Now that's OK if I don't agree with it, that's part of it, but every bill here has meant to improve the state of Nebraska; somebody, someplace, some institution. Nothing is introduced to hurt people. Everything we work on is to help people. So that's sort of how I look at the philosophy of what we do on this floor. There's always more that we could do. There's always more that we should have done, but we get to do what we get to do. And by and large, more times than not, it takes just a little bit, if not a lot of compromise. Too many of us, too many times, expect to eat the watermelon. I don't use apple because we all have grandiose ideas. We

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

want to change the world. Can't do it in one session, can't do it normally in one bill, it's all incremental if we realize that and we're willing to take the time. It's a great institution. We've done marvelous things. I look back at what's been accomplished in the eight years that I've been associated, I marvel at. I really do. You know, at the end of the year, again, I'm that guy, I look at the bills that we passed, and some that I didn't vote for. I think that's gonna help a lot of people, that's gonna do some real good. We have to learn that we respect each other, we try to work with each other, and that we have the ability, together, to do marvelous, marvelous things. My, my time here is over. This has been the best thing that I have ever been involved with. I've been involved in public service. I think, I think I was first elected to the Norfolk School Board, I believe, in '78, 1978. And why? Because Kris and I had moved back to Norfolk. She was pregnant with Keeli. I thought, you know, if we're gonna live here, I got to help [INAUDIBLE] this. I wasn't even an education major. Kris was a nurse. Why I picked running for the school board versus something else, got no idea. Probably shouldn't have got elected, I did. I served on the school board well over 20 years. I ran for mayor in Norfolk, had people encourage me and I was very young. I got elected. By the way, that was the worst thing I ever got elected to. And that's no disrespect to Norfolk and I thank the people that had the confidence in me, but, you know, all you do is get to tie-- you know, break a tie vote and you're a parliamentarian. You know, you don't really get to guide much. You had the city administrator to man the city. You know, I got up every Saturday and went and welcomed to some other bridge group or other visiting organization. You know, all the calls had to do with why they hadn't-- been the snow plow down the alley, even though that hadn't gone in front of their street yet, or the neighbor's dog happens to come over in my yard and do its job every day and I've called the police and they won't come. Yeah, that's right. Then I was elected to the State Board of Education, whole different perspective than the local school board. Truly enjoyed that, worked with some really fine people there. And then I was elected to this. You know, we all try our best. I didn't try any harder than anybody else. I'm not any smarter than anybody else. We all do what we can do. When you go home tonight, thank your family. Adam, thank your fiancée. Megan, thank your child, your daughter, because they're the ones that were without you today. They didn't have your support, even though you had their support today because you knew it. You weren't there for them. Enjoy whatever time you have left here. It will go by very, very quickly. I remember sitting in Kathy's lap yet today. And by the way, Kathy, if you happen to be listening, she still owes me a steak dinner from two years ago. So I'm just saying-- four years ago probably now, and it's probably now two dinners. I'll take my wife

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

with me because, you know, there is interest and penalties included. So as we move for the rest of the day, we've got a few things left from Final Reading. Every one of them is important. Not one is more important than the other because each one of them helps somebody, somewhere, some way. We left a lot that was left undone. Thankfully, most of you, other than the six of us, will be coming back to finish those jobs. Could some have been done this year? Maybe, but that happens every year. It truly does. We had 12, 1,300 bills introduced in the last 2 years and we probably passed maybe a third of them. That didn't mean the rest weren't important, it just means the rest are still waiting. Your word is your bond. I've tried to live my life that way. I've tried to help when asked and I think each one of you, as I look out, I've helped in some way, at some point with their bill or a bill, regardless if I support it or not. That's my job. My job's done. Thank you.

FOLEY: Senator Wayne, for what purpose do you rise?

WAYNE: Point of personal privilege.

FOLEY: Please proceed.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I know the last three weeks I've talked a lot and you are tired of me talking, but I don't want to miss the opportunity that-- to say that over the last two, three weeks, we've come here with a lot of frustration. We came here with a lot of ideas. And for some of us, COVID has impacted our families and we came with that frustration too and I'm no different. I do want to thank two people and that's why I'm taking a point of personal privilege, is I do want to thank Speaker Scheer. For the last four years, we've had a lot of good times, maybe not the last two weeks, but at the end of the day, he has provided counseling and mentorship that I think should be recognized. Even when we disagree and have arguments on the floor, I think it's important that people understand that at the end of the day, we are still colleagues and over the last four years, has not been forgotten just because of the last two weeks. And so there ain't no good guy, there ain't no bad guy. There's just you and me and we just disagree. That's from a song, that I don't know the name of the song. I also just want to personally thank Senator Chambers-- for him. And I know he doesn't like this so I won't go long. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. And the first two years, even with my background on the criminal justice system, I purposely chose not to be on Judiciary because I didn't want people to see us in an argument. I thought it was important for our community, but I thought it was important for this body and I thought it was out of deference to Chambers that he recognized that he has support from

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

somebody of the same background in this body that he might not have always had. Even with those who remember LB990 and bills that me and Senator Chambers did not see eye to eye on, it never bled out on the floor because we carry that burden that nobody else carries of representing all people who look like us, not just one segment. And to carry that weight, that struggle for the last 40-something years and for an African-American young man to watch that, to watch the fight to make sure city council and OPS school board has districts that serves, that not only further me and me, but also Senator Vargas because without that, it was citywide and there were no minority representation, to be a person who focuses on the rules and the institution and just being that honest voice of conscious-- consciousness is important as we move forward in this body. So I wanted to take time and it's nothing against Senator Howard who will come over and tap me on a shoulder and say I forgot to vote, nothing against Senator Crawford, nothing against Senator Kolowski, who I actually served, on my first elected official, with him as-- on a learning committee. He was the chair. I was the vice chair. Nothing against those individuals, but I thought it was important that especially in the last two weeks, what occurred between the Speaker and I, that it doesn't go unnoticed, that that's just one disagreement. There has been many times that he helped me navigate many of my bills to get them here. It's also the same respect to Chambers that he will come to me and many times and say, I'm not gonna speak out on your bill because people might get upset, for who-- Chambers and what he stands for. And it's that mutual respect that makes this body special and makes this body be different than the rest of the country and where we are.

FOLEY: One minute.

WAYNE: So Senator Chambers, thank you for your service. Thank you for your wisdom and thank you for your guidance. And Speaker Scheer, thank you for being there and don't let the last two weeks of us-- it's just like family. You know, sometimes you don't get along, but I don't want people to think that that has been indicative of our relationship because it hasn't been. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Members, we'll proceed to the agenda, Final Readings, first of which is the Speaker major proposal, LB1107e. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I do have motions with respect to LB1107, the first, Senator Wayne. He would move to bracket the bill until actually today.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

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

WAYNE: Speaker Scheer, you caught me off guard on that one. I am passing out and what you'll get is what was passed out yesterday from-- or that I found yesterday from Douglas County Commissioner who showed the economic impact of COVID in Omaha and it's over a \$200 million local impact. And colleagues, I'm not, at no point, diminishing the importance of property taxes and LB720 as far as, as it relates to business incentives. I understand Nebraska needs that. But I think it's also important, colleagues, as you just hear these words, to, to keep an open mind that we are facing unprecedented times. We are facing times in which we don't even know about and they change rapidly. We might not have Husker football. And what does that mean? That means, Senator Hughes, that small cafe where you talked about meatloaf and country-fried steak, may or may not survive. Senator Erdman, there's a group of 10 to 20 people that I met at Husker games who leave Sidney and around the Sidney area on Friday afternoon and take work-- vacation from their work to drive down here on Husker football weekend. That Husker football weekend has gas, has that cafe that Senator Hughes talked about. That trip may or may not happen. And if it doesn't happen, that economic impact on those small towns are gonna be huge. We are waking up in a time where we're not just talking about money anymore. We're talking about the pride of Nebraska and the pride of these small communities. We have Oakland Craig that is trying to get another football championship or play basketball and, and like Wahoo and get to the finals that may or may not happen. We're talking about Kearney, Nebraska, where fall sports are being pushed aside, where the local bars won't get to sit down and have times-- or you get a beer after a local football game or that visiting team at North Platte junior college won't be there for football because the college season may or may not play. That can all happen in the next 30 days that our budget is not accounting for, this bill is not accounting for. We are in such civil rest [SIC] where we've seen protests in Omaha and Lincoln that we've-- haven't seen since the '60s. And what we are seeing, ladies and gentlemen, we are seeing people from both sides, whether it's farmers who are trying to figure out how not to file bankruptcy because of things that they had nothing to do with or a trade war with China or the fact that schools are not supplying as much vegetables because they're not in school across the country, that, Senator Friesen, your corn, your beans are down. We have unprecedented times where we have people waking up the next day not knowing how are they gonna feed their kids, not knowing if they can pay their mortgage. And if all that collapses, we have limited ourselves by LB1107 by putting handcuffs on the opportunities for us to help people. That's what this bill is about. I'm not against

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

the bill. And Senator, Senator Kolterman, Senator Stinner, Senator Linehan, in six months, when we're back here in January, four months when we're back here in January, and we don't have the economic dip that I think we will have, I will cosponsor any bill that has these bills. I would like to see some constraints, but regardless of that, right now we are at a crossroads in America, not just in America, but particularly in Nebraska, where ag is so dependent on everything that does not-- that we can't control, where the university may not have football and downtown Lincoln may suffer and you'll see more small businesses go. Whereas a small business owner like me with 14 employees, if two of them catch COVID or have been exposed, my company shuts down and cannot survive. That is what everyday small businesses are facing across this country and across this great state. They are begging for leadership and leadership just isn't about property tax relief and corporate tax breaks. They are begging for leadership around compassion, around being sure that we have the tools next January, the ability next January, to provide solutions that we don't know today. We cannot have the same conversation around property taxes and corporate tax breaks and corporate sales and use tax credits that we were having in February because the world is different. And whether you believe in coronavirus or not, the economic impacts are being felt every day. And that is a reality whether you're in western Nebraska or you're in eastern Nebraska. My issue is not necessarily with the bill itself. I have some technical issues that can be worked out. My issue is the timing of what we're doing. The timing where people are saying, just push pause. We don't know what's going on, where at the federal level-- where negotiations broke down. It may not be till September that we know what's going on. And for small businesses, that's too long. So I get it. We're thinking about campaigns. I get it. We're thinking about people who will say-- a negative mailer that you didn't vote for property tax relief. My answer to you is that same mailer is gonna come either way. That mailer is gonna say, if you vote for this, you didn't provide real, substantial property tax relief. That mailer is gonna say, if you voted for this, you didn't really do anything but kick the can down the road. And we know we're kicking the can down the road because school districts and local levies can still increase higher than the amount we put in here. Over the next five years, ag land can still go up higher than the amount we put in here. And that local farmer is stuck in the same system, coming back down here asking for the same property tax relief. Colleagues, we can do better. Damn it, we are better and this is the time for us to do that. I keep hearing that we don't have 17 to stop it. Colleagues, be the 17. In Texas A&M, they talk about the 12th man. And the crowd believes so much that they are the 12th man, they buy into it. That actually creates the 12th man. And how does that work in here for 17? Simple.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

You don't vote. And when you look up there and you see 33, you put your hand up and you turn it from a side thumb to an up thumb and you're fine, your back on the winning side if that's what you need to be. But don't tell me we don't have 17 until we at least try because what I continue to hear about this bill and if you read in the media what we-- the quotes that we've made is this is the best we can do. It's the best deal we can get in this eleventh hour. My question to everybody sitting here today is, is this the best for Nebraskans? And if it's not, why are we selling ourselves short when in four months, we'll be right back here? Why are we selling ourselves short when in four months, we'll be right back here? We shouldn't pass a bill that nobody really likes, especially during a global pandemic. I know we all came down here to make a difference. We all came down here to build Nebraska in a way that we all fundamentally believe can make Nebraska better or else you wouldn't have ran. You wouldn't have spent time from your families. You wouldn't have sat around in late nights, at campaign things when you know you really didn't want to be there and you were getting yelled at and talked about by the person in the audience because you didn't vote a certain way or you're not tough on this issue. You did it because you fundamentally believe you want to make a difference in Nebraska.

FOLEY: One minute.

WAYNE: And my question is, what difference are we making with this? We know we're gonna have to come back and fix issues on this bill so I ask you all to be the 17th, to come back in four months when we have a better and clearer picture of where we are financially so that we don't handcuff ourselves of opportunities to make Nebraska better, to make structural changes that each and every one of you have talked about for the last four years and some, just the last two years that I've gotten to know. So be the 17th. Be the change that we've always talked about being. And it starts here today by saying we're not gonna be rushed, we're not gonna be like those in D.C., where we don't understand the full completeness of a bill. We think we know what it says. We're not just gonna put money at the problem. We are gonna change the problem and do what's right for Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Those waiting to speak: Senator Chambers, Hunt, Cavanaugh, Erdman, and others. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I just want to use this opportunity to let you all know what I propose to do today. I don't attack from ambush. Sometimes, maybe by surprise, but

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

if you follow what I say and the way I approach a bill, you'll have a general idea of how I feel about a bill. When some things are done around here that will be frowned upon, a comment will be made, well, it's allowed in the rules. Then sometimes, my name will be invoked. All of that's fair while we're here, but you haven't learned every-- I won't say trick-- every stratagem that is available under the rules. I follow the rules more than anybody else and I always will. An assembly like this has rules which facilitate its operations. But by the same token, when a person such as myself will be considered an obstructionist for slowing things down, that is a part of the function of this body and that is a tactic which is used and it ought to be used. But today, I'm going to show you another lesson. I had to wait until the last day, not just of this session, but of my career in this devilish hole called the Legislature. I'm going to speak on every bill up there today. I have a motion on every single bill. What I decide the session will be today is strictly up to me and there's no way, under the rules, you can stop me. There was a program, and it's still showing replays now, called Outer Limits. And in the days when that program first came on, television sets had knobs and you could adjust the vertical, you could adjust the horizontal, you could adjust the brightness, and naturally, the volume. So they will mess with your picture on the screen. They will say, don't touch your knobs. Don't try to adjust your set. We are in control. We will adjust the vertical. We will adjust the horizontal. We'll adjust the volume. We can change things to a soft blur or sharp image and then they let you know. This program will reach-- go from the inner reaches to the outer limits and that's the way they did in those days. Well, today I'm in control and I'm going to show you and demonstrate that control. And if you don't have the heart, the nerve, the determination, none of you will ever do this. And I waited this session until all of the work that I thought was essential, even though some of it I didn't agree with-- you had the opportunity to do what you wanted to do. I didn't go all out on anything. But today, I'm going to teach you something. In the past, before the pandemic brought about by "Cyrus the Virus" who wrote on papyrus that he's desirous. And I could go on and on and on because my mind runs in rhymes. There would be family members under the balconies and rather than put a burden on them when they came to watch their loved ones or their hated ones or whatever it was that made them have to be here, I would be very subdued and let the activities go on. I don't participate in them. Today--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --there is nobody under the balconies so the hostage-type situation that your family members created in the past does not obtain

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

today. I haven't decided whether I'll keep us here till midnight or not, but I'm going to keep us here. And you won't be able to speak on my motions because I will withdraw them. And the only way you will be able to speak once I start is to put a motion on somebody's bill, which you don't have the nerve to do. And I may refile my motions if time requires it. I'm not even going to take shots at the Lieutenant Governor today because he's not in the chair. And unless there's something very important, I don't say anything about somebody if he or she is not there to hear it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Hunt, you're recognized.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:50. I think we caught Senator Wayne off guard.

WAYNE: Thank you.

SCHEER: 4:35 now, Senator.

WAYNE: I haven't ran that fast since high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, again, this time everybody should have gotten the COVID impact on Omaha. And I just want to point out a couple of numbers before we talk a little bit more. And thank you, Senator Hunt. We have lost-- if you look at the bottom corner of this handout, the economic impact is around \$246 million in lost business meetings, lost events, and many of those were sporting events. But the reality is those are real dollars that come October, we are gonna start realizing. My fear is not the July, August, and even September receipts. My fear is the October receipts and here's why, colleagues, and I hope people really listen to this. If you're down for 14 days, you have missed lots of work. If you're down for 30 days, you've missed more work. And by missing more work, you are now behind. So if in July, August, you've missed some work, your mortgage foreclosure notice, your rental notice to evict comes in around September, October. That's when we're gonna start seeing the real economic impact. The Omaha's tax on restaurant tax is down 24 percent. That's about \$4 million. The economic impact of meetings, just meetings, is down 66 percent. That's almost \$80 million. Hotel revenue is down 55 percent. Now why is the hotel revenue interesting to me? Most companies like myself took out a loan by the federal government called PPP. And because of that, we were able to keep afloat. We lost a lot of side jobs, which were our apartment complexes and rental homes or driveways. We end up losing all side jobs so we're, we're truly relying on some major public projects, which is not a good way just to

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

do business. But what happened is most of these hotels also took out PPP loans so they kept people afloat. That is now coming to an end so we're gonna start seeing more people get laid off, more hours get cut. We're gonna start seeing the economic impact of this. It kind of reminds me of the time in a Goonies movie. If you guys don't remember Goonies, maybe too young, maybe too old, where they're down in the tunnel going to look for the, for the treasure, the pot of gold. And they come across a, a well and there's a bucket and, and the guy's bucket is up there and they're sitting out there and they can hear him down there. And the speech was given that it's our time, it's our time down here. And all that goes away if we take a ride up on Trent's [SIC] bucket. The point of it is it's our time right now to stand up for Nebraskans. It's our time right now to show compassion and true leadership in the sense of making sure we do not-- we do not handcuff our opportunities come January.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: And I hope those who are on my side of the aisle understand what history has shown us. Our first year, we cut \$1 billion out of the budget, but this floor put \$150 million into property tax relief. Once we go down this path, we will not remove money from this fund. It will take 33, if not more, to do so. We will have handcuffed our opportunities to create meaningful change, systematic change, change that Nebraskans are demanding. So you can be mad at me or frustrated at me, but I do want the record to reflect we were never sent home early because of me. That's a shot to my buddy who's not here. I talked to him yesterday. He's feeling a little better. That's my buddy, though. Senator Groene, I wish you well. See you next year. My point, colleagues, is--

FOLEY: That's time.

