

THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 21, 2018

(The House of Representatives was called to order at 1:00 o'clock p.m., Speaker Joe Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please come to order. Will members, staff and guests please rise. Direct your attention to the Dias, where Guest Chaplain, Representative Carpino will lead us in prayer.

GUEST CHAPLAIN REPRESENTATIVE CARPINO (32ND):

Let us pray. Dear Lord, this year brings us many challenges and expectations. Help us to sort out the needs of our State and her people, and grant us sound judgment, so that the decisions we make will benefit our faithful constituents. Amen.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Would the new Representative of the 15th

District, Representative Gibson, please come up and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

(All) I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. There is communication from the Governor, judicial nominations, including a corrected letter.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please refer that to the Committee on Judiciary.

CLERK:

List of bills, number 9, dated February 21, 2018.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good afternoon, Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I move that we waive the reading of the list of the bills and the bills be referred to the committees indicated.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

So noted.

CLERK:

The last piece of business is the daily calendar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Urban of the 43rd District, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for a point of personal privilege.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe that everybody in this Chamber knows that I have been passionate about the link between animal cruelty and

future violent behavior. I also know we had a terrible tragedy in Florida, which was preceded by animal cruelty and that also happened in Columbine in 1999.

We, in Connecticut, have Desmond's Law, where we have animal advocates, UConn law students in court, who are representing animals that have egregious abuse, so that instead of people that perpetrate this violence get away with it --

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) I know everybody is getting settled in, before we start the business from the day, but the Representative does have the floor, if we can show her a little bit of respect and take our conversations to the hall.

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I was talking about the link between animal cruelty and future violent behavior and the fact that 80 percent of school shooters have started by being cruel to animals. We have Desmond's law in Connecticut.

We're the only state in the country, the first, to have UConn law students in court so that we take violence against animals seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so pleased to let the Chamber know that today I have been named by the Animal Legal Defense Fund as one of the top 10 defenders of animals in our country. And I plan on taking that as I leave this Chamber to the entire nation, so that we will no longer not take animal cruelty seriously and maybe save some children from being killed by school shooters.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. (Applause)

Are there any other announcements or introductions? Announcements or introductions?

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 6?

CLERK:

Daily calendar, February 21, 2017. House Resolution No. 6, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THOMAS J. SAADI OF DANBURY TO BE

COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The esteemed Deputy Speaker of the 110th District, Representative Godfrey, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

To make a motion, Mr. Speaker. I move we accept the House Committee's favorable report and adopt the resolution.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

Representative Godfrey, you have the floor, sir.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For me this is a labor of love. I've known Tom Saadi, from Danbury. He doesn't quite live in my district, although I live in his. It's one of those magic moments of where the lines are drawn. I get to vote for him for city council. He can't vote for me for State

Representative because he doesn't live in my district, I live in his. But nonetheless, I've watched him over 25 years as he's really become an example of the American dream.

I first met him when he was starting, working actually in the legislative office building as an intern and then as a staff member rather, under Speaker Ritter, it's that long ago.

He went on to go to law school after having worked his way through Western Connecticut State University. He is a product of Connecticut's higher education system. When he left here, he went to law school. He went to work for the Attorney General at the time, Dick Blumenthal, our good friend. He was an Assistant Attorney General. He was a special Assistant State's Attorney for the Office of the Attorney General. He, luckily for us, got a really good job with our Department of Veterans Affairs. He was the Director of Legislative Affairs. He was a legislative liaison. We saw quite a bit of him. Then he became the Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Department and since last fall, he's

been the Acting Commissioner. We're looking to make him Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs now.

He has an extensive resume, I'm not going to go over every detail, but he is a member of the Danbury City Council and has been for quite some time. He is also a serving member in the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve. He's a Major and has been a lawyer, an attorney, with the Judge Advocate Corps, serving there in the Army.

It really gives me great pleasure. I know his mom, he's been brought up right. His mother did a great job. He's a first-generation immigrant. His father immigrated to this country in the 1960s from Lebanon. And I can't say enough good things about Tom Saadi. So, I would encourage you all to join me in supporting this nomination and in voting yes on this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Wood of the 141st, you have

the floor, Madam.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And while I don't know Mr. Saadi's mother, I do know -- yet, I should say yet, I can understand why she parented him well. And one of the joys of serving on executive nominees is meeting all the people that are willing to step up and serve, mostly on a volunteer basis, although this obviously is not. He was educated Western Connecticut, Quinnipiac School of Law --

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel)

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

You're welcome.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

I think particularly for this nomination, I would really like to request quiet in the Chamber. This is a man who is serving our Veterans and we should all be listening to why he is qualified, more than qualified to do this. Thank you.

As I have mentioned, he was educated at Western Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac Law School. What struck me in the interview and meeting him in executive nominations was his humanity and how he is reaching out to all of the different stakeholders and making a difference in all of these Veterans' lives and it's critical in our state we have someone of this capacity and this humanity to do so.

There were many, many letters in strong support of Mr. Saadi for this position and I urge you all to join me in supporting this nomination.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark further? Representative Arconti of the 109th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this nomination and to echo my colleague's comments about Tom Saadi.

Tom embodies what public service is all about. As you've just heard, through his extensive resume,

there is no better candidate or more qualified person right now than to lead this department than Tom Saadi.

Tom will be someone that we will all be proud of as Commissioner. And I look forward to casting my vote in the affirmative.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Ohler of the 64th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. OHLER (64TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this nomination today. In the time that I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Saadi, it's been an amazing experience to work with him, especially being a fellow Veteran and working with the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, their organization and an understanding in a post-911 era that the Veterans' needs do range from World War II still, Korea into Vietnