

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 20, 2025

ANDERSEN: Welcome to Government, Military and Veteran(s) Affairs Committee. I am Senator Bob Andersen from the 49th district-- the best district-- in the city of Omaha, and I'll serve as-- I serve as the vice chair for this committee. The committee will take up the bills in the order posted. This public hearing is your opportunity to be part of the legislative process and to express your position on the proposed legislation before us. OK, Zach [PHONETIC]? If you're planning to testify today, please fill out one of the green testifier sheets that are on the table at the back of the room. Be sure to print clearly and fill it out completely. When it is your turn to come forward to testify, give the testifier sheet to the page or to the committee clerk. If you do not wish to testify but would like to indicate your position on a bill, there are also yellow sign-in sheets back on the table for each bill; these sheets will be included as an exhibit in the official hearing record. When you come up to testify, please speak clearly into the microphone. Tell us your name, and spell your first and last name to ensure we get an accurate record. We will begin each bill hearing today with the introducer's opening statement, followed by the proponents of the bill, then opponents, and finally by anyone speaking in the neutral capacity. We will finish with a closing statement by the introducer, if they wish to give one. We will be using a three-minute light system for all testifiers. When you begin your testimony, the light on the table will be green. When the light turns yellow, you'll have one minute remaining, and the red light indicates your time has expired. Questions from the committee may follow. Also, committee members may come up-- may come and go during the hearing. This has nothing to do with the importance of the bills being heard; it is just simply part of the process, as senators may have bills to introduce in other committees. A few final items to facilitate today's hearing. If you have handouts or copies of your testimony, please bring at least 12 copies to give them to the page. If you do not have enough copies, the page will make sufficient copies for you. Please silence or turn off your cell phones. You may see the committee members using their electronic devices to access more information. Verbal outbursts or applause are not permitted in the hearing room; such behavior may be cause for you to ask to be leave-- or, leave the hearing. Finally, committee procedures for all committees state that written position comments on a bill to be included in the record must be submitted by 8 a.m. the day of the hearing. The only acceptable method for submitting is via the legislator's [SIC] website at nebraskalegislature.gov. Written position letters will be included in the official hearing record, but only those testifying in person before the committee will be included

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on the committee statement. Now, I will have the committee members introduce themselves, starting to my right.

HUNT: Hi everyone. I'm Megan Hunt, and I represent District 8.

GUERECA: Good afternoon, everyone. Dunixi Guereca, Legislative District 7, south-- downtown and south Omaha, the real best district in Omaha.

J. CAVANAUGH: Good afternoon. Great crowd. John Cavanaugh, District 9; the only district in the state of Nebraska that has two NCAA teams participating today, and clearly the best district in the entire known universe.

ANDERSEN: Now, for the wrestling side of the house.

LONOWSKI: Good afternoon. Dan Lonowski, District 33. If you have to tell people you're the best district-- I represent Adams County, Kearney County, and rural Phelps County. And an update on sports for Husker fans: we've won eight out of nine matches of our first round wrestling. So, there you go.

CONRAD: Hey.

WORDEKEMPER: Dave Wordekemper, District 15; Dodge County, western Douglas County.

McKEON: Dan McKeon, District 41; central Nebraska, eight counties. Go Huskers!

ANDERSEN: Senator Rita Sanders is the chair that will be joining us shortly. Also assisting the committee today, to my left is our legal counsel, Dick Clark, and to my far left is our community clerk, Julie Condon. We have two pages for today's committee hearing. Pages, please stand up and introduce yourself, your hometown, and where you're attending school.

RUBY KINZIE: Hello, I'm Ruby Kinzie. I'm from Wayne, Nebraska, and I'm a third-year political science major at UNL.

ARNAV RISHI: Hey, everyone. My name is Arnav, and I'm from Omaha. I'm a third-year political science and biology student at UNL.

ANDERSEN: Thank you. With that, we'll begin today's hearing with LR33. Senator Conrad, welcome to the Government, Military and Veteran(s) Affairs Committee. Good to have you.

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CONRAD: Thank you, Vice Chair Andersen; good afternoon, members. My name is Danielle Conrad, it's D-a-n-i-e-l-l-e; Conrad, C-o-n-r-a-d. I'm here today to introduce LR33. LR33 calls upon our congressional delegation to take affirmative action in regards to the antiquated and disruptive current practice regarding changing our clocks twice a year. These-- I won't belabor the point. This committee has already heard competing measures from Senator Murman and Senator Hunt. They have been advanced to Final Reading in this legislative session. I think that you are well-versed in the scientific, economic, familial, environmental-- different policy underpinnings that have been put forward in regards to ending the antiquated practice of changing our, our clocks twice a year, and I brought forward the legislative resolution as potentially a third way, a failsafe way, a "belt-and-suspenders" kind of way, to put it a few different ways, in regards to the measure Senator Murman and Senator Hunt brought forward. I carried a measure that I picked up from Senator Tom Briesse after he ascended to become chair-- State Treasurer; we had a great debate on it, came out of committee strong, and then we, we just couldn't find consensus on standard time or daylight savings time moving forward, much like we've discussed this year as well. But that being said, while we're still each grappling individually and collectively with how we go about changing the time to either standard time or to daylight saving time, it does seem to me that we have found a significant amount of consensus on ending the practice. So, taking into account that consensus, and recognizing that perhaps some of the approaches available to us under federal law may result in a patchwork result, it seemed like it would be perhaps good timing to ask our congressional representatives to take up the measure so that we could have a uniform approach to these issues, which would be beneficial for economic reasons and otherwise. We've seen recent action on the federal level, where we saw strong support from the U.S. Senate; we have seen public statements from President Trump, where he has pledged some of his support for ending-- ending the antiquated time changing practice. And if, by some strange reason, Senator Hunt or Senator Murman's measure do not make it past the final hurdle and to the governor's desk this year-- I hope they will, and I'm voting for both of them-- I do think that this provides another option, or a complementary option to also ask our federal delegation to, to weigh in, as this is an issue that has taken a lot of our time amongst-- as state leaders, to then ask them to, to look at it from the federal perspective as well. Additionally, I was constrained by the 20-year-- 20-bill limitation, so I was unable to continue my work in this regard, and so I was trying to think creatively about how to raise the issue and get around that ridiculous rule. So, it comes to you for a