WAYNE: --we don't know. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, colleagues. I rise in opposition to LB1107. I'd like to echo the sentiments that Senator Wayne just made about not getting to 17. I keep hearing my colleagues say we never had 17 to stop this bill. Having 17 or having 33 or 25 has never been a reason for me to vote or not vote for something. This bill is not urgent. It is not an emergency. It doesn't have to happen today. We can continue the work next year. We can continue to work on a tax incentive package. The university will not crumble if we don't pass this bill. We can pass it

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

next year. Property taxes, we're not gonna stop hearing the call for property tax relief. I think I might end up getting \$150 in property tax relief through this bill, maybe. I'm not even sure it, it will be that much. That might be generous and I live in the highest tax district. I live in the Westside district. I would be devastated if our public education suffers so that I can have \$150 more. What it will cost long term in investment in children is not worth it. Yes, that would pay for my utility bill, which would be wonderful, for one month. I make \$12,000 a year, I, I could-- \$150 actually means a lot to me, probably more than most in this body, but it is not worth the future of this state. Colleagues, I've heard several of you call our budget a moral document. What are we send-- message are we sending with this document, with this spending during a pandemic where we are willing to take federal dollars, which we rarely take? Nebraska is one of the lowest states in the country to draw down federal dollars. We draw down the least amount, even though we pay in just like everyone else. We draw down the least amount, but this time, this time, we're willing to take those federal dollars, but not give them to people in need, put them in property tax relief. People are going to be evicted from their homes. People are hungry. Teachers are scared. Healthcare workers are scared. Meatpacking plant workers are scared. Grocery store workers are scared. Hairdressers are scared. But we've decided that they need to all show up for work and we won't do anything for them unless they own property. Fifty percent of my constituents do not own property, 50 percent of my constituents. That is a huge percentage to not benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars. You don't have to have 17 to vote for something or vote against it. If our budget and how we spend is morally aligned, what are our morals here? My morals are that people in need should be served by their government. This does not serve people in need. This is disappointing. This past--

FOLEY: One minute.

CAVANAUGH: --17 days has been extraordinarily disappointing. I've said before that I feel a lot. I feel publicly. I feel openly. I'm OK with that. I know it makes people uncomfortable and I'm OK with that too. I've been hurt, wounded by these past 17 days, disappointed, depressed. But I'm still here, I'm still showing up, and I'm gonna continue to speak. Because even if none of you are listening, I know that the people at home need to know that their Legislature cares about them, that I care about them, and I will not stop caring about them and I will not stop speaking even if everyone in this room is having their own conversation off to the side.

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CAVANAUGH: Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. In the queue: Senators Erdman, Friesen, Linehan, and Wayne. Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Good morning. Senator Wayne, I appreciate your comments about LB1107. The concern that I have, as I shared yesterday or the day before, that for property tax relief, we have to have the funding available to do property tax relief or an income tax credit. But for the tax incentives for businesses, we don't. That's a problem. But this morning, I want to change gears. I want to talk a little bit about the virus, about COVID. Yesterday, I had an opportunity to visit Madsen's here in Lincoln. Madsen's is a business that was closed by the DHM. It is now open again. I am so thankful that Ben and Tom had enough guts to stand up and push back against these directives that think they have the opportunity to take your business. This virus has ruined our economy, is ruining people's lives, and it's killing people; not from the virus, but from the things they're getting from wearing the masks. In Florida, they have 150 cases of Legionnaires' disease. It's a problem. And I don't mean to be disrespectful for those of you who think masks are important because that's your prerogative to think that. But the science, the true science shows that even an N1-- NH-- N95 mask only screens to 0.3 microns, 0.3. The virus is 0.8 so wearing one of those masks, even if you have an N95, is like putting up a chain-link fence to keep mosquitoes out of your backyard. This is not about screening the mask-- screening the virus out. This is about control. We roll over when the government says don't go to church, we don't go to church. The government says you must wear a mask, we wear a mask. Under whose authority? What pandemic do we have? I looked yesterday, Lancaster County had, like, 24 new cases out of 300,000 people. And we're gonna destroy everybody's life for that? And we've now learned how to treat it. The country of India has thousands of people living in a ghetto. They give those people hydroxychloroquine, they had one case, one. We can treat this and it will go away. What we're going to do, we're gonna continue to allow the virus to exist in our environment and it's gonna continue to stay there as long as we don't get herd immunity. And all of you are gonna say, yeah, Erdman, you're no doctor. No, I'm not. But I can read and I have a doctor who is an expert on viruses. Herd immunity is the only way. And Panhandle Public Health told me that we think the herd immunity won't last three months. Well, let me ask you a question. We've had tens of millions of people worldwide recover from the virus. Show me the person that got it twice. Tell me that person's name, where do they live, that got it twice. There is not one. Why is that? It's because herd immunity works and until we

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

get to the understanding that this virus is gonna be with us until we get herd immunity-- and then we're gonna have a vaccine. Wow. Great idea, right? Researchers in Iceland have already proven that the virus has mutated 243 times that they know of. So what do you think the chances are rolling the dice and getting it right with a vaccine? This is not about the vaccine. This is about a control. This is control. So take your mask off, go out and live your life because what has happened here is we're so afraid of dying, we have forgotten how to live.

FOLEY: One minute.

ERDMAN: It is time for us to push back on some of these directive health measures and make those people prove they have the authority to take your property without compensation. I am proud of Madsen's, what they did. My county back home today is gonna vote on a resolution and I hope they pass that resolution stating you're an adult, you make a decision for you and your family, and we're gonna move on. So I didn't wear a mask this week and I don't wear a mask because I don't want to get sick. And if you have the illusion that that mask is gonna screen something out and save you, you are wrong. Your immune system gets weaker as you wear that mask and you're gonna get something else that you wish you didn't have. We need to move on past this virus. Let it run its course, just like N1H1 and all those other viruses before and get back to living. When you disrupt life as we know it-- and we have disrupted everything--

FOLEY: That's time.

ERDMAN: --education and all. The results are not gonna be good.

FOLEY: That's time. Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: Thank you, Mr. President. You know, Senator Wayne, I share your concerns. I, too, question what our revenue will be like next year or the year after, but you got to remember what we in ag have been going through for the past 5, 6, 7 years as our income has declined by 50, 60, 70 percent. We've tried numerous times where we have 165 school districts that receive no state aid to speak of. I've tried over the past six years to pass anything, to start some process to where we would get there and I've always been blocked. And we finally get to this point and I'll call it a compromise because I really don't like incentives. I never have. I don't think they work, but we're put in a situation where maybe because of this giant compromise, we all felt we had to vote for it. Is it the best we could do? Absolutely not. There's-- much better plans have been shelved in

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

the past and for numerous other reasons. We could have done better, but we ran out of time. It's a short session. We came into this session with high hopes, lots of revenue, and we watched it disappear. Just the COVID impact to ag has been estimated around \$3 billion. Last year, there was \$1 billion in flood damage. Historically, we've seen land prices skyrocketed when we had \$8 corn. And since then, I mean, we all knew we could not sustain that, but Nebraska was carried through the last recession by ag. We didn't have to climb out of a deep hole like other states did and then ag went into its recession. And we're still there and we'll be there for another year or two, at least. We have foreclosures happening. They've been driven off their land, they've been driven off their farms, and had to move to the urban areas and we continue to lose population in the rural areas. And when I look at the incentive package even, it does a little bit for rural Nebraska, but not much. We continue to ignore the rural area-- parts of the state and our number one industry. Does this fix ag's problem? Absolutely not. This is a general property tax relief for all. And whether or not it's-- somebody thinks it's substantial or not, we can have that discussion, but it's really the-- probably the biggest one thing we've done in six years. We've piecemeal added money at times to the property tax credit relief fund, which in itself was not the ideal way to distribute property tax relief. I've always thought we needed to change how we fund K-12 and I'll continue to work on that. But this at least sets aside some funds, I guess, that we can do it with. And as we all know here, we cannot bind future legislators' hands. If next year comes along and we are in dire straits, I've asked numerous times how we're going to fund different things. What happens when we get to two years from now and we have passed this and, and suddenly, there isn't the money to implement portions of the property tax relief? That's the only thing left hanging in the balance.

FOLEY: One minute.

FRIESEN: What are we gonna do? Thank you, Mr. President. Are we gonna raise taxes or we're gonna-- in a, in a downturn in the economy, are we gonna raise taxes to that, are we gonna cut spending somewhere to fund property tax relief? I have a feeling that's not what's gonna happen. So I'm concerned what happens two years from now and three years from now when I'm gone. Is somebody gonna be there to protect the property tax credit relief fund or do we get a, a chance to redistribute it under better, more fair, equitable manner? I will continue to work on that. I-- do we-- could we make the program, the incentive program better? Sure we could. And we should continue to look at it, it shouldn't just run on autopilot for ten years. We

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

should always be looking at our programs and make sure they're doing what we intended them to do. So I still support LB1107. I still think it's the least we can do this year going forward and we will continue to work on it in years to come. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Friesen. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, colleagues, or good morning, I guess. I want to say lots of things, but first, I want to point out that Chairman Stinner has been very involved in this process in LB1107. And I think if anything I've learned over the last four years, Chairman Stinner's pencil is pretty sharp. And if he thought it was impossible for us to do this, he wouldn't have joined in the effort to get it done. So I think it's a bet I'm not gonna use. I'm going to listen to all the things I heard earlier today and stay calm and be pleasant, if I can? We-- we've been very clear and if Chairman Stinner wants to jump up or-- he's been very clear. He's protected all our programs that are very important to Nebraska by making sure that any-- the revenue-- the first 3.5 percent of revenue has to go to sustain the programs we have. He's been very clear on that. It's also, as we all know, what we do today can be undone, redone, or redo next year. Most of us will be back. We know what levers. Now what I think I'm not hearing this morning is just how important this bill is to the vast majority of Nebraskans. It, it may not-- everyone may not be aware, but if you are a renter, on average, two months of your rent goes to property taxes. Now-- right, you don't write a check out to the county treasurer, but your landlord does. So if we're gonna sit here and say this doesn't affect renters, that's just not true. Again, on average, two months. And I think Senator Lowe could speak to this clearer because he actually has some rental properties. We used to. We don't do that anymore. It's very hard work, but two months of your rent goes to pay property taxes for where you're living. So it's not true to say it doesn't affect my renters. Secondly, this idea that it's not very much money? Let's remember what this bill does. It puts in statute the \$275 million that already goes to property tax credit fund for the very first time so it cannot be rated. If-- and I'm not saying you should be for or against the gambling that's going to be on-- but-- on the ballot this fall, but if it passes, it ensures that it does what Nebraskans think they're doing when they're voting for it because it says it's gonna go to property taxes. We ensure that that actually happens with this bill. It also sets up a second tier and I've been playing-- doing some doodling this morning and some numbers on people's homes in my district. So at a home in my district valued at \$251,300, they currently and will continue to get the property tax credit fund deducted from what they owe. That's \$261.35. In the first

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

year of this bill, they get \$159.45, for a total of-- where did I put the total here? For a total-- I'm sorry. And then in the fourth year or the third year or the fifth year, whenever we get it fully funded, it'll be \$478. So \$478 plus \$261.35 is \$739, \$739 for a family that's living--

FOLEY: One minute.

LINEHAN: --in a home in Elkhorn that is not an expensive home. So I don't know. I've had a good life. I've been really lucky. I saved for retirement. Then I got really, really lucky and got this job, which I love, but \$739 is still a lot of money to me, guys. I don't think there's very many of us on the floor that doesn't think \$700 amounts to anything. It, it is, it is significant relief to people. People, as Senator Wayne mentioned and others, that are-- have fewer hours at work, how, how better do you help people than giving them back their own money? I, I, I would gladly-- if somebody wants to give me back a tax break, I, I can't-- that helps me. It helps me help my children who actually are all very successful right now. I'm not writing any more checks to them, but I've got six grandkids to worry about how they're gonna go to college.

FOLEY: That's time.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. And I don't disagree with the numbers on a spreadsheet. I think those are facts. Where the disagreement lies is at the end of this property tax break, my renters won't get a free month of rent, nor will their rent go down. It'll go up still. And Senator Friesen, I don't disagree with everything you said. What I am asking you to do today is to be present not voting on cloture. And let's, me and you, after August 28, sit down and have conversations about school funding. Maybe the conversation is we take the money in the Property Tax Credit Fund and move it over to fund all of rural schools. That's an idea. I'm not saying I'm 100 percent behind it, but I'm willing to have those conversations and introduce a bill next year to structurally change our problem. What people are ignoring in this process and we're forgetting in this process is we're giving a tax credit for something we don't collect. This is all local taxes. We don't collect it. It kind of reminds me of that Eagles song. And I feel like we're living life in the fast lane, where he is a hard-headed man. He is brutally handsome and she is terminally pretty. That's kind of like what we're doing here. And so we, we need to step

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

back and look at what we're doing. And if we're not structurally making changes, then, Senator Friesen, when you leave here in two years, you're gonna call me as a constituent, not of mine, but a constituent of Nebraska-- I represent all Nebraskans-- saying my property taxes went up another 30 percent. We're not solving the local issue problem. We don't collect property taxes. And then what my side is gonna say, Senator Friesen, is we just gave 121-- \$225 million. And by then in two years, it'll be \$275, \$250. And we will never fix that problem until this body has rotated out and a new group of senators in eight years will forget that we put \$300 million aside. So now we're looking at the problem not really changing for almost a decade. We have to do better, we should do better, and we are better. I'm not mad at this bill. I think it's a step in the right direction, but we're not solving the fundamental and underlining issues and we're not solving them, colleagues, during a global pandemic. We're not solving them when we have unemployment higher than we've seen in the last decade, even during the Great Recession. We're not solving the, the structural issues and if we don't solve the structural issues, then what are we doing? We're doing the same thing that the eight Republican senators signed a letter to the gov-- federal government saying don't do-- throw money at the problem. And I'm looking like the conservative here. I'm saying we should step back, take a pause, and figure it out. And when it comes to campaigns, it's, it's-- it reminds me of, of life in general and sometimes life is like a dagger and the backstage is full of parasites and there always will be. They will love you and drain you of everything just to feel better about their life. That's what this is. We are taking a vote so a campaign can't use things against us and I truly believe some of us fundamentally believe this is the right step in the right direction. It's not just about the campaign.

FOLEY: One minute.

WAYNE: And I know from-- what I personally know and know of how many hours Senator Linehan has put in, this is a right step in the right direction for her and I don't disagree that it's a step in the right direction. The disagreement is only at what cost and where is the fundamental change? It's time for us to come together and show leadership in the sense of we want true fundamental change. We want to solve the property tax issue, Senator Friesen? Then be present, not voting and let's really solve it next year when we know our economics and our economic situation. And I commit to you today on this mike, I will do a cosign bill with you to solve those issues and I will gather everybody I can to solve those issues. Thank you, Mr. President.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion on the desk.

CLERK: I do. Senator-- Speaker Scheer would move to invoke cloture pursuant to Rule 7, Section 10.

FOLEY: Members, we're on Final Reading. Typically, we don't do a call of the house at this point, but we do ask everyone to please check in. This is not a vote. Please check in so we know that everyone's here. We're on Final Reading. Mr. Speaker.

SCHEER: Could I have a reverse order vote on this, please?

FOLEY: Yes, sir. Senators Chambers, Ben Hansen, McCollister, please check in. Senator Chambers and Senator Ben Hansen, please check in. Mr. Speaker.

SCHEER: Please proceed.

FOLEY: We shall proceed. There's been a request for a roll call vote in reverse order. Members, the first vote is whether or not to invoke cloture. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Walz.

WALZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Slama.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

SLAMA: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

QUICK: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Pansing Brooks. Voting--

PANSING BROOKS: Yes.

CLERK: --yes. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Groene. Senator Gragert.

GRAGERT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Geist.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

GEIST: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator DeBoer.

DeBOER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Chambers. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Briese. Senator Brewer.

BREWER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Arch.

ARCH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Albrecht.

ALBRECHT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. 42 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to invoke cloture.

FOLEY: Thank you. Cloture has been invoked. Our next vote is whether or not to bracket the bill. Those in favor of bracketing the bill vote aye; those opposed vote nay. A record vote has been requested. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Cavanaugh, Erdman, Hunt, Wayne. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. 4 ayes, 39 nays on the motion to bracket the bill.

FOLEY: The bracket motion is not successful. Our next vote is whether or not to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing of the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays-- or excuse me, 38 ayes, 6 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

FOLEY: The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB1107e]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1107e be passed with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Clements, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

Chambers, Erdman, Halloran, Hunt. Not voting: Senators Cavanaugh, Wayne, Briese, and Groene. 41 ayes, 4 nays, 2 present not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

FOLEY: LB1107e passes with the emergency clause attached. Your next bill is LB814. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Hunt would move to bracket LB814 until today, August 13.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hunt, you're recognized to open on your bracket motion.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Colleagues, look at the agenda order today. We have the super-secret, deep-six Speaker major proposal and that one is first and that's right. And then all of the bills are in regular order except LB814. That, to me, speaks to the whole way that this process has been disrespectful. It has been contrived, it's been political, and it's playing favorites when abortion is up for debate. Next, as I've said through this whole thing, Lieutenant Governor Foley should not be in the chair for this debate. He's running legislative strategy from the chair. He didn't allow cloture at the right time on the pull motion. And in February of this year, the Nebraska Family Alliance held a forum in Grand Island with senators and the Lieutenant Governor where they explicitly discussed legislative strategy to ban abortion in Nebraska. When asked about a specific bill that I introduced this year, Lieutenant Governor Foley said, quote, Senator Hunt has very extreme views on the life issue. Her bill isn't going to go anywhere so let's not spend energy worrying about her silly, little bill. We need to put all of our energies into LB814 and get that bill to the Governor's desk. Can you guys not discuss loudly right now? Can I get a gavel? Why are people around me talking all loud? Thank you. LB814 bans dilation and evacuation, which is a safe and common procedure for second trimester abortion. Proponents of the bill insist that their goal is not to ban abortion, but to keep women safe. But at the Family Alliance forum, they made it clear that this unconstitutional abortion ban is part of a longer-term strategy to ban abortion in Nebraska for good. On July 23, I sent a request to Speaker Scheer that Lieutenant Governor Foley not preside over a debate on LB814. His public expression of support for LB814 should be enough to question whether he should preside while it's before the body and his inability to enforce the basic rules of fairness and decorum during debate on the bill, including cutting off debate before many senators had the chance to speak, including Senator Lathrop, who is the chair of the committee that the bill was supposed to come from, shows that he cannot be fair and impartial on LB814. The

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

Lieutenant Governor should not be presiding as this bill was debated. My request for him to leave the chair out of respect for the processes in our Legislature as a separate branch of government has not been taken seriously and has not been respected. Next, Senator Geist can't even talk with authority about her own bill. In the Family Alliance forum, she said herself that she wasn't even aware that abortion was legal in the second trimester. She had to file six amendments on this bill because it's not ready. She filed all these amendments to get the bill right because it's not ready and that's something that could have happened in committee. If this bill had not been pulled to the floor in a desperate attempt to pass an unconstitutional abortion ban in 17 days, in a pandemic-- if we had just gone through the process and, and let the committee work out an amendment that would work, she would have had some more success with that, but that's not the way it went. And now on the floor, Senator Hilgers and Senator La Grone have to defend it, making spurious legal arguments, talking in circles about a decision that the Supreme Court has already made numerous times, a conservative Supreme Court at that. LB814 is a model bill that, from my research, has been introduced in at least 31 other states. And what I want my colleagues to understand is that bills like this are written poorly on purpose. They have problems with the language on purpose. There's no exception for rape and incest in this bill. There's no cause of action for the father. The language around the rights of the grandparents with the cause of action, the injunctive relief part, that's all messed up. And that's because these model bills that get introduced all over the country are used as purity tests for moderates. National organizations draft these bills that are actually quite extreme, no exception for rape, no exception for incest, because it's a purity test. And then they use these bills to turn the screws on people who are often personally anti-abortion, but they are thoughtful about language and policy. And under threat from the anti-abortion lobby, they have to go along with it. And you see this play out in state after state after state as part of a larger national strategy to ban abortion completely and we know that. Like, that's, that's politics. That's how it works. And that's them using power within a system to get the kind of results they want. And unless we stand up for our own records and stand up for our own convictions and stand up for the integrity of the legislative process and the importance of having good language, the importance of letting bills go through committee like they're supposed to, we're just letting them get away with it. Senators, of all political backgrounds, you can be personally anti-abortion. You can support the idea behind this bill, but you can't lose your critical thinking and you have to have the confidence to stand by your record in support of pro-life policies; the votes you've taken to support mothers with paid family leave, with

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

childcare, with early childhood education, to support access to contraception and well-woman examinations through Title X funding, to support raising the tipped minimum wage from \$2.13 an hour, which is the lowest in the nation here in Nebraska. And we know that servers and people who work for tipped wages are more likely to be women and are disproportionately single parents as well. You can be against abortion while recognizing that the machine, the greater machine that's behind bills like this is running you over and it's running women over and it's not doing anything to help the health of women. In terms of the AG Opinion that Senator Chambers requested, in my opinion, the Attorney General's Opinion regarding the constitutionality of this bill should be taken with a very big grain of salt. The Attorney General is often wrong on the law, especially when it comes to issues that are related to his political agenda and that agenda includes abortion restriction and anti-choice legislation. The Attorney General's political activism has put Nebraska on the losing side of several important court cases already. In 2018 and 2019 alone, the Attorney General intervened or filed cases that eventually involved issues that went to the U.S. Supreme Court. And in every case, Nebraska and the Attorney General lost. In May of 2018, there was a DACA case. Nebraska filed a lawsuit with six other states in Texas federal court requesting that the court declare the DACA program unconstitutional. And this is a program that helps the children of undocumented immigrants. A related case went to the U.S. Supreme Court in which Nebraska filed an amicus brief supporting the position that DACA should be ended. On June 18, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the Trump administration could not end the DACA program. Even though the court's ruling was somewhat technical because the administration had not provided legal justification to end DACA, the decision that the Supreme Court took was at odds with our Attorney General's position in Nebraska. Then there was the tribal sovereignty case. In July of 2018, Nebraska was the lead state in filing an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in a case from Oklahoma, which deals with whether a portion of Oklahoma is within the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, pursuant to an old U.S. treaty. Nebraska's legal position, as articulated by our Attorney General, was a position opposed to fundamental principles of tribal sovereignty. On July 9, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion enforcing the treaty and affirming tribal rights. Once again, Nebraska lost. Next, there is Title XII and LGBTQ rights. In August 2018, Nebraska was again the lead state in filing an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in an employment discrimination case from Michigan. Nebraska's legal position, as articulated by the Attorney General, was a position opposed to gay and transgender rights. On June 15, 2020, the U.S.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

Supreme Court ruled in these cases that an employer who fires an individual merely for being gay or--

FOLEY: One minute.

HUNT: --transgender violates Title XII of the Civil Rights Act. Nebraska lost again. In all of these important U.S. Supreme Court decisions from 2020 alone, our Attorney General is on the losing side. All of the legal positions that our Attorney General took ultimately lost. And I understand that attorneys can disagree on the law, but what's most troubling is that our AG has put Nebraska on the wrong side of history, on the wrong side of the law, and counter to a very conservative U.S. Supreme Court in all of those cases. LB814 is unconstitutional, regardless of what Opinion the Attorney General writes, just like the Attorney General is wrong on all of these cases I discussed earlier. He is wrong on the law regarding LB814. Time will bear that out and you all today will decide if Nebraska taxpayers will be the ones to pay the bill for that. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hunt. In the speaking queue are Senators Hunt, Arch, McCollister, Matt Hansen, and many others. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. President. Proponents who say this is not abortion ban are either uninformed or they're being dishonest. And to the alternative work-arounds that many senators have discussed, like fetal demise, you have to understand that demise doesn't always work. It doesn't work for all women. It doesn't work for all pregnancies. There's many factors that patients have and that's why we trust doctors to make the decisions for these patients, with these patients. Seventy five percent of women who get the procedure that LB814 seeks to ban already have children of their own. They're making an informed decision with their doctors, their physicians, their families, their faith. And what we are doing to the women who perhaps have a fetal diagnosis, who have an extenuating circumstance where they have to terminate the pregnancy, we're putting them in a much more dangerous position. A woman I'm close to who, who-- I won't say who it is. She has two children and she is Catholic and she is anti-abortion and she had a very difficult pregnancy and was sure to miscarry. She was not going to be able to carry the pregnancy. The doctor suggested that she have a, a procedure like this that was made available to her. She knew that it was an option that she had and she ended up going through with it. And even now, she doesn't understand that she had an abortion, that by terminating that pregnancy, she had the procedure that LB814 seeks to provide or to ban. And that, kind of, is the twisted logic that happens in these things, is even if you're anti-abortion, when you go into a doctor and there's a fetal diagnosis, there's something

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

going wrong, you want to have every option available to you. The alternative and work-around that proponents of this bill are talking about is essentially a lethal injection to the womb. And it doesn't go up inside, it goes through your stomach. And you got to hit the fetus and then you can go through with the termination, but that's not a safe procedure. It's an inpatient procedure. It requires three days in the hospital. It doesn't always work. And there's other factors like fibroids, obesity, that makes this an unsafe procedure for some patients. For some patients, it is right and for some patients, it's not and that's the nature of medicine. When you hear proponents say things like it's not a ban because there's other methods, the gut check is kind of there, right? You're like, OK, well, that makes sense. I mean, I guess there's other ways to do it. But I mean, that goes for a lot of medical procedures. All of us, as laypeople, you know, if we looked up, oh, different, different treatments and procedures from medieval Europe, a lot of that would make kind of some sense. Like, OK, so you got some bad blood, maybe you should let some of the blood out or whatever. Like, if you're not a doctor and you don't have the science behind what you're doing, sometimes the gut check is there. But that's why we are not doctors. That's why we can't pass this because physicians are telling us, ACOG is telling us, the American Medical Association is telling us, and doctors and patients who have had this procedure are telling us that it needs to remain a legal option for them because every pregnancy is different. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for these patients. And no matter how you feel about, about abortion, no matter how you feel about when life begins or what your faith tells you about this, you do not want to be responsible for putting patients in a position where they will be harmed, where there could be danger to their future fertility. When a woman could be put in a hospital for over a week to have a method that is not as safe for her, that can hurt her future fertility, that can take her away from the children she has, which most of them who get this procedure do.

FOLEY: One minute.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. President. Not every method is right for every patient. Every pregnancy is different and this ban doesn't address that dilation and evacuation has to be a backstop for other procedures. This has to remain a tool in the toolkit of physicians in Nebraska because it's within the standard of care. Doctors need to be trained to do it. We trust physicians in Nebraska, just like we trust women and mothers in Nebraska to make the right decision for their families. Maybe in your mind, you have a stereotype of what somebody who needs an abortion looks like, someone with a fetal diagnosis,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

someone who needs to terminate a pregnancy, but think about the impact that this vote could have on yourself or your daughter or your sister or somebody who needs a safe procedure--

FOLEY: That's time.

HUNT: --to terminate a pregnancy. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator Arch.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Hunt raised the issue of fetal demise, the terminating of the life of the baby prior to the procedure and I want to address some of that. And, and I quote again from the Management of Unintended and Abnormal Pregnancy: Comprehensive Abortion Care, which is the textbook published in 2009. And it is the textbook that is currently in use for abortion procedures. And I quote, injections to cause fetal demise prior to operative evacuation may have certain benefits. At gestational ages when a live birth is possible, these injections avoid that possibility, including in patients who experience labor following cervical preparation. Some clinicians believe that the process of cortical bone softening, which begins within 24 hours of fetal death and makes fetal tissue more pliable, may facilitate evacuation and avoid lacerations caused by sharp fragments of fetal bone. Quote, the two agents used to cause fetal demise are digoxin and potassium chloride, KCl. The only known contraindications to digoxin are Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, an allergy to the medication. Potassium chloride has no known contraindications. Another quote, in conclusion, injection to cause fetal demise appears to be a safe procedure with low complication rates based on the limited data available. There was another in, in quoting from a sworn declaration from Michael T. Valley, M.D., in the case of Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region et al Plaintiffs v. Ohio Attorney General David Yost et al on March 4, 2019. And I want to quote from that. Quote, the two most common forms of inducing fetal demise are the use of digoxin either through intrafetal or intra-amniotic injection or intracardiac injection of KCl, potassium chloride. Both are safe for the mother and are effectively and routinely performed by many clinics to induce fetal demise. These procedures can be performed on any fetus in the second trimester, 13 to 24 weeks gestation. Quote, the risk to the patient of using digoxin to induce fetal demise are negligible, especially when compared to the risk of undergoing the D&E procedure. I, I, I quote these things because this is what-- really what's, what's at stake here. It is, it is whether or not that child is torn limb from limb as a live human being or whether that child experiences what is called fetal demise

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

prior to the procedure. I yield the balance of my time to Senator Hilgers.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Arch. Senator Hilgers, 2:30.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Arch. I'll be brief. I do want to just refresh on the constitutionality. You know, on the floor, we talk a lot about-- I've heard a lot of the words about constitutionality. It's just-- well, it's just unconstitutional or my arguments are spurious. That was the latest word that I heard or, or it's just clearly unconstitutional and, and really, that's-- that might work on the floor of the Legislature. We certainly can do that, but in a court of law, the court will say what law and what facts? Those are the questions that they're gonna ask. And on the law, not one person on this floor, and I have raised it several times, has pointed to a case that applies to the facts here. And that-- ultimately, when we talk about abortion jurisprudence, it's about the cases. You can't point to Casey and say, well, that means this is unconstitutional because Casey didn't deal with the procedure here. You can't point to the Sixth Circuit or all the other district court cases that did deal with these procedures because the facts were different, not sort of-- kind of minor-- different in a minor way, but a major material way. Those-- all of those cases and I walk through them state after state after state, the Sixth Circuit, all, in each and every one, dealt with a situation in which the proced-- the ban would have totally eliminated any alternatives to the procedure. And I have pointed out time and again that here in Nebraska, the record reflects, uncontroverted, that that's fewer than 20 percent. And this last year was 3 percent. So we can say, oh, it's unconstitutional. We can say, well, jeez, you know, everything Senator Hilgers has said or Senator La Grone has said is wrong, but what I have asked this body-- and I've said it every time I've gotten on the floor, point out the facts or the case that says it's so.

FOLEY: One minute.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I will look at it, but not one time has there been a-- has anyone pointed to a case that applies to the facts here. And it doesn't exist. Now the Attorney General very briefly came out with his Opinion. And the-- on the two points that I've emphasized, the Attorney General echoed and reinforced it. Number one, each one of the cases that have been cited were vastly different facts and the facts matter. That's point number one, that's what the Attorney General said. The Attorney General also said that the standard, the balancing test in, in, in the whole woman's health is no longer in play because of the five votes in June Medical. June Medical

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

is absolutely precedent. It's precedent and if we were doing admitting privileges, which was what was in that case, yeah, unconstitutional, of course, Supreme Court spoke, but it didn't speak about dismember-- this type of a, a procedure. And what Robert said is we're gonna-- we are-- we didn't change the standard in Casey and that's what applies. So ultimately, this is fact based and it's case based.

FOLEY: That's time.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hilgers. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I've been serving in this body for nearly six years and I've worked on proposed legislation in many areas of the law. This bill, this bill amends Chapter 28, which is a section in our statutes that constitutes most of the criminal code. Even though it deals with abortion and abortion restrictions, the bill creates a new felony offense. Much of the legislation I've worked on recently is legislation relating to the criminal justice reform and criminal law reform. One of the things that is-- has been impressed upon me from prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the Judiciary Committee is that when you're dealing with criminal laws, as legislators, we really need to be careful regarding the use of language and terminology, since the terms have such significance, have such a significant meaning when it comes to prosecuting people for violating the laws that we create. Probably because this bill was pulled from committee without going through the normal process, we have not really looked at the, the language in the bill in any kind of detail. We have spent time, some floor time talking generally about abortion and women's healthcare rights, but have not spent any time trying to create a legislative record as what is-- this operative terms of this bill means and how those are affected by it. Specifically, doctors and the board of medicine and surgery are to comply with the terms of this new law. As you can see, there are a number of amendments pending that might result ambiguity in this bill, but none of the amendments have been debated or put on-- put to a vote. I think that is unfortunate. As a deliberative body, we are creating a new crime that we should, we should make our lawmaking task seriously-- we should take our lawmaking task seriously, regardless of what we hope or think this bill does. When the law passes, if it does, our constituents will have the text of the law of the statute to tell them what the law actually says. Senator Chambers has often made the point to us that specific terms and words matter in a bill. Today, in his final day, at least for the next four years, I think we should heed his admonition. Even with the contentious issues

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

such as abortion, we need to take our lawmaking task seriously. We need to consider the impact that the law will have on those who are subjected to it and we need to make sure that the terms are written in such a way that people can know what is permitted by law and what is not. The bill criminalizes a medical procedure. There are amendments proposed that might better explain to doctors and medical providers what is criminal and what is not, but we have not adopted them. We haven't even really debated them. Our Judiciary Committee did not amend the bill in any way and there are many members of that committee who are attorneys and who work, who work with writing laws and criminal code. Until we have a bill in a form that will clearly tell doctors and others what they can and cannot do under the law, we should not pass this bill. This bill is not enough in the form, not ready to be passed. Even if you are pro-life, you can see this bill needs work and is not ready to be passed by this body. We take an oath when we begin our service in this Legislature. The oath says I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States. I think we violate that oath if we pass LB824. Thank you-- LB814. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McCollister. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I would actually yield my time to Senator Pansing Brooks.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Pansing Brooks, 4:50.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President. So a woman's health, not politics, should be guiding our medical decisions at every point in a pregnancy. Let's be clear: no matter what proponents claim on the floor of this debate, in their eight-page document, in their eight-page bill, that it bans the care that women need and the, and the care that doctors recommend. Common sense, science, medicine, and law are crystal clear. The decision about the most appropriate method for a woman to end a pregnancy belongs with the woman and her doctor, not politicians. Because, in fact, again, colleagues, it is common sense that medical reality, that every pregnancy is different. Every pregnancy is different. We do not have a one-size-fits-all abortion method and to ban it is wrong. Colleagues, it's time for politicians to stop forcing their personal beliefs on women when it comes to abortion. It is time we centered the voices of leading medical doctors back into the legislative debate. So let me point out a few things now. Medically, there is no reason to deny women and their doctors the ability to use this method of abortion care. The only reason is political, not medical. That is clear on the face of the bill, literally because it has no legislative intent or any medical findings

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

anywhere in the eight pages of text indicating a medical reason to ban this method of care. So no matter what you promise to your constituents, whatever you said at some point and, and you're pro-choice-- or pro-life, excuse me, this, this, this bill is a bad bill. That doesn't-- you didn't promise to bring forward a bad bill in your promises to support pro-life issues. So that's, that's something that is, is highly concerning to me. Further, medically, there's no reason to enact the ban because the Nebraska Medical Association has not supported the bill. In fact, they wrote a-- over a dozen letter-- letters came from doctors in Nebraska opposing this bill and experts in the field opposed the measure at the committee level with cogent, reasoned testimony. Further, medically, there's no reason to enact this ban. That's why the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose outlawing this method of abortion because, quote, it will limit the ability of the physicians to provide women with the medically-appropriate care they need. Again, if you feel like you have to support this bill, why-- or this action, this action is improperly written into the statute or into the bill itself. Let me say again, there's no reason to enact this ban and that's why the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other critical-- credible medical organizations representing physicians, nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, they all filed friends of the court briefs in cases challenging these very bills, where court after court has struck down these very laws. Again, to support this bill because you say you are pro-life? I mean, then, then we have to support every bad bill because of some minor tenet that we held true with our-- we believe in helping the teachers in disciplining students, but we didn't think that was the right bill. This, too, is not the right bill. The leading medical associations also say in the-- in their briefs flatly, there is no medical reason to ban this procedure--

FOLEY: One minute.