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lot of different reasons, and I'm pretty candid about why. Happy to answer any questions. It is a serious legislative resolution, it is substantive. I would like to see it advanced and adopted this year so that it could go to our federal delegates for consideration. Happy to answer questions.

ANDERSEN: Thank you, Senator Conrad. Are there any questions for Senator Conrad?

CONRAD: OK. Thank you.

ANDERSEN: Oh, Senator Lonowski.

LONOWSKI: Thank you, Vice Chair Andersen. Thank you for bringing this. So, the very-- the second "whereas," common-sense reforms-- and I'm really serious, has anyone looked at half an hour between the two?

CONRAD: Yes, Senator Lonowski, and great question. I actually have read a fair amount of studies and articles and policy papers on exactly that approach. Recognizing, much like our legislative body has been either ambivalent or of two minds in regards to how to make the change, there have been a host of scholars who have put forward a compromise plan to settle in the middle and, and call it good there. That would also be fine by me.

LONOWSKI: OK. Thank you.

CONRAD: My goal is to end the practice.

LONOWSKI: Thanks.

CONRAD: Yeah.

ANDERSEN: Are there any other questions? Senator Conrad, I have a question for you.

CONRAD: Yes.

ANDERSEN: So, it, it looks like in here, you're advocating for permanent daylight savings time. You're picking between the two. Right? I think the line starts "Whereas, in 2022"--

CONRAD: I don't think so. I think it's asking for reform of the present approach regarding daylight saving time.

ANDERSEN: Ah.

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CONRAD: But if there is an ambiguity there, I'd be, I'd be happy to work with the committee on that.

ANDERSEN: No, I think I misread it. So, my mistake.

CONRAD: I probably-- I've thought about it a lot. I probably have a very slight preference for standard time, but I would be happy with daylight saving time as well.

ANDERSEN: Thank you. The Chair now will turn back over to Chairwoman Sanders.

CONRAD: Hi.

SANDERS: Good afternoon.

CONRAD: I think we covered it, but I'm happy to--

SANDERS: Awesome.

CONRAD: --entertain your questions, your grilling, Chair "Rick Sanders."

SANDERS: No grilling. Just information.

CONRAD: Very good.

SANDERS: Searching. Any questions from the committee? See none.

CONRAD: Well, you guys really know how to pack them in today. Or maybe that's a, a testament to, to my legislation.

SANDERS: Why don't you stay right there, and I'll ask for proponents. None? Are we-- have we already gone there? We didn't-- you were closing? OK. Opponents--

CONRAD: Unless Zach's jumping up, or the troopers.

SANDERS: So, propon-- for the proponent--

CONRAD: Or the Red Coats.

SANDERS: --and there is none. The committee also received ADA accommodation testimony from Tanya Cruz in support of the LR. Read-- blah, blah, blah. OK, so then the ADA accommodation written testimony: proponent, 1.

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CONRAD: Thank you.

SANDERS: And zero opposition, zero neutral.

DICK CLARK: Yeah, and then there was also an online comment.

SANDERS: And an online comment. Proponent, 1; opponent, zero; zero neutral.

CONRAD: Very good.

SANDERS: And-- this was your closing?

CONRAD: I will waive my closing.

SANDERS: Thank you.

CONRAD: Or staff it.

SANDERS: Thank you.

ANDERSEN: All right. That'll close the hearing for LR33. Senator Sanders, welcome to the Committee on Military, Government and Veteran Affairs [SIC].

SANDERS: Thank you, Vice Chair Andersen, members of the committee. My name is Rita Sanders-- Senator Rita Sanders, R-i-t-a S-a-n-d-e-r-s. I am here to introduce LB243. I introduced this bill as one of the two shell bills in the Government Committee. We do not have any plans for it and this-- at this time, and plan to keep it in committee for now. Thank you.

ANDERSEN: Thank you, Senator Sanders. Are there any questions? Seeing none. I assume you'll be staying for close? Is there a-- are there any-- anyway-- any proponents? Seeing none. Opponents? Seeing none. Anybody in the neutral capacity? Senator Sanders, [INAUDIBLE]--

SANDERS: I think we might have some online.

ANDERSEN: [INAUDIBLE] to have you close. The proponents was 1, opponents was zero, and neutral was zero.

SANDERS: Thank you. And I'll waive closing.

ANDERSEN: Thank you.

SANDERS: Thank you.

ANDERSEN: That concludes this hearing on LB243, and our hearing for the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs for the day.