PANSING BROOKS: --because the, the-- because there's no work-around alternative that safely protects women's lives, health, and future fertility. The "alternative methods" have not been described in the gruesome and nonmedical language because-- and that's not by accident. For example, the quote unquote, while they stood-- while alternatives still exist, they can risk a woman's life with cardiac arrest and they induce demise about 20 percent of the time. We aren't even doing something that, that is 100 percent sure to happen. So that's another thing that they're not telling us. Please vote against this bill until we can figure out something better than this bill. I don't believe in something better, but I hope that you will realize this is not

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

appropriate for our state statutes. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I won't repeat everything Senator Hilgers has said. I just want to quickly run through how this analysis in Nebraska would actually apply to this bill. So the Eighth Circuit has ruled-- it has said that the correct test here is an undue burden analysis. And when we're dealing like bill-- with bills like LB814, under that analysis, the question is the substantial fraction question. Are we leaving alternative method-- methods for, for second trimester abortions when it relates to a percentage of the total abortions here? Now in some states, that's been 99 percent. In that case, yes, it would absolutely be unconstitutional. But in Nebraska, that number has been under 20 percent. In fact, last year it was 3 percent. And so we can spend a lot of time differing on, on legal analysis. But in law school, they teach you when you have the facts, argue the facts. When you have the law, argue the law. When you have neither, pound the table. Senator Hilgers and I have been arguing the facts because we have the facts. We've been arguing the law because we have the law. I'll leave it to you to determine what those opposed to this bill have been doing. With that, I'll yield the remainder of my time to Senator Geist.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator La Grone. Senator Geist, 3:50.

GEIST: Thank you, Mr. President. Words escape me here. For one thing, I've, I've been attacked personally because of not following the rules, of not knowing my bill, of having six amendments on my bill that obviously must mean I don't know what I'm doing. Those six amendments are to show good faith that for one, I would like to open on my bill for once. For number two, that I have an intention of attaching a compromise amendment that I worked with Senator Blood on. That obviously hasn't been possible because of all the motions that have been thrown up against this bill so that you won't hear the truth. And what the truth is, is that I stand by the veracity of this bill. It's well written. The people that wrote this bill know what they're doing. The easiest argument in this whole case is just say, oh, this is written badly or, oh, it's unconstitutional. But let's talk about what this bill is about and defend that. Defend that you want babies alive pulled apart instead of causing fetal demise. Defend that the inhumanity of this bill is what this bill is about. You can tell me it's not constitutional. I don't believe that. I would not have brought a bill that I thought was not constitutional, that had not been checked. But argue with me the inhumanity of this. That's the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

bill. That's what we're voting on. Senator Bolz so eloquently stood up there this morning and talked about doing something that's beyond your party, that's beyond your vision, that's beyond yourself. That's what we're doing today. We have an opportunity to do something that really makes a difference. It's beyond our party, it's beyond our vision, and it's certainly beyond ourself. Giving humanity to a little one out of respect for human dignity, that's what we're voting on. We're not voting on anything else but banning this barbaric procedure.

FOLEY: One minute.

GEIST: Thank you, Mr. President. It's common sense. To me, this is common sense. I have heard from so many people on how important this is and how this is a measure of our respect for each other's lives. This does not stop abortion. This merely gives dignity to that young baby and that's all I ask you think of before you vote. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Geist. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Nebraskans. I rise in support of LB814. I have sought in my eight years here to uphold the core value of sanctity of life and dignity of life. My proudest moments on this floor were when we abolished the death penalty and then overrode the veto to confirm that abolition of the death penalty. My most crushing time here on the floor was when, year after year, we were not able to rally the votes to provide available federal dollars to protect the lives of over 90,000 Nebraskans in the coverage gap in our state. I watched year after year as a member of the HHS Committee, as Amanda Gershon came to testify and I "heartbreakingly" saw her get sicker and more disabled each time she came to testify about how critical it was to provide this healthcare in our state to protect the lives of Nebraskans and their ability to work and contribute in the state. And as we leave, I am heartsick and angry that these Nebraskans are still waiting. This administration has taken longer than any administration in any state to implement Medicaid expansion. That is clearly not pro-life Nebraska. But back to LB814. Since the bill was dropped, I have seen the courage of many women who have come to tell me their tragic stories of how they've had to terminate, terminate a pregnancy in the second trimester or have had to have a procedure in the second trimester, trimester because they have lost their dear child. And I appreciate their willingness to talk to me and share their stories. Marci [PHONETIC] talked to me in the Rotunda and shared the mementos she had from losing her very dear child. And these women have helped me to see that there is a state interest in protecting access to

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

second trimester abortion procedures, including, as I understand it, in our current state of medical advanced D&E. LB814 does not outlaw second trimester abortions or even the D&E procedure. In fairness, LB814 creates new regulations that restrict the D&E procedure. However, it does so for a compelling state reason. If medical-- if a medical procedure in Nebraska ends a life, it should be done so as humanely as possible. Requiring demise before dismemberment as LB814 does, addresses this compelling state interest. It is a just state intervention. Senator Arch has done a wonderful job laying on the record in both rounds of debate the medical evidence that requiring demise does not pose an undue health risk to the mother. So we are not, in LB814, creating an undue burden on access to these procedures in our state. Now I would like to have seen an opportunity for us to have worked on this bill and I would have preferred that it come out of committee--

FOLEY: One minute.

CRAWFORD: --thank you, Mr. President-- with the vetting of the committee and "wordsmithing" of the committee. Unfortunately, with these bills, when they hit the floor, the main political strategy against the bill is to prevent any amendments. And so we do not get a chance to perfect the bill as we should in this kind of a legislative body. So while I have some reservations about some of the language in the bill, I still will vote green for LB814 and I urge you to do so as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Crawford. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Blood.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Blood, 4:55.

BLOOD: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Fellow senators, friends all, I hope everybody is actually listening and not chatting on the side because I want to be heard today because I, too, believe in the sanctity of life, but I have something different that I want to share today. I am pro-life and I'm proud of it. And in my time in this Legislature, I have consistently voted for pro-life bills and I've worked to advance issues that protect life, that protect children, that protect mothers, and that protect the vulnerable. Just last year, I supported LB209, Albrecht's abortion reversal bill. Not only did I support it, but I actively spoke on the bill and added a bill of my own onto it. I helped advance that bill to Final Reading and to the Governor and it empowered women to make the right healthcare decisions for themselves and their unborn baby. But that bill that I added

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

protected women who breastfeed their child in public. My position on that bill is consistent with my values and my pro-life beliefs, but I have serious concerns about this bill. I've approached Senator Geist eight months ago to share my concerns and explained the issues that I have with this bill to so many people via email or phone. And as I stated-- please be quiet so I can talk-- stated when the bill was on General File, this bill is poorly written, Patty Pansing Brooks, and it will cause unintended problems. I've been clear and consistent about what my concerns are with this bill and I'm gonna restate them again, but I want to point out the importance of what we talked about today with the fetal demise. This bill, bill fails to ban the actual dismemberment process. I am not gonna perpetuate a lie. Look at these fliers that have been handed out. You pass this bill and there's no more dismemberment abortion. Hooray! That is not what's going to happen. I sat here and listened in graphic detail the practice of this bill is supposed to prevent and it is disgusting and it is sad. I don't disagree with that, but then I went to the federal laws and guess what I found out? When you combine this bill with the federal ban on intact dilation and evacuation. This now steers doctors to have to provide a procedure to induce fetal demise, which we make sound like a summer vacation. Senator Erdman said we wouldn't do this to a dog. You know what we do with dogs? We euthanize them. Guess what fetal demise does? You're going to euthanize babies. Babies that Senator Arch said feel pain. So now we're gonna judge which pain is better? We're gonna tear you limb from limb or we're gonna suffocate you slowly. We're gonna let you absorb this chemical and dissolve inside the mother that supposedly it will not hurt, which I don't know if I agree with. How can we sit here and push a bill that has so many things wrong with it? Don't tell me that you are pro-life when you are willing to inject something into a mother and let that baby dissolve, let that baby die. How can you stand here and support this poorly-written bill that has no forethought? I hate that I'm Catholic right now. I hate it because I can't perpetuate a lot-- a lie because I am Catholic. I think about the Catholic catechism and I think about how it's our job to protect the most vulnerable. When you kill a child with a different method, you're not any better than when you're pulling them out limb by limb. What the hell is wrong with you? How can you support this bill? We're perpetuating a lie. How can you live with yourself? This isn't about being pro-choice, this is about being right. Shame on you.

FOLEY: One minute.

BLOOD: There are people I really respect supporting this bill who are not looking at its content. And it doesn't protect victims of sex

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

trafficking because we never got to the amendments. But guess what we could do? We could work on it and bring it back in January. But no, we need to use this as a litmus test because many people are in a reelection cycle. That's what it's about. It's not about the babies. I don't understand how we can take away fathers' rights. It takes two people, maybe men with irresponsible ejaculation, but it still takes two people. Who are you to decide who has more value? Sex trafficking victims, single fathers are what-- on a scale from one to ten, a two, a zero? But if you're married, you're a ten. You have rights under this bill, but nobody else does. We can fix this and bring it back in January. How can you perpetuate a lie?

FOLEY: That's time. Thank you, Senator Blood. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion on the desk.

CLERK: I do, Mr. President, Senator Geist would move to invoke cloture pursuant to Rule 7, Section 10.

FOLEY: Members, the first order of business is to check in. There is no call of the house, just check in please. Members, please check in. The first request heard by the desk was roll call in reverse order, but we need you all to check in first, please. Senator DeBoer, check in, please. Senator Geist, we're lacking Senator Chambers. We can proceed or wait. We shall proceed. Members, the first vote is whether or not to invoke cloture. A roll call-- Senator, the first request heard by the desk was a roll call vote in reverse order. The first vote, members, is a vote whether or not to invoke cloture. Roll call vote in reverse order. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wayne. Senator Walz.

WALZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Stinner.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

STINNER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

QUICK: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Groene. Senator Gragert. Senator, I'll get you in a minute. Hang-- bear with me, please. Senator Gragert.

GRAGERT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Geist.

GEIST: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator DeBoer.

DeBOER: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brewer.

BREWER: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Arch.

ARCH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Albrecht.

ALBRECHT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Groene.

GROENE: Yes.

CLERK: Senator Groene, voting yes. 33 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, to invoke cloture.

FOLEY: Cloture had been invoked. The next vote, members, is to-- whether or not to bracket the bill. Those in favor of bracketing the bill vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 29 nays, Mr. President, to bracket the bill.

FOLEY: The bracket motion is not successful. All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB814 pass? Those in favor-- I apologize. We need to read the bill.

CLERK: [Read LB814 on Final Reading]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB814 pass? Those in favor vote

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

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

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Clements, Crawford, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Kolterman, La Grone, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McDonnell, Moser, Murman, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Walz, and Williams. Voting no: Senators Cavanaugh, Chambers, Matt Hansen, Howard, Hunt, McCollister, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks. Not voting: Senators Blood, Bolz, DeBoer, Kolowski, Lathrop, Vargas, Wishart, and Wayne. 33 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, 7 present not voting, 1 excused and not voting.

FOLEY: LB814 passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign do hereby sign LB1107e and LB814. Items for the record, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, just one item and that is that the Reference report regarding the referral of LR477. Senator Friesen would move to recess the body until 1:30 p.m.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to recess till 1:30. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are in recess till 1:30.

[RECESS]

FOLEY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Chamber. The afternoon session is about to reconvene. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

FOLEY: Do you have any items for the record?

CLERK: Just one. The two bills read on Final Reading this morning were presented to the Governor at 12:10 (re LB1107 and LB814). That's all that I have, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Albrecht, for what purpose do you rise?

ALBRECHT: A point of personal privilege, please.

FOLEY: Please proceed.

ALBRECHT: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I rise today to honor a woman of faith, courage, and straight-out grit: Julie Schmit-Albin.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

Julie has walked the halls of this Capitol since she was a young teenager, and her father, Loran Schmit, served in this body. She learned early the impact of this institution and what it can have on our state, and the important part that advocacy plays in bringing about change. Julie carries a deep respect for this public office. When she was 24, Julie began advocating for the rights of the unborn while pregnant with her first child. She started attending Right to Life meetings and working for the unborn. And she eventually became the executive director of the Nebraska Right to Life, a position that she has held for more than 30 years. Julie Schmit-Albin has been described as a woman who is fearfully respected as a lobbyist and political advocate on the behalf of the unborn. If I may say so, Julie Schmit-Albin has played the most significant part in keeping Nebraska a pro-life state. She holds the feet of the public officials to the fire. Many, including local press, have said: Check with Julie Schmit-Albin if you want to win. Much more important than the things that were said about her or the people who have said them is the powerful lifesaving difference that Julie Schmit-Albin has made in the lives of volunteers and for the lives of the unborn. She is, and always has been, a woman of deep love, kindness, compassion, and prayer. She understands pro-life advocacy, which includes reshaping the culture and transforming the hearts and minds of people one by one, little by little, and prayer by prayer. Perhaps none of us, even Julie herself, will truly know how many lives Julie Schmit-Albin has touched until she is surrounded and embraced by the multitudes of babies and others' thankful souls in heaven. We all owe a great deal to Julie Schmit-Albin. Though it's difficult to express in words my gratitude and the gratitude of so many others, I do want to say thank you, Julie. I have no doubt that generations to come will be thanking you, as well. Thank you, President Foley.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Albrecht. Members, we're on Final Reading. Please be at your desks. First bill is-- first bill is LB106. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return the bill to strike the enacting clause.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to return the bill.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I often quote a comment Abraham Lincoln made after he had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, and some people thought he ought not to have done that. They obviously hadn't read it. But at any rate, Lincoln said all people act for motive, that includes black people,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

and they had been promised freedom if they would fight for this country, and the promise being made, must be kept. On the Emancipation Proclamation, which people talk about but haven't read, it had no impact whatsoever, none whatsoever, except as a means to let black men who had been enslaved join the Union Army and fight for the country that enslaved them. It was a military expedient, and Lincoln made that clear. Here's what made it clear, but people who are not affected by something will not read it carefully, like those who are. Black people are affected by anything that happened with reference to the enslavement of our ancestors. Lincoln carefully carved out of the application of the Emancipation Proclamation every area where the United States was able to enforce it, any place where slaves existed which was not in rebellion against the Union. The Emancipation Proclamation had no effect whatsoever. The only places where it was designed to ostensibly have an effect was in those parts of the continent where the states, former states, the Confederacy, were in rebellion. It's like saying we have two people with handcuffs. I have handcuffs on me, Senator Groene has handcuffs on him. There is a key that could fit both sets of handcuffs, but the only key that is utilized is the one that will unlock Senator Groene's handcuffs, and I retain mine. In the places in rebellion, there was no way that the Union could enforce the requirement of the Emancipation Proclamation that, on the first day of January 1863, all those people enslaved-- and I'm paraphrasing for simplicity and in the interest of time, which I have plenty of, by the way-- they would be free. But in all of the areas not in rebellion, it would have no impact. And if you read it, you will see portions of states, other areas meticulously carved out so that the proclamation would have no impact there. So there were slaves who were affected by it, but it couldn't be enforced there. The slaves where it could be implemented, it did not have effect. And that's the shell game that white people in authority have always run on black people. When it says in that flag salute, "with liberty and justice for all," that never was true; it's not true now. And as I proceed this afternoon, I may have occasion to tell you how many years elapsed between the time when that flag salute was written and now, and black people still do not enjoy that wording of "liberty and justice for all." And the national anthem, as it's called, "The Star-Spangled Banner" otherwise, "O'er the land of the free," the land was not free; there was slavery. There remained slavery after the War of 1812, after the Battle of New Orleans in 1814, which, thanks to the actions of black men, the Battle of New Orleans went the way of the Union, and black men were not freed. I could total up the number of years between 1814, when Francis Scott Key wrote that lying song, until today-- and you'd know how many years elapsed-- and it is not true, even now. You all don't understand these things because it

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

didn't happen to you. But those of us who have ancestors who experienced actual slavery and those of us, their descendants today who suffer the aftermath of it, are very bitter, very lacking in confidence in this country and its government. And we know that, as long as there are white people and they are in control, there is going to be racial discrimination. There will be favoritism and privilege accorded white people. I talked to a woman today whose daughter married a man from Kenya, so you know that her grandchildren are what are called biracial. She understands very clearly now what is meant by racial discrimination practiced even against children, because her grandchildren, these brave white people with all of their atom bombs, with all of their missiles, with all of their tanks, bombs, airplanes, gases and whatnot, are still discriminating against black children whose parents, grandparents, relatives put on a uniform with the insignia of the flag, fighting enemies of this country-- enemies, as they tell it, freedom, and fighting for freedom, but not for the freedom of those black soldiers. Whether they were in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, it made no difference. Our skin color is what determined our status, not the color of the uniform we wore, because the uniform was that of the United States. And everybody who was white and wore that uniform had freedom, had a stake in the outcome of some of these battles. They wanted to retain that freedom and that status of privilege. And what made it especially galling is that the official policy of the military of the United States of America fighting to make the world safe for democracy, fighting for the freedom of people who would never come to this country, there was no freedom because, in that military, the segregation and discrimination, which were the official policy of the United States of America, with liberty and justice for all, the land of the free and the home of the brave, segregation was the official policy. If there is a hot battle going on and the rockets' red glare is seen, bombs bursting in air, and bullets whistling and whizzing, I can be integrated right there and put on the front line, and my blood can be spilled. But there is no freedom for me, even in that military of which I'm a part. And you all don't understand my bitterness. Oh, you understand it. You just don't want to hear about it. Then when I criticize--

FOLEY: One minute,

CHAMBERS: --merely using words, what you and yours do to us in this country every day, you get highly offended, you get incensed, you get insulted, and I'm just using words. And the words I'm using come largely from your constitution, your laws, your presidential proclamations, your Supreme Court decisions, and you get offended because I want to apply those things to the people you all hate. And

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

it is hate. Why do you think that bill that would make unlawful employment discrimination based on hairstyles was scheduled when it was? So that the Governor, in his racism, can veto it and there's no chance to override it. That's how they maintain segregation. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Good afternoon. Before I begin my comments, I'd like to thank Senator Cavanaugh for the use of her jumper cables yesterday. That was very thoughtful of you. I appreciated that, so did Senator-- so did Senator Clements. So I made comments earlier this morning about the COVID and I got-- I received several emails. I expected I would. It doesn't make any difference if you use the facts or you have scientific information, people are going to believe what they want to believe. So I received an email at noon, back home from my county commissioners. Morrill County is the county in which I live. It's the county that was the first one to have the Livestock Friendly designation. And here's the resolution that they adopted this morning at their regular meeting. I think it's kind of important that you hear this: Be it resolved by the chairperson and the County Board of Commissioners of the Morrill County, in Morrill County, Nebraska, whereas, after considering at the county level the effects of the government policy across the nation concerning the COVID virus pandemic, the virus policies regarding the virus and having arguably resulted in social ills, including: increased unemployment, business closures, suicides, poverty, domestic abuse, homelessness, alcohol and drug abuse; and whereas the Constitution of the State of Nebraska sets forth the following provisions applicable to all Nebraskans, emphasis added: All persons are by nature free and independent and have certain inherent inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without process of law nor be denied equal protection of the laws. All persons have the natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the directives of their own conscience-- nor shall any in-- any interference of these rights and conscience be permitted. The right of the people to peaceably assemble and consult for the common good, and petition the government, or any department thereof, shall never be abridged. The property of no person shall be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation there-- thereof. There shall be no discrimination between citizens of United States in respect to acquisition, ownership, possession, enjoyment, or descent of property. The enumeration of the rights shall be construed [SIC] to impair or deny others retained by the-- retained by the people, and all powers not

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

herein delegated remain with the people. Now, whereas the County Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska, therefore, being elected to office, have sworn allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Nebraska, and whereas the Morrill County Commissioners agree the rights bestowed upon Nebraskans by the Constitution of this state and the United States are inalienable and cannot be infringed upon by local-- local, state or federal authority. Now, therefore, having duly met at a regular meeting and considered the matter, for the aforementioned reasons, and in order to notify the public of its intent to refrain from any county-level, virus-related mandates that might infringe upon the rights enumerated to the residents of Morrill County by the Constitution of this state and the United States, including, but not limited to, mandatory mask requirements, mandatory contact trace-- tracing, mandatory social distancing, mandatory business closures or curtailment, restrictions on peaceable assembly, or any other matters that directly or indirectly infringe upon said rights, be it resolved that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners hereby express the intent of the board to both encourage the public to make appropriate virus-related healthcare decisions for themselves and their families. Be it further resolved that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners hereby express the intent of the board to refrain from enacting or supporting any county-level, virus-related mandates that might infringe upon the rights of the citizens of Morrill County--

FOLEY: One minute.

ERDMAN: --bestowed upon them by the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and the United States. That, ladies and gentlemen, is leadership. So I will get numerous emails about this. They have infringed upon our rights. They have taken those rights without authority. And this virus, even though it is significant, is not much more dangerous than the flu, but we've treated it differently. And I understand some people have died and I regret that. I hate that when people pass because of things like this. It happens. There's nothing we can do about that. And I'm really sorry that they didn't get the treatment that probably may have saved them because sometimes the doctors were afraid to use some of those treatments that they didn't think was appropriate. So we now have, and tested, and understood that there are treatments to treat COVID differently than when we first heard about it. And unless we open the schools and have life as it normally was, we're never going to get past this COVID. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Chambers.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, to pick up where I left off, if there was anything I could say that would give you all an inkling of what it is that I'm talking about, and if, as you listen, there is a shred of decency inside of you, you would respond in a positive way. That means that wherever you have the opportunity and the means, you would resist the ongoing segregation-- and there is segregation-- discrimination, injustice in the courts directed against not just black people or African Americans, but that entire collection of unwhite people known as people of color. But that's not going to happen. It has been 401 years since the first slaves landed in this country, 1619, at Jamestown, Virginia. From 1619 to 1719 is 100, or one century. From 1719 to 1819 is two centuries, or 200 years. From 1819 to 1919 is three centuries, or 300 years. From 1919 to 2019 is 400 years, or four centuries. This is 2020. This is the 401st year from the date that black people were brought to this country, against their will, to be slaves, to labor so that these white racists could do something that hadn't been done to that extent before: combine labor and capital-- and the same individual, the black slave, was the worker-- to bring from the earth things of value to enrich the one who purported to own him as property, own him like a cow, pig or a chicken. So on the one hand, he was the worker, or the labor; on the other hand, he has value as property, so he is capital. And to jump ahead, to show how twisted you all's thinking is, as intelligent as you profess to be, when the question of reparations is mentioned, white people say, no, no, no, no, no. But when the troops took over areas of the South and freed the slaves, do you know what happened? The United States Treasury compensated those slaveholders. And that's the way it was all over the white world. Even the UK, which is supposed to be so highly civilized-- Western civilization, the Renaissance-- owned black men and women. And there have been mixed-race people, as they call us, in every country where slavery has existed, and that meant our women and our girls were sexually exploited. And for some of you who pretend--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --that you don't know why I mentioned Senator Slama when I was talking about Thomas Jefferson and the rest of them misusing black women, I gave the name of a white woman you all know, and asked you how would you react to that if I did to her what these white men did to our women, and you still didn't understand, intentionally. You all knew what I was getting at, but you don't want to come to face with it. And I'll say it again. Suppose I did with one of the white women that you know, what Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and all the rest of them did, by force, against our women. You'd want to charge me with

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

a crime, wouldn't you? And if I sold your women for sexual purposes, you would call that trafficking, wouldn't you? Then you want to pretend you don't understand what I'm talking about. If I don't bring it and set it right on your front door, you pretend not to go-- know. And then when I set it on your front door, you deliberately misinterpret, misconstrue it--

FOLEY: That's time.

CHAMBERS: --and make it something that you know good and well that it's not, because you know your brothers--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --and sisters are as racist as you are, and you're trying to make an appeal to them.

FOLEY: That's time, Senator Chambers. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. I wasn't going to speak, but I can't-- there have been a lot of reckless things said on this floor. But today, when dealing with a global pandemic, there was some reckless things talked about regarding masks. There is no dispute on masks. Even President Trump is now wearing a mask. And I can't let that go unchecked when my family has been affected by COVID. Senator Erdman, I do know somebody who had COVID twice. He's my uncle in Texas. He had it once, two months while he was waiting for a surgery. He had it the first time, then he had to wait two months while he was waiting for his surgery, COVID free, and contracted it again. And his surgery was denied because, at the time, they had stopped all nonessential surgeries. He had to wait another 14 days. Then he waited another 30 days. And then his test came back again positive after that. He's one of the few people that I knew who have contracted it three times, nothing severe, because his body has built up immunes-- immune system to it and built up-- and built up the way to fight it. But, yes, I do know somebody who has contracted it more than once. When people on this floor's family members have passed, when individuals who on this floor may have contracted it, and individuals whose parents are currently going through it, to say that reminds me of a song where-- and I'm going to get it right because I don't like to misquote the song. All I want to say is that they don't really care about us. And I know that's not true because I've had so many conversations with that senator. It's important, what we say on this floor, and I know it because, for the last two weeks, I said some things I wish I could have taken back; and I'm humble enough to say

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

that. I'm humble enough to say that I wish there was a better way for me to go back and take those words back, that I've hurt people that I've cared about and friends that I've cared about. But I can't let that go unchecked. I can't sit back and say that's OK. Senator Dorn, I support your bill. I will vote for it, and I'm sorry I took time on your bill. But I don't want anybody watching to say that's not important, to say that masks aren't important. I take off my mike-- my mask to speak on this mike. I make sure I'm cognitive of Senator Morfeld, when he's wearing his mask and when he's not. I shift over to this way to talk if Senator Morfeld doesn't have his mask on; if he does, I talk this way. It's important because I'm personally dealing with it-- not me, but my family. And for the last two weeks, I've sat here and I've railed about procedures and those kind of things, and I've gotten emotional. And me and Senator Groene were just joking about next year we got to figure out which months we hate each other so we can work together on bills during those months. And after-- and actually, over the lunch break, Senator Kolterman and I toasted with some water--

FOLEY: One minute.

WAYNE: --about me losing and him winning, because we have some mutual respect for each other in this body. And it's important what we say on this floor. I'm man enough to own it. I'm man enough to say that when I'm wrong, I'm wrong. But I can't let it go unchecked that, at a very basic minimum, we have to wear a mask. And yes, it's about property rights, if you want to say that, or I think it's more about liberty interests. And the fact of the matter is, we had a bill on this, on this floor, a law since 1800 called indecent propo-- indecent exposure. You can't walk around naked. You can't expose your genitals. That has never been constitutionally challenged. You have to walk into certain areas with a shirt and shoes on. That has never constitutionally been challenged. Why is a mask different during this time, in a pandemic? It's because it's political, not backed by research--

FOLEY: That's time.

WAYNE: --and not backed by health.

FOLEY: That's time.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Vargas.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

VARGAS: Thank you very much, President. It's the last day of the session-- Jesus Christ. We have a responsibility when we get on this mike; you have a responsibility. And I'm not going to lie that Senator Erdman probably knows this. Hearing his words, I've had senators text me during this, being like, are you OK? There are people watching us, listening to us and what we say about this pandemic. They're listening to us. The reason they listen is because we're an elected official. We're supposed to be the most informed. We're supposed to be the most grounded in listening to our policy experts on things. We have a responsibility to try to uphold as much of the truths that we learn about everything. And in the midst of a pandemic, when we are hearing that this is just like the regular flu, I'm not going-- I'm not going to lie, it pisses me off because the people that have been hospitalized and the people that have died, there is absolutely nothing they can do now. To spread a false hope, when the FDA has continued to say that certain treatments are not treatments and have negative side effects, is also irresponsible. But here is what is responsible. Public health requires the public and ourselves to think about the public, to be proactively considering what our actions and behaviors, how they contribute to the greater good of our communities. They're usually preventative. If you haven't talked to your public health officials, they've always been doing things to try to prevent diseases. And in a period of a pandemic, we still have the gall to not listen to them, to not listen to our doctors and UNMC and the infectious diseases unit? And with a simple thing that has to do with either a mask or even conversations about a vaccine or about that this is still not that bad, is irresponsible. I-- I-- it-- it pains me that we have to have this conversation, because if you saw how this was disproportionately affecting people-- and Senator Wayne just said it, his own family-- then you would think twice about what you say on the mike about this, because we're not just talking about an ideology or philosophy. We're talking about whether or not we're going to listen to those individuals that have worked their entire lives in this field of study, and if we're going to listen to them or not, for the public good, to inform our state that there are things that we can do to protect each other. For every single person that believes that our economy, we need to do more to protect our small businesses and interests, you should be lining up to ensure that we're wearing a mask. You should be lining up to then social distance and it shouldn't be a joke.

FOLEY: One minute.

VARGAS: And I commend every single senator that's worn a mask and operates with that level of judiciousness; I really do. But we're

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

judged by what we do when nobody's looking. If you still think this is a joke, please come and talk to me. I am more than happy to talk to you about exactly every single minute that I was waiting to get a call from the doctor on whether or not my dad was going to get better, and when his CO2 levels dropped or when his lung collapsed. I'm more than happy to tell you. If that's going to help you get to a place where you actually understand and take this seriously, please come and talk to me. But, please, as a respect to the constituents of the state, do everything you can to ensure that we are elevating this to the seriousness it is, because that is one of our only responsibilities when we're in a period of a pandemic.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Vargas. Senator Chambers, you're recognized for your third opportunity.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I've already departed from what I said this morning, that nobody would be allowed to speak while my motion is up there, and if they want to speak, they'll have to put a motion on somebody's bill. But I, as a free moral agent, although not as a fully free person, I can change my mind. And as circumstances change, changed circumstances alter cases. There are serious matters that need to be discussed. And what Senator Wayne spoke about, followed by Senator Vargas, come right into the area I am concerned about: people who are being harmed under circumstances where at least that harm can be mitigated, but it's not because others choose not to do it. It's not going to make any difference to people like Senator Erdman to say anything, because his mind, as I say, is like concrete, all mixed up and permanently set. So you can say whatever you want to. You can do like black people have done, show the wounds in body, mind, and spirit to those who inflicted the wounds. And they'll just be pleased that they did as well as they did, but they're going to have to find a way to do it even more effectively, to take from you the will even to complain about it. So when you talk to people who are not going to be reasoned with, you discharge what you feel is your moral responsibility and obligation, but don't expect it to make any difference. If a difference were to be made, it would be made on the basis of what the scientists, what the medical professionals, what the facts are showing. In Georgia, a young girl was suspended because she took, with her telephone, a picture of students jam-packed in a corridor in school without masks. And she was suspended for showing that picture. Then what happened? A number of students came down with the virus, staff members, and now nobody's going to school there because some of them felt, like Senator Erdman, it's a hoax. Well, it is for him. And what he doesn't understand about these masks, they never said it was for you, the wearer. They said it

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

would stop what you project into the world from going out there and infecting other people. But they like to say, those who feel like Senator Erdman, I have a right. Because I read your constitution and I read the cases handed down by your United States Supreme Court, which is the ultimate arbiter of what any law enacted by any legislature, state or federal, means. And to summarize, so that even a fool can understand it, your constitutional right ends where my nose begins. You don't have a Constitutional right to put your hands on me. So you can wave, you can spit on your hands--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --but you don't have a right to put your hands on me, under the constitution. So when what you do carries the risk of harming other people, common decency, recognizing social graces, mutual obligations and respect, you would observe those things that will protect other people from you. See, I washed my hands so much, even before they talked about the virus, that people laughed at me. I stopped shaking hands years ago because I read about the transmission of harmful little critters that I couldn't even see. So I will not try to persuade anybody to wear a mask who doesn't want to wear one. Jesus said they will not believe the one come back from the dead. Well, we have those who are dead. They cannot come back, but their survivors are speaking--

FOLEY: That's time.

CHAMBERS: --and they're not believed. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I wasn't going to speak and had no plans to. But the issue kind of at hand, that Senator Wayne and Senator Vargas has already addressed, kind of compelled me to. And I wanted to share-- we've talked about this. You all saw me in the-- the east balcony, the penalty box, the COVID choir; we've had some kind of cheerful names for it. And I wanted to be 100 percent clear what had happened, was that I, in this building, had a 20-minute, half-an-hour conversation, face to face, with somebody who had COVID, tested positive for COVID, and on a day that they were actively risking transmission of the virus. It was when-- within 72 hours of onset of symptoms and all of that. They were wearing a mask, I was wearing a mask. I have tested negative since then. I bring that up because, if I had slipped up in that moment, I don't know if we would have been able to finish session. I don't know if I would have been able to finish session. And I bring that up because there are

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

some of us-- and we see this time and time again-- there are some of us who are-- there are some of us who are trying to do the right thing, trying to do the right thing more to protect others and more to protect the body. If you don't want to join us, fine, but don't lecture and act like you're the ones being the heroes. The reason we were able to finish session is because people-- enough people wore masks, enough people took precautions, enough people avoided events that we didn't have a breakout, as we've seen in multiple other state capitals. We'll see how this continues. We'll see if all of us are still around and able to come to January. Frankly, with some of these attitudes, I doubt it. And that's going to be heartbreaking, that's going to be sad, and I hope that's not the case. But staring at the face of just reality, that's what I think we're coming up. So when we talk about real leadership, that was the-- that was the thing that got me to turn on my light, a mention of real leadership. Trying to show what you can do-- trying to show what you can do, advocating for the people who've needed, you guys think this is-- yeah. I can't even finish this thought. I commend and congratulate Senator Vargas because that's what I believe true leadership on this issue has looked like. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Matt Hansen. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Sure. Thank you, Mr. President. For old time's sake, I yield the balance of my time to Senator Chambers.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, 4:50.

CHAMBERS: I'm sorry, I didn't hear.

FOLEY: You've been recognized for 4:50.

CHAMBERS: Oh. Thank you, Senator Howard. Members of the Legislature, sometimes you have to use metaphor, analogy, simile. These are things where what you say may not be literally true, but using one of those methods, you will make something clear that is true, which otherwise the person listening may not understand. So there was a man named Martin Luther King, and he had "Jr." attached his name, and he gave a speech; and people called it an iconic speech. And he said words to the effect that he looked for the day when white men, black men, Protestants and Catholics, Jews and Gentiles, men and women, from Stone Mountain, Georgia, to the hamlets here and the streets there, will join hands and say, as one: Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we're free at last. That will never be for black people. But by analogy, look at Cyrus, the virus. Cyrus has attacked men, women, black people, white people, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Gentiles,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

Muslims, and any other categorization you want to make for people. Cyrus is no respecter of persons. Trump can tell you, if you're a fool, it is a hoax, and Cyrus says, these are the jokes that make my work much easier, I can just lay back now and these fools will infect each other. So when you people don't wear masks, you're showing disrespect for the people around you. You don't-- the common courtesies. Now I only use words. I haven't walked up to anybody and blown my breath in that person's face. I haven't done that. I haven't walked up and put my hands on anybody, but if I don't wear a mask, that means I'm willing to put others at risk because I'm hardheaded, I'm ignorant, and I'm following Trump. But now he occasionally wears a mask and people around him are coming down with the coronavirus. A man who was black-- based on his skin but not his mentality-- who ran Godfather's Pizza, his name was Herman Cain, and he was more "Repelican" than the "Repelicans." And he went without a mask to one of Donald Trump's mass meetings. He caught the virus and he died. Now, if this were the type of sin that carries its own punishment, those who disregard the welfare of others are the ones who would die, but they infect others and those others will die. Trump said children are immune. Well, scores of children have now died, but there are still these dumbbells who will say, well, children are immune. You all are letting Trump say he will--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --take money from school districts that are not opening their schools and transfer it to where the schools are open. So he is underwriting with federal dollars, which boil down to taxpayer money, the transmission of a disease. Now he gets tested several times and, if anything is amiss, they can at least try to do something for him. But he doesn't care about other people's children. And all of you who are so concerned about fetuses, zygotes, and the rest, why aren't you concerned about these children who are born, who are here, who are menaced right while we talk? Why don't you get up on your hobbyhorse and say something about them and in their behalf? Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Well, the COVID virus has been kind of a giant biology experiment, and all the evidence is not in yet. There are contrary views here and there on the Internet about mask wearing, whether you can have the virus again. Just having a little trouble getting my breath there; sorry about that. I'm getting a little bit wound up. And to take something that you saw on the Internet that happens to agree with your contrary personality or your politics, and then to represent

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

that as fact when you don't know whether it's fact or not, is irresponsible. And, you know, you need to-- you need to have lived through it to understand the helplessness that you feel. You know, there were times I couldn't even roll over in bed. They had to come in and flip you over. You know, how-- how low are you at that point? And for somebody to come in and say that, you know, not wearing masks is-- is somehow a communist plot, is irresponsible. I just can't describe it any other way. We don't know what it does, whether it helps; it appears to help. But until we get through this and assemble all the data, we're not going to know the results and what worked and what didn't. But having lived through it, I can tell you this is nothing to mess with, nothing to mess with. I talked to one of my friends. She had it. She was in the hospital about four weeks, and she had nosebleeds from all the oxygen they blew up her nose, and she was constantly trying to manage these nosebleeds. I had the same thing. And they were so concerned about damaging something in your nose, they wouldn't do anything about it. So that was left to us, in our sick condition, to manage those nosebleeds. And I got so I couldn't breathe one night. And I told the nurse. I said, you need to look up my nose and check this out. And she said, oh, we can't do anything, otherwise we have to pack your nose, it's going to be a mess. Well, I'm exaggerating a little bit, shorting-- shortening the story a bit. But luckily, Nurse Nick took a chance-- took a forceps, tweezers, and pulled a clot out of my nose the size of a Lit'l Smokies sausage. So you go jam a Lit'l Smokies sausage up your nose and see how you breathe, and then complain about wearing a mask. Come on, you guys. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Moser. Senator Chambers, you are recognized to close.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I tell you that all the things that I do on this floor are within the rules, but rules do not embrace and encompass everything that comprises our duty and our responsibility. They are there to help facilitate what it is we're doing, but they do not comprise the totality of what it is that we do. A train track is a means for the train to get from one point to the other, but there is no direct involvement between that track and the operative parts of a train. When you are in a place where there are other people, other human beings, and they are supposed to be civilized, they are supposed to acknowledge and recognize certain amenities. Now, when I speak, some of you all become outraged. But I haven't ever done anything that hurt you physically or could have hurt you physically. But in you all's splendid ignorance, backwardness, you don't mind being a threat to your fellow senators.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

Now I'm like that butterfingered baseball player who can't catch anything; I don't get sick. The only time I was in a hospital-- I wasn't even born in a hospital-- was when I got a colonoscopy, and that's after I was 70 years old. They said that I had the cleanest colon that they had ever dealt with. And I told the doctor that before I came here, I got this list of things that I'm supposed to do, foods not to be eaten, liquids not to be consumed because they will cause discoloration, all the water you should drink, and this-- people describe it as very foul tasting and hard to swallow, but it wasn't difficult for me at all. But I followed everything to the letter. And as a result, after I lived more years than the "Bibble" say a person is entitled to-- three score and ten, 70, I had lived more than that-- living on borrowed time, had the cleanest colon they had seen. You go to the doctor for a reason. If you're not going to follow the doctor's advice, based on medical knowledge, understanding, and experience, don't waste that money; self-medicate. And if you die, you say you died for your beliefs and everybody says amen, and it would have been good if he had done it sooner and people would not have been hurt. There are some people who listen to these outstate Nebraska senators, think that they know something, but let them do that. Jesus had disciples who believed in Jesus so much, and they thought what he said was so true that it bothered them viscerally when people did not believe, did not accept what was obvious to everybody. Well, Jesus was what would be called on the street, he is one cool cat. So he listened to them. He said, let me tell you one thing, they are blind, when the blind lead the blind, they both shall fall into the ditch, leave them alone. So leave those alone who won't wear a mask. But if they get sick or they bring the virus to people in their family, I'll bet they'll take them to a hospital. And I'll bet they will want--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --somebody to tend them. And I'll bet they will want people who tend them to wear protective clothing and equipment. But when it's not upon them, when the wolf is not on their door howling, they disregard it. But when the wolf sits on their door, they call out for everybody: Come and save me. And as the "Bibble" said some people said, the summer is past, the harvest is finished, and we are not saved. But these hospital people will not take out on these people's relatives the foolishness of those who may have infected them at home. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: I want to withdraw that motion.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

FOLEY: The motion has been withdrawn. LB106, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: [READ LB106 ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB106 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, Groene, 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, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

FOLEY: LB106 passes. LB219, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to return the bill, Mr. President.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This is not the era of good feeling. I'm going to proceed. I'm not going to say how many bills I will speak on or anything. Circumstances will be the determining factor, and you won't know that until I tell you. I am going to read something that may touch you if you've ever lost a child who had to be buried. But let me tell you what I did, and I had never lost a child. I read the newspaper and, sad to say for me, I empathize with people, even my enemies, when they are facing what could be a human crisis, not of their making. And if I can help, old foolish me, I will help. But unlike God, I will not punish the children for the sins of the fathers. I will not treat children in such a way that the "Bibble" could say the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge, nor would I show the kind of justice of your just God that says, I will punish this people down to the third and fourth generation. Children not even born will be punished for those four generations back. Then why are you all upset with me when I want to hold you accountable for what your forebears did and you are continuing to do? I'm not mad at you because of what they did-- they are responsible-- but the fact that you are continuing it and you want to justify what they did. In the law, there is a principle known as being an accessory after the fact. You may not even know about the fact or the bad event when it occurred. You had no role to play in it. And the only thing that tied you to it was contact--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

conduct after it had been done. Let me tell you what I did one day. I read the newspaper, and I picked up a newspaper, written of, by, and for white people, about a white man. And you know what had happened to that white man? His baby had died and was buried, like Lazarus. But there was no Jesus who, after three days, said, Lazarus, come forth. And there were people who told Jesus, don't say that. And in the words of Shakespeare, me thinketh he stinketh. They just said, after these days, he stinks. But Jesus knew something they didn't know. Based on all the stories that are told, he had the power, not only over death, but over odors and aromas. And so he went to the place, called a tomb, where Lazarus had been buried and had been lying there moldering for three days. And Jesus said, in a loud voice-- Jesus didn't have to speak in a loud voice for Lazarus. Lazarus could not hear; it was not a matter of noise. There was a power that Jesus had which, without uttering a word, could be called into play. But Jesus was speaking for those people around him: the Erdmans, the Hallorans, the Lowes-- I don't see all of them-- Arches, no, he's not wearing a mask-- all those who won't wear the mask. Jesus spoke in a loud voice so they could hear. He said, Lazarus, come forth. And guess what? Lazarus obeyed. The clutches of death were loosed. The Grim Reaper whom, because of modern day technology, is now known as the International Harvester, had no power when Jesus was on the scene. But there was no Jesus for this man I read about, so he took matters into his own hands. He went out to the cemetery where his baby was buried, went to the grave marked with that tombstone. It had two dates and a dash in between, and so little time had passed from the first date to the second date that anybody reading that would know that the person underground, marked by that stone, had not been here very long. But he went with a shovel and he began to dig. If you've ever watched Frankenstein movies, he had a fellow named Igor who did his dirty work, literally in the dirt, and you'd see Igor digging. Well, this was not Igor. This man was not digging for Dr. Frankenstein. He was digging to find his child, and he dug a certain depth. Then the shovel struck something that was not earth; it was a coffin. And he opened that coffin lid, and the contents comprised his dead child. And he picked up the body of that child, dressed as a child is dressed for burial, carried that dead, cold child to his car, gently, tenderly, loving that child, laid it on the seat-- and I say "it" because there was no longer that which makes it human, it was just earth in a different form-- made his way to the hospital, carried that lifeless little body to a doctor, and said, this is my child; heal him. And the doctor did what the doctor would have to do. Discharging his civic responsibility, he called the police. And the police, doing what they had to do because it's in line with their duties, they had to arrive on the scene. They took a report. They got the information, which you

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

would call evidence in this situation, that this is the man who dug up this grave, violated the grave, desecrated a corpse, and did other things that would be illegal. So he had to go to jail. Why did he go to jail? Because he did what a father who loves a child and loses a child, and with the loss of that child loses his mental equilibrium and does something that anybody who felt like he felt that at the time would have done the same thing in that situation. There is a man known as the prosecutor. His job is to bring charges and prosecute anybody who has committed a crime in the county when he is convinced-- he or she-- that there is evidence enough to convict, and looking at just the words on the paper and seeing only the words on the paper, no blood in him, no human compassion in him, just an automaton with a law degree, the winner of an election, knowing what you on paper are told to do and not being able to look beyond what those words say and understand what they mean, filed charges. And a black man who didn't know the father, didn't know the child--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --lived hundreds of miles away from this white man, read about it in the paper. And I'm sure people in the town read about it. I'm sure white people and other people in other parts of the state read about it. But it took a black man to take action. And I went to the media and I spoke of what a terrible thing it is in a set of circumstances such as these. I will stop now and I'll finish it when I'm recognized. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. I have been cleaning, going through my desk this afternoon, and I found a few things that I'd like to share. One is this Unicameral Update from March of 2019, and it is a picture of Senator Crawford talking to Senator Matt Hansen and myself about the paid family leave proposal. And then down below is a picture of Senator Rick Kolowski on his bill to clarify in-school behavioral health coverage, that it advanced. And I thought that was apropos that this was in my desk, actually a big stack of them. I'm very-- must have been very excited when I found these because this is their last day in the-- in this Chamber. I also found a piece of paper with five things written on it, Senator Bolz, Senator-- yes, Senator Bolz, five things: redlining, transportation, housing, food deserts, paid family medical leave. I guess that's my list. Probably wasn't intentionally my list, but it was the list that was in my desk. And I-- I think most people would agree that it's pretty darn close to what my list would be if I made an intentional list. And then I found-- well, first of all, I owe this back to

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

Senator Howard; it's kept me warm the last couple of days. But I also found cosmic orange and-- I don't know, is this key lime green? Did we decide? Key lime green, the budget that Senator Bolz had so diligently worked on with, of course, the rest of the Appropriations Committee, but today is her last day, not yours. And then the pièce de résistance, the YRTC report. Senator Sara Howard, Chairwoman Howard, you are amazing. You all are amazing. I'm going to miss all of you so very much. This is spectacular. It is heartbreaking, but it is spectacular. I keep finding copies of the spreadsheet. You must have given me like 20, because I keep finding more and more. She wanted to make sure that we all knew what was in all of our bills. To have accomplished what we accomplished over-- and it started last August-- in one year, to accomplish this report, this breadth of work, and then to have gotten all of those bills through the Legislature, through our committee, through the Legislature and signed into law, it-- it will not soon be forgotten, Senator Howard. I will miss you terribly. Senator Chambers, I found really terrible illustrations that I did of you last year when you were filibustering. I know that I gave you one of them that is much better. None of them are that great; I'm not-- I'm not the artist that you are. But I do spend time looking at you when you're-- when you're talking on the microphone and I apparently, last year, decided to start drawing you, so that is my tribute to you. Perhaps even some of my-- the items on my list are a tribute to you, as well. Thank you, Senator Chambers. You will be missed. You all will be missed so terribly. And I'm just fascinated, listening to the conversation today, and so appreciative to have every last moment to hear the words that Senator Chambers has to share with us. I don't believe that this is the end for him, but if it is, I'm glad to have a front-row seat to this moment in history and to hear what you have to say, because you bring a perspective that is unique--

FOLEY: One minute.

CAVANAUGH: --thank you-- unto this body, this state, and this nation. You have done more to hold people accountable, to create transparency in government, to remind us all of what's important. And it's not politics, and it's not partisan; it's people. Every single day, Senator Chambers, you work for people. You work for the people of your district. And whether you like it or not, you work with the people in this body, and you make us better. So thank you. I yield the remainder of my time.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, compliments are like perfume. You sniff, but you do not swallow it. I

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

don't mean I resent it, but the thing I would rather see is people doing what we, as a Legislature, have to-- power to do. I could not have come to this Legislature and passed a resolution and achieved anything-- they may not have even voted for because I was bringing it-- so I had the obligation to act in the situation that I've been describing. And what I did was to make noise about what this father was confronting, which were criminal charges. And the prosecutor took note, and what I had said, because I didn't want to give a long statement. This man loved that child. The child died. The man could not accept that, as many people cannot accept the fact that a loved one has died, and he went farther than other people might go. But it's still in the same bailiwick. What this man needs, if anything, is empathy and, more than that, understanding. And when somebody is in a state of mental-- mental agony, anguish, and turmoil, that he would do what that man did in digging up his child's body and taking the body to the hospital and believing that somebody in that hospital could restore that child to life, what he needed was not punishment by the criminal law, but understanding from people who ought to know better than to allow this to happen. And guess what happened? The prosecutor agreed the man should not be charged criminally. There should be some understanding and compassion extended. And I didn't read it, but I suspect that there might have been groups who came to his aid at that point because now it had been publicized. And when something is publicized, people pay attention and want to be a part of it. Why should not I, as a black man who-- I know I'm hated and feared more than anybody in this state-- why should I take it upon myself to help this white man escape charges when he did, in fact, violate the law? The law is not infallible. Laws are passed by flawed people like those you see in this Legislature, who will pass something like you all did with LB814, for a motive other than to do that which is decent, proper, and appropriate, but rather what a church, a political party, or whatever said ought to be done. The few people such as myself are the ones who can only remind you and call attention to how far off the mark you are, and try to persuade you, to embarrass you, to cajole you to get your moral compass calibrated and do that which is right, because that's what you took an oath to do. But it's words. For Senator Vargas, what I was going to say the other day when he was telling us about the workers dying in these meatpacking plants, how many deaths will it take till they know too many people have died?

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: It just wasn't the right people; it wasn't the white people. And then the response, the answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind; the answer is blowing in the wind. What would happen to a leaf if the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

wind was blowing and I released it? It would blow away. So these words "blowing in the wind" were blown away. You could say 10,000 died, 10,000 times 10,000. But they're not the right ones. More concern would be given for one white people-- one white person who died than thousands of those designated people of color die, because we have been dehumanized. We're not members of the human family. We are things, we are objects, and sex objects at that, and you all want to pretend that you don't know why, metaphorically, I referred to one of your own.

FOLEY: That's time, Senator. Senator Chambers, you're recognized for your third opportunity.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. But after January, I'll be out of here. And you all can then do, unimpeded, those things that you ought not do. And I cannot stop you, but I want to make it as difficult for you as possible. I want to make you uncomfortable. Now this Jesus that you all talk about so much, when he was being tempted after he had been in the wilderness 40 days without eating, hungry, and the devil, the father of lies, took him up on a mountain and said: Look out there, Jesus. You see all of that? If you fall down and worship me, I will give you all of that. I am the king of this world. Your daddy made me king of this world, and I can do with it what I want. If you think that's not good-- so just go talk to him about when he and I had a bet about Job and what he let me do to Job. Well, you just jump off this cliff. And there are angels. He's given them charge over you. Your angels will come and they will bear you up lest you dash your foot against a stone. So, Jesus, just spread your arms and jump, and all of this will be yours. Jesus was hungry. Right then he was thinking, if I even had a hot dog-- it doesn't even have to have mustard and ketchup. See, Jesus knew all this stuff before you all did, because he knew a lot. He said: But I'm not going to give it all up for a hot dog. I won't give it up for a ham sandwich. I won't give it up for a pork chop sandwich. I will not give it up for the whole world. Satan, get thee behind me. And Satan had to leave him alone. Well, what Donald Trump told all these Christians, you put me in the White House and I will give you all of these things, all of these laws. All you have to do is put all that religious mumbo jumbo aside. Forget that I grab women by their crotches. Forget that I use profanity. Forget that your religions say you shouldn't be married more than once, and I got two wives and I've dallied with prostitutes and I've made payoffs to these women. Oh, I'm soiled. I'm damaged goods, but if you worship me, I will give you what no president ever gave you before. And his strongest supporters now are the religious people who supposedly are fundamentalists, who are evangelicals, who

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

believe every word in the Bible, the way it's written. But old Satan got them. But Satan today was a psychopath, a womanizer, a sexual assaulter. And when I get recognized again-- is this my third time, Mr. President?

FOLEY: Yes, it is.

CHAMBERS: Then I'll have a chance to close, but I'll stop for now. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You are recognized to close.

CHAMBERS: I'm going to show you all what hypocrites you "Repelicans" are, what hypocrites you "Repelicans" are. I know you read the paper. I know you watch the news. Now, when some woman who is discredited, when she made the allegations, said that many years ago when she worked as an aide for Joe Biden, he caught her on the steps and he-- he felt her and he penetrated her with his finger. And that was in the news all over and over. She'd never told anybody at the time. There were people who said that they didn't believe it, but it was in the newspaper. Well, you know what I heard on news about a week ago? There was a woman who brought a charge against Donald Trump of defamation. She said he had raped her. He said she lied. She alleged that his calling her a liar constituted defamation, and she sued him. And Trump got all of the best lawyers he could to try to get it thrown out of court. And she also wanted his DNA. And guess what the judge said? This lawsuit is not going to be thrown out. It can continue. You don't hear them-- that's not on the news much now, is it? Because Trump has got them all blinded, all these Christians in here following Trump, a womanizer. He laughed about grabbing women in their private parts, Senator Clements. He laughed about it on tape and said you can grab them anywhere you want to when you're famous, you can do anything with them you please, and he used the kind of language to describe a woman's private parts that I don't use because I'm not a Christian or a Republican. Paid women off, and it was established he'd been dallying. When you pay a woman for favors, or a man, sexual favors, that's prostitution. So he is guilty of prostitution. He joked about sexually assaulting. He's married more than once-- all the things that these so-called Christian evangelicals don't believe in. But he told them, I'll give you what you always wanted, so overlook that. And that's why I say all these religions are hypocritical. The strongest church, which is anti-abortion, I wrote you a rhyme about it today. Deacons, brothers, priests, archbishops, bishops, cardinals, and before they became popes, who became popes, who had sexual contact with young boys and young girls, by the way, the reason they don't want abortion, they want some more little boys to be born so they'll

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

have more victims. Now that's what I can say about that church. And what's worse about it is that the higher-ups covered up for these wrongdoers. Jesus referred to these kind of people who did these wrongful things as ravening wolves, and that the shepherd gives his life for the sheep. But instead of giving their life for the sheep, even metaphorically, these bishops, and in some cases archbishops, because a bishop would be the offender, they'd be sent to dioceses--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --without telling the sheep who were going to become victims that this is a ravening wolf I'm sending among you, who has assaulted and sexually abused children, and I'm going to send him among you because he needs some new flesh. And that's what that church has done. One of the worst offenders was Bishop-- well, this-- he was a cardinal. Cardinal Bernard Law presided over the worst child sexual abuse scandal in America. The one called Benedict XVI, who was known as Joseph Ratzinger in Germany when he was a cardinal-- I call him Ratzinger, the rat-- had placed Cardinal Law, discredited Cardinal Law, over the second largest basilica in Rome. It was a church named after Mary, the mother of you all's savior.

FOLEY: That's time.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I withdraw that motion.

FOLEY: Motion is withdrawn. LB219-- Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with Final Reading.

FOLEY: The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [READ TITLE OF LB219.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB219 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, Groene, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senator Lowe. 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, Mr. President.

FOLEY: LB219 passes. Proceeding now to LB238.

CLERK: [READ LB238 ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB238 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Blood, Bolz, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Matt Hansen, Hilkemann, Howard, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Clements, Erdman, Groene, Halloran, La Grone, Lowe, Moser, Slama. Not voting: Senators Arch, Brewer, Briese, Chambers, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hughes, Linehan, and Murman. 27 ayes, 10 nays, 12 present and not voting.

FOLEY: LB238 passes. Next bill, LB450.

CLERK: [READ LB450 ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB450 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, Groene, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Hughes and Chambers. Senator Hughes voting yes. 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not votin-- 1 excused and not voting, excuse me.

FOLEY: LB450 passes. LB450A.

CLERK: [READ LB450A ON FINAL READING.]

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

FOLEY: LB450-- All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB450A 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, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pan-- Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Chambers and Pansing Brooks. 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused and not voting.

FOLEY: LB450A passes. LB477.

CLERK: [READ LB477 ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB477 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Arch, Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Clements, Groene, Lowe. Not voting: Erdman, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Kolowski, Chambers, Pansing [SIC]. 39 ayes, 4 nays, 4 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting.

FOLEY: LB477 passes. LB477A.

CLERK: [READ LB477A ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB477A pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, La Grone, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Quick, Scheer, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Clements, Groene,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

Lowe. Not voting: Senators Bolz, Erdman, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Kolowski, Chambers, and Pansing Brooks. 38 ayes, 4 nays, 5 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting.

FOLEY: LB477A passes. Next bill is LB515. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing of the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 10 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

FOLEY: The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read with the title.

CLERK: [READ TITLE OF LB515.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB515 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Blood, Bolz, Cavanaugh, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Gragert, Matt Hansen, Hilkemann, Howard, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Murman, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Clements, Erdman, Groene, Lowe, Moser. Not voting: Senators Arch, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Friesen, Geist, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hughes, Kolowski, La Grone, Linehan, Slama, Chambers, and Pansing Brooks. 26 ayes, 7 nays, 14 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting.

FOLEY: LB515 passes. Senator Kolterman, your light is on, but I cannot recognize you. Next bill is LB607. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 32 [SIC] ayes, 5 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

FOLEY: The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [READ TITLE OF LB607.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, LB-- shall LB607 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. My apology, we're going to wait 35 seconds more. Record, please.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Blood, Bolz, Bostelman, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Gragert, Matt Hansen, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Clements, Erdman, Geist, Groene, Halloran, Matt Hansen [SIC], La Grone, Lowe, Slama. Not voting: Senators Arch, Brewer, Briese, Friesen, Hilgers, Murman, Chambers, and Pansing Brooks. 31 ayes, 10 nays, 6 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting.

FOLEY: LB607 passes. Next bill is LB607A.

CLERK: [READ LB607A ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB607A pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Blood, Bolz, Brandt, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Gragert, Matt Hansen, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Clements, Erdman, Geist, Groene, Ben Hansen, La Grone, Lowe, Murman, Slama. Not voting: Senators Arch, Bostelman, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Friesen, Halloran, Hilgers, Linehan, Chambers, and Pansing Brooks. 28 ayes, 10 nays, 9 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting.

FOLEY: LB607A passes. Next bill is LB632. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Cavanaugh would move to return the bill.

FOLEY: Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized to open on your motion on returning the bill.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you. How much time do I have?

FOLEY: 10:00.

CAVANAUGH: OK, thank you. Good afternoon, colleagues. I do not want to return this bill. I just wanted to take some time because our-- our-- our dear colleague who has spent more time in this Chamber than any of us, including our Clerk, is-- just has stepped out for a few minutes. And so I just, in his absence, wanted to share some words. Really, song lyrics seems apropos because he is-- Senator Chambers does love a good song. I-- I'm not a singer, though, so I'm-- I'm going to just

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

read the-- the song lyrics. I-- these are songs that I was listening to on my drive in this morning, and they made me think of Senator Chambers. I will say, I don't-- I don't know for sure, but I don't think Senator Chambers drinks, so that part of this one song does not make me think of Senator Chambers, but the song itself. So this one is called "Cups," and it is in one of my favorite movies, "Pitch Perfect," which is just a fantastic gal-pal type of romantic com-- not really a romantic comedy, just a comedy. OK. So, "I got my ticket for the long way 'round, two bottle o' whiskey for the way, and I sure would like some sweet company, I'm leaving tomorrow. What do you say? When I'm gone, when I'm gone, you're going to miss me when I'm gone. You're going to miss me by my hair, you're going to miss me everywhere. Oh, you're going to miss me when I'm gone. I got my ticket for the long way 'round, the one with the prettiest of views. It's got mountains, it's got rivers, it's got sites to give you shivers, but it sure would be prettier with you. When I'm gone, when I'm gone, you're going to miss me when I'm gone. You're going to miss me by my walk, you're going to miss me by my talk. Oh, you're going to miss me when I'm gone." So that's the first song that made me think of Senator Chambers, because I sure am going to miss him-- sometimes, probably not all the time; sometimes it'll be a relief. But then I'll have to talk a lot more. No, just kidding. I'll never talk as much as he does. OK. Here's the other song that I was listening to this morning on the way in, and it is called "Brave," by Sara Bareilles. Is anyone in here a singer? I'm not a singer. Is anyone a singer? Looking around, no, nobody's-- Myron, Senator Dorn? Senator Dorn, are you a singer? Would you want to sing this song?

DORN: No, I'm not a singer. No.

CAVANAUGH: Oh, he's not. Oh, OK.

_____ : Just say no.

CAVANAUGH: Just say no. [LAUGH]

DORN: Just Chambers.

CAVANAUGH: Just Chambers is a singer. I'm-- OK. I am going to read this song now unless somebody wants to come tell me otherwise. How many-- how much time do I have left?

FOLEY: 6:50.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, 6:50, and I am not-- I'm-- OK. If nobody wants me to do this, then they should come over and talk. Nope? OK. Here's

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

"Brave" by Sara Bareilles: You can be amazing, you can turn a phrase into a weapon or a drug. You can be the outcast or be the backlash of somebody's lack of love. You-- sorry, I don't have my glasses-- or you can start speaking up. Nothing's going to hurt you the way that words do, and they settle 'neath-- beneath your skin, kept on the inside and no sunlight, sometimes a shadow wins. But I wonder what would happen if you say what you want to say and let the words fall out. Honestly, I want to see you be brave with what you want to say and let the words fall out. Honestly, I want to see you be brave. There's a whole chorus here. I'm not-- I'm going to skip the chorus. All right, I'm going to talk about something else now. Let's go back to my desk here. I want to thank Senator Matt Hansen. I was cleaning out my desk and, even though you're not term limited and this isn't your last day, I'm still going to thank you because my bill, LB945, is just sitting here, and it was inside of LB881. And so because of your generosity and collegiality, a very important piece of legislation that is going to require a report on untested sexual assault evidence kits is now going to be enacted into law. So thank you, Senator Hansen. Where is Senator Wayne? OK, I'm just going to say some other things about childcare. We got some updates on childcare today. They are good news, good news for childcare in-- in Nebraska. But I don't want to misspeak and-- OK, just going to keep talking. How much time do I have left? I'm sure everybody's wondering how I could be at a loss for words. I know. I know, Senator Blood; it is shocking. It is shocking. How much time do I have left?

FOLEY: 4:20.

CAVANAUGH: Oh, I'm done. OK, I yield my time. I pull my motion. Thank you.

FOLEY: Motion has been withdrawn. LB632. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading.

FOLEY: The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [READ TITLE OF LB632.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB632 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

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

FOLEY: LB632 passes. Next bill is LB866e. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB866. Senator Wayne would move to return the bill for a specific amendment.

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

WAYNE: And this will be very short, Mr. President. Thank you. Colleagues, what-- what-- what was going on here, and I just want to be transparent, was two of our colleagues are attending a good way-- a goodbye rally for Senator Chambers. This is a E clause bill; it requires 30. And I made the call on my bill that, rather than hold this body up-- I know you want to get out of here-- whatever the fate of this will be the fate. What happens is, if the E clause is not matched with 30, the bill still passes; however, it won't be implemented until pretty much almost next year. So I know there were individuals on first round-- or Select File who were very upset with me and did not vote for this or was present, not voting. I hope we don't make policy decisions that way. And I will suffer the fate of this body with two people being gone. But I do think, out of respect for the body, I'm not going to wait until Senator Pansing Brooks and Senator Chambers come back. We will move forward with this vote. This is a good bill, and I hope people will vote green on the underlying bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wayne, were you leaving your motion up?

WAYNE: I'm leaving my motion up for one second.

FOLEY: Thank you. Just for clarification, Senator, it's 33 votes required for the E clause.

WAYNE: Thank you.

FOLEY: Senator Hunt, you're recognized.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Wayne. One piece of wisdom that I often think about-- and you hear these different things different places, and they stick with you. And I, I heard this a long time ago, and it's stuck with me for years. And it's something Senator Chambers said to a reporter. He said: Success for me is doing what is available for me to do. And that has been a mantra in my head for years, for a long time, especially in Nebraska, where I feel like I work on a lot of issues that are an uphill battle. And many of you, no matter what your political persuasion is, probably feel the same way. He says: Life is hard by the yard and a cinch by the inch, and there's nothing so terrible that you can't handle it one instant at a time. And I think it's very important for my morale that I never expect justice to happen, but you just continue to work toward it. And that way you never burn out because you never thought there was going to be a success, because success for me is doing what is available for me to do. DHHS collects statistics about abortions, about data on abortions and pregnancy terminations every year. And we know from their data a lot about the state of women's healthcare in Nebraska. Every woman is different. Every pregnancy is different. And that's why abortion bans, like the one we passed today, are wrong. I believe that Nebraska women who seek abortion care are not evil. In fact, most of them are already mothers. Nebraska women need medical care for different reasons. And I won't join most of you in shaming them for protecting their lives, their health, and their families. Let's talk about who gets abortion care in Nebraska. According to the most recent statistical reports from DHHS, about 2,000 women a year in Nebraska receive abortion care. Ninety percent of them are women in their 20s and 30s. They seek care for different reasons, such as: they lack access to birth control; they were raped; they were victims of incest, which the bill we passed had no exception for; the mother's life and health was at risk; or they had a diagnosed fetal anomaly; or for socioeconomic reasons. Most Nebraska women receive abortion care earlier in pregnancy but, for a host of reasons, some seek abortion care later in pregnancy, and some need a standard dilation and evacuation procedure when they receive that care. According to the Nebraska Statistical Report, sampling just the last 10 years, about 1,000 women received a standard D&E in Nebraska. And here's what's relevant about those statistics, no matter what opponents say. Abortion is on the decline in the United States and in Nebraska for two main reasons. It's not the "Choose Life" license plates, it's not the lobbying from far right anti-abortion groups. It's better access to sex education, and it's better access to family planning services, which people who are proponents of LB814 stand in the way of every step of the way. Because politicians push abortion care further and further out of reach each year, we see more abortion in Nebraska when people do not have access to those family

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

planning, contraception, and sex education. Again, these hundreds and hundreds of Nebraska women received a standard D&E over the past ten years, not because they are evil, but because they needed medical care. These statistics actually prove that this procedure is not overused in Nebraska, but is being used when necessary as the most common method of abortion care in the second trimester. Finally, these women aren't just statistics. They're our neighbors, they're our family members, they pay taxes, they raise families, they send their kids to our schools, and they contribute to Nebraska.

FOLEY: One minute.

HUNT: And their stories deserve to be centered in this debate. My position on life is not extreme, as Lieutenant Governor Foley said. I do not have extreme positions on life. I have-- I have very firm positions on the need of access to healthcare for every woman, for every person in Nebraska. And success for us is doing what is available for us to do. Today, Nebraskans, we did our best to protect your healthcare, and we will not give up the fight. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I didn't have a chance to talk on my bill, LB607 or LB607A, before we voted on it. For those of you that supported it, I really appreciate the fact that you voted in favor of that bill. And some people might say: Well, why are you talking? It passed. I just want you to know that I'd like to thank Health and Human Services Committee for bringing that bill out of committee 7-0, and it had their unanimous support. When we get to the floor, all of a sudden, several people peeled off. LB607, to me, was just as important as LB1107, probably more important, because LB607 is a regulation bill that will save lives. Since we started this, when I introduced this bill, it was brought to me, the Board of Cosmetology. The Board of Cosmetology has had several-- quite a few infections, and they've had several deaths as a result of MRSA. If you haven't seen those, we passed those pictures around when it was on General File, and that's an ugly, fatal disease. I'd like to thank the Board of Cosmetology for bringing that bill. I know that there are organizations out there that think that we don't need regulations, that we can back off on regulations. I believe some regulations are necessary. They're there to protect the consumer. So to have sanitation when you're talking about dealing with nails is very, very important. Again, I'd like to thank those that supported the bill. And for those of you that voted against it just because you didn't like

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

the regulation, don't think we need regulation, shame on you. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. Senator Wayne. He-- he waives the opportunity.

WAYNE: [INAUDIBLE] my motion.

FOLEY: The motion is withdrawn. Thank you, Senator Wayne. Back to LB866e. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading.

FOLEY: The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [READ TITLE OF LB866.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB866e pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senator Blood, Bolz, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Clements, Groene, Halloran, Lowe, Slama. Not voting: Senators Arch, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Ben Hansen, La Grone, Linehan, Moser, Murman. 29 ayes, 7 nays, 13 present and not voting.

FOLEY: The bill does not pass with the emergency clause attached. The next vote will be, shall the bill pass with the emergency clause stricken? All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you-- have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senator Blood, Bolz, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Gragert, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Clements, Groene, Halloran, Lowe, Slama. Not

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

voting: Senators Arch, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Ben Hansen, La Grone, Moser, Murman. 31 ayes, 7 nays, 11 present and not voting.

FOLEY: LB866 passes. Next bill is LB1004.

CLERK: [READ LB1004 ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1004 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Blood, Bolz, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Friesen, Matt Hansen, Hilkemann, Howard, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Brewer, Clements, Erdman, Groene, Halloran, La Grone, Lowe, Murman, Slama. Not voting: Senators Arch, Briese, Geist, Gragert, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hughes, Linehan, Moser. 29 ayes, 11 nays, 9 present and not voting, Mr. President.

FOLEY: LB1004 passes. LB1004A.

CLERK: [READ LB1004A ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1004A pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Blood, Bolz, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Matt Hansen, Hilkemann, Howard, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Brewer, Clements, Erdman, Groene, Halloran, La Grone, Lowe, Murman, Slama. Not voting: Senators Arch, Briese, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hughes, Linehan, and Moser. 28 ayes, 11 nays, 10 present and not voting.

FOLEY: LB1004A passes. Next bill is LB1021. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing of the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 3 nays to dispense with the at-large reading,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

FOLEY: The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clark, please read the title.

CLERK: [READ TITLE OF LB1021.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1021 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, Groene, 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, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. 49 ayes, 0 nays on the passage of LB1021.

FOLEY: LB1021 passes. Final bill on Final Reading, LB1089.

CLERK: [READ LB1089 ON FINAL READING.]

FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1089 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Blood, Bolz, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Crawford, DeBoer, Dorn, Matt Hansen, Hilkemann, Howard, Hunt, Kolowski, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Scheer, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Bostelman, Briese, Clements, Erdman, Geist, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Lowe, Moser. Not voting: Senators Brewer, Friesen, Gragert, Hilgers, Hughes, La Grone, Murman, Slama. 29 ayes, 12 nays, 8 excused and not voting-- or 8 present and not voting, excuse me.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LB1089 passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following legislative bills: LB106, LB219, LB238, LB450, LB450A, LB477, LB477A, LB515, LB607, LB607A, LB632, LB866, LB1004, LB1004A, LB1021, and LB1089. Senator Hilgers, you're recognized.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. Before we adjourn sine die today, I did want to make an announcement. I'm going to send this in an email, but I also think that there's probably

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

a good portion of people who will not be looking at their emails for a few days, if not a week or two, and I wanted to make sure that people were aware of this before we broke. So as you all know, by statute, the Legislative Council has to meet. We are-- the tentative date-- and we'll send this in the email, but please reserve November 11 through 13, November 11 through 13. We've actually been working on this. I promised, last December, that we would do something different this year. We've been working on this since February. We've had, with COVID, in the impact of the coronavirus and to be safe, we've-- we've had to look at those plans and sort of look at them with a fresh eye to make sure that we could do it in a way that was-- that would be sensitive to the safety of the body. And so we are finalizing those. And so I hope to be able to announce the final details at the end of this month. So the date is critical, so please save those-- those dates on your calendar, the 11th through 13th of November. But also, secondly, the presentations are going to be critical. So if you have something you would like to present on, please let me know as soon as you can so that we can start the process of preparing those presentations. We're going into a new year next year, and November is going to be-- it's going to be a short interim, but it's going to be a really important time for us to get together and get prepared for the new year. So 11th through the 13th of November-- we will be sending an email on this and look forward to seeing you then. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hilgers. Senator Crawford for a motion.

CRAWFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a committee of five be appointed to notify the Governor that the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session, of the Nebraska Legislature is about to complete its work, and to return with any message the Governor may have for the Legislature.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Crawford. Those in favor of the motion say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. The Escort Committee shall consist of the following five senators: Senator Bolz, Crawford, Howard, Kolowski, and Speaker Scheer. Please assist the Governor at the doors. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant-at-Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your Committee now escorting the Governor of the great State of Nebraska, Governor Pete Ricketts.

FOLEY: Members of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature and distinguished guests, I present to you the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Governor Pete Ricketts.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

GOVERNOR RICKETTS: Please, everybody, be seated. President Foley, Speaker Scheer, members of the Legislature, it is a pleasure for me to join you at the closing of the Second Session of the One Hundred Sixth Nebraska Legislature. You are to be commended for the hard work that you have put in during most trying and difficult of circumstances, and for remaining focused on the priorities of the people of Nebraska. Last January, when this session began, we talked about four key priorities for the people of Nebraska: the first was property tax relief; the second was flood relief; the third was veterans' tax relief; and the fourth was career scholarships so the next generation of Nebraskans would be prepared to lead our state. As the pandemic descended upon us, you sprang into action, providing the state with over \$83 million to be able to respond to the pandemic and keep Nebraskans healthy. As you've reconvened, you've seen spirited debate and fast action, but always remained focused on the work of the people. You have passed a property tax relief bill that is generational in its scope, providing an additional \$375 million in property tax relief from the state when fully phased in. And that's on top of the \$275 million already in the Property Tax Credit Relief Fund, bringing the total to \$650 million. And that represents more than four times the amount of property tax relief from the state when I-- as when I took over Governor, over five years ago. In addition, you reformed and renewed our incentive program so that we can be competitive with other states, continuing to attract those companies here and helping them create the jobs that allow Nebraskans to be able to enjoy the good life in our state. And you've demonstrated the state's commitment to the next project, that collaboration between UNMC and the Defense Department that will help keep our state and our nation safe. I want to thank all the senators who worked so hard and put in so many hours to be able to achieve this compromise. It's been a process over many months and, for some, years to get to this point. Thank you for all your work. You also were able to deliver on that flood relief, to help us recover from the catastrophic floods that we had last year. You were able to pass a veterans' tax relief package that will allow us to be able to hold on to our veterans. They do so much for us while they are in the service, and they continue to contribute after they leave the service. And we want them to do that right here in our state, and you're achieving that. And you funded the career scholarship program will help-- which will help us ensure that the next generation of Nebraskans will get the education they need to be able to take the jobs of the future and lead our state. Nor were these your only achievements. Among your other achievements: ending the barbaric practice of dismemberment abortion and providing relief to our farmers and ranchers in the Panhandle after their catastrophic tunnel collapse. All these happened because you collaborated and

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

worked together to keep a focus on the work that was important to the people of Nebraska. Thank you for all your work. And on top of all that, the pandemic relief. Now, of course, the coronavirus is still in our communities, still here in our state. We will have to continue to balance. And it's up to all of us individually exercising our responsibility to make sure we continue to practice the tools we've learned to slow the spread of the virus, to keep that six foot of distance when we're out in public, to wear that mask when we go to the store, to wash our hands often, to avoid that crowded bar or restaurant. I've been impressed by the thoughtfulness of our school leaders as they have crafted plans to bring our young people back into classrooms this fall, by the hard work of our local public health departments that have worked 'round the clock to be able to keep Nebraskans healthy, and by the sacrifices Nebraskans have made to-- as we've enacted restrictions to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Now we have been less impacted than some other states here in Nebraska. Our state economy actually has been the least impacted of any of the 50 states, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. And we've got one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. And we will continue to get Nebraska growing by leveraging the CARES Act money. We've done that to provide grants to small businesses and livestock op-- livestock operations, to nonprofits and childcare organizations, for rural broadband, and for workforce retraining. I want to thank our Director of Economic Development Tony Goins and our CEO of HHS Dannette Smith for putting together these programs that will help us recover. And before I close, I would like to celebrate that this month is the centennial of women's suffrage in our country. Our state has been shaped by many great women: Minnie Freeman, Susan La Flesche Picotte, Mari Sandoz, Willa Cather, Virginia Smith, and, of course, our legislators here in this Chamber. I'd like to ask all the women who serve in this body to please stand and be recognized. And of course, we will have some members who will not be returning to this body next year. I want to thank, for their service to our state, Senators Bolz, Chambers, Crawford, Howard, Kolowski and Scheer for their service to our great state. And in particular, I'd like to thank Speaker Scheer for your leadership. Your wisdom and your fair-mindedness has guided us. You've been a strong voice for Norfolk. And, Jim, we would not be where we are today if it hadn't been for your work in pulling people together these past years. Thank you so much. Wait, I'm not finished yet-- wait, wait. Just give me a second.

CRAWFORD: Just trying to help you out.

GOVERNOR RICKETTS: Yeah, I know. Thank you. I appreciate it. Thank you so much. It has been an honor for me to work with you as Speaker and

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

be together here in this building. Thank you so much. Can we have all of our departing senators please rise and be acknowledged? You're good, sir, you're good. You've accomplished much under these unprecedented-- and that word has been used a lot, it's true-- and difficult times. You've remained focused on the priorities of the people. Thank you for your service to our state and our people. Thank you for the sacrifices that you make, the time you spend away from your family and friends, and the long hours you put in doing the people's work here in this building. God bless you all, and God bless the great state of Nebraska.

FOLEY: Thank you, Governor. Would the escort committee please assist the Governor as he departs the Chamber. Item for the record, please.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President, just one at this point. LB866 is reported as correctly enrolled.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Wishart, you're recognized.

WISHART: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I am excited and honored to give this gift to our E&R Chair for the year, Senator Julie Slama. On behalf of the entire Legislature, we give you this gift-- it's a briefcase-- and thank you for all of your work this year. Also, we give you the gift of time, now that you will no longer have to be the E&R Chair and will get the opportunity not to have to sit during Select File all the time. So thank you so much, Julie, for all your work this year.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senators. Speaker Scheer.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I would like to thank, on behalf of the legislative body, the work of the Lieutenant Governor. He's served us well in the Chair. He has been here, I'm going to guess, 95-plus percent of the time. It's a thankless job. It is one of the most tiring jobs that I've ever performed in his stead. He is to be commended for his diligence. And as appreciation from the body to you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I believe the Clerk has a plaque for you on our behalf. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr.-- Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. It's been an honor to serve the people of Nebraska with all of you. Thank you so much. If the departing members could step forward, there's a departing gift for each of you. If you could step-- Senator Bolz is gone at the moment-- Senator Crawford, Senator Howard, Senator Kolowski, and Speaker Scheer. Speaker Scheer, you're recognized for some closing remarks.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

SCHER: Thank you, Mr. President. Might take a few minutes, might want to cop a squat there, folks. Not as long as this morning, but it may take a few minutes. Mr. President, colleagues, the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session, is now complete. Has it been smooth? Absolutely not. It certainly has not been smooth. It has been contentious and not without its share of dissension, especially during the last couple weeks. Of course, dissension is nothing new to this body. Back on January 16, in the early days of the session, were devoted to an acrimonious struggle over seats, miscellaneous items, procedure. A reporter for The New York Times remarked: It is a decidedly rich treat to visit the Nebraska Legislature. You see an elect-- eclectic brunch in a crowded room, some behind their desks, some seated on top of their desks, some of their feet perched atop the floor or a chair, some chatting, a half dozen walking around the Chamber floor. The Clerk, when he chooses, jumps up to explain the whys and hows of the legislative procedure. A member of the lobby stalks outside, calling senators out to talk about the advantage of his client's bill. Discourse flares up on the floor, and away goes the honorable body into deliberation. But, colleagues, when that honorable body adjourned on March 16, 1855, here's what it had accomplished. It enacted legislation establishing the government and the laws of the Nebraska Territory. Included: it created our courts; it provided for the construction of our roads; and established a free public school system. All of this and more was done in a two-month session. The point of the brief history session is that squabbles and dissension, though never preferred, may be a characteristic of a deliberative body. But another characteristic of the remarkable ability was to accomplish important things. Our nonpartisan Unicameral Legislature is uniquely constituted to weather the storm of dissension. Do we have differing views on the policies that are best for Nebraska? We absolutely do, as we should. Such diversity of thought is where that enables this body to have meaningful debate. The procedures sound-- produces sound legislation. But we must never forget that we cannot let diversity of thought devolve into a division of this body, especially in the face of adversity. Today, adversity has come most recently in the form of COVID-19 and resulting unemployment and economic fallout. In 1893, it came in the form of a drought, destroying nearly all the Nebraska crops, resulting in a statewide economic depression, unemployment, and famine. Nebraskans came together to overcome that diversity. [SIC] We've done it before and we'll be called upon-- we will be called upon to do it again in the future. We've accomplished a lot in this session, whether we realize it or not. A total of 285 bills were passed into law this session, including LB992, by Senator Friesen, encouraging the expansion of broadband Internet services to the un- and underserved portions of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

this state. LB153, introduced by Senator Brewer, takes a tax occlusion-- exclusion for military retirement incomes and allows military retirees to exclude half of their military retirement benefit pay from the state income tax. LB1144, introduced by Senator Howard, was the YRTC reform package that proves and pro-- improves and provides oversight for our youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. LB518, introduced by Senator Linehan and-- and amended with the provisions of Senator Blood's LB745, supports the victims of self-- sex trafficking and abuse by outlining procedures for certification of two types of immigration visas that are set aside for victims of certain crimes. LB918, by Senator Wayne, creates the Commission on African American Affairs. And just as an aside, you heard a little bit about my mother yesterday. Back in the 1960s, they established the Commission on the Status of Women; my mother was one of the original members. LB1186, by Senator Hilgers, protects school employees, ensuring that they will receive injury leave if they are injured by another person while at work. LB1124, by Senator Howard again, creates the Nebraska Opioid Recovery Fund, continuing the state's and her efforts to fight the opioid pandemic. And LB1107-- talk on this bill has centered around a "super seven" and the "grand compromise." But I refer to it as the "fabulous forties," because it took all of us to deliver and to define a bill that we can mold into a piece of legislation that could get approval to move from the very beginning to the finish. It took a multitude of senators to work on this, to come up with a final product that we could all agree upon. Congratulations to all of us for all that we've done, all 285 bills. There are 49 of us in this body, 49 unique individuals, each one sent to this Chamber by their constant-- constituents, who have placed their trust in us to represent them to do the best of our abilities. Forty-nine common men and women serve here collectively, vested with the power to enact laws that will govern all Nebraskans. What an awesome responsibility we have all had. It's been a great honor and privilege to serve this body. We all bring different experiences and skills to the table that help us carry out this responsibility. But we do not do it in a vacuum; we rely on the help of numerous people in this place to keep it running. I'd be amiss [SIC] not to thank a few of those individuals before we adjourn. Colleagues, if you'd please hold your applause until I'm fill it-- finished acknowledging all these great people, it would be greatly appreciated. First, Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature; Dick Brown, the Assistant Clerk; Brandon Metzler, the Assistant Clerk to the Assistant; Carol, Diana, and Vicki, who have sat up there every day with us; the rest of the Clerk's Office, which includes the Bill Room, Transcribers, Unicameral Information Office, Legislative Technology Center, the Sergeants-at-Arms, a/k/a our Redcoats; and the pages. Where would we be without the pages? Thank

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

you so much. And of course, the State Patrol, for our security, I've got to tell you, I do feel a lot safer just knowing that they're around; I think we all do. Fiscal Office, led by Tom Bergquist; the Revisor's Office, led by Joanne Pepperl and Marcia McClurg; the Legislative Accounting and Budget Office, led by Diane Nickolite; Legislative Research Division, led by Nancy Cyr; Legislative Audit Division, led by Martha Carter; our Ombudsman Office, led by Julie Rogers; our presiding officer and president, Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley; all of our staff, every one of our staff in each and every office. Where in the world would we be without them? NET, for their continued gavel-to-gavel coverage of our proceedings. And a particular thank-you to Chuck Hubka. He's never let me say anything about him before. I'm leaving. I don't care. He doesn't always get any of the recognition that he deserves for how well he does his job, but he should be recognized for all that he did for us to prepare a safe environment for us that we could return to, in response to the COVID-19. Along with all those, I'd be remiss in not giving a large thank-you to Pat Lopez and her staff, the acting director at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, for all of her guidance to Senator Hilgers and myself as we worked to establish some health and safety protocols for us upon the resumption of our acts-- our activities. And thank you again for all of your hard work and dedication this session. Let's, please, give everyone a round of applause as our appreciation. Some of these individuals will be retiring from the Legislature after many years of service. I would like to take a moment to take special recognition of them and thank them for their many years of dedication to the Legislature. Diana Bridges, would you please stand? Diana started her 36-year career with a legislator, working for Senator Newell. In 1984, she became the records historian in the Clerk's Office. Diana will retire September 2. She has worked for the state in other capacities, with the Aging-- Commission on Aging, Center for Children and Youth and the Public Service Commission. Please join me in recognizing her for her many years of service. Vicki Buck, would you please stand? Vicki Buck will be retiring on September 18, after working for the Legislature for 47 years. She worked at the Department of Revenue for three years before transferring to the Legislature in 1973. Vicki was promoted from journal clerk to chief journal clerk in 1983, and she will complete 50 years of service to the great state of Nebraska this month, in August. Please join me in recognizing her. Joanne Pepperl has served as the Revisor of Statutes for 40 years and has worked in the Revisor's Office for 43. As part of her duties as Revisor, she serves as a commissioner on the Uniform Law Commission. She also serves on the committee on style. Would you please join me in thanking her, as well? Colleagues, it has been my honor to serve you and my constituents in

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

this body and to serve as your Speaker. Four years ago, when I was first elected, I made several promises to you. I said I'd be fair, I said I'd be consistent, and above all, I would never embarrass the institution or my colleagues. I have tried my very hardest. I think I have been fair. I should think I've been fair. I think I've been as consistent as possible. When I've given my word, I've kept it. When you've asked for help, I've provided it. I look at this Chamber. There is not one of you that I have not helped in the last two years, let alone the last four years. I was called by two senators, even last night, for yet help again on their bills. It's a tough job. I signed up for it. I've-- and I've thoroughly enjoyed it. But I want to do-- what I have set out to do, I think I've done. Now, as a side to that because I forgot this morning because I didn't write anything down, I forgot to thank the constituents, my constituents of the 19th District, for the ability to even be on this floor, let alone serve you as our Speaker. It truly has been my honor and privilege. I'd like to also recognize my fellow senators, like me, who have completed their eight years and will not be returning next session. Senator Bolz had to leave early. She's been a great advocate. I remember when we were first elected, there were 13 or 14 of us and we would meet-- I-- was it was every Monday or Wednesday or something morning-- and we each took turns bringing donuts, and we just sat around and talked. Once in a while we'd take a tour of something that no one has ever seen. But those that may be elected this year or have been elected before, it's a great, great experience. You learn each other when there's not a lot of pressure around. Senator Chambers, of course, Senator Sue Crawford, Senator Howard, and Senator Kolowski, my bunkmate here, I want to thank all of you. I'd like to thank the great state of Nebraska for such an awesome opportunity and experience. Adieu, farewell.

FOLEY: Senator Kolowski, you're recognized for a motion.

KOLOWSKI: Mr. President, I move that all bills not otherwise disposed of, excluding bills on Final Reading and vetoed or line-item vetoed bills, on this date be indefinitely postponed.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Kolowski. All those in favor of the motion say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Just very quickly, Mr. President, bills read on Final Reading this afternoon were presented to the Governor at 4:03 (re LB106, LB219, LB238, LB450, LB450A, LB477, LB477A, LB515, LB607, LB607A, LB632, LB866, LB1004, LB1004A, LB1021, and LB1089). That's all that I have.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate August 13, 2020

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Kolterman, you're recognized for a motion.

KOLTERMAN: Mr. President, I move that Chairpersons of all standing committees file with the Clerk of the Legislature all standing committee records so that the proper record may-- may be made of the final des-- disposition of all bills.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. All those in favor of the motion say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Senator Howard, you're recognized for a motion.

HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the Legislature approve the preparation and printing of the permanent Legislative Journal, Session Laws, and Indexes by Patrick J. O'Donnell, and that he be directed to send to each member of the Legislature a copy of the permanent Legislative Journal and Session Laws, and that the Journal for the Sixtieth Day, as prepared by the Clerk of the Legislature, be approved.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Howard. All those in favor of the motion say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Speaker Scheer for a motion.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I move that the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session of the Nebraska Legislature, having finished all of its business before it, now, at 4:32 p.m. on August 13, adjourn sine die.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All those in favor of the motion say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are adjourned sine die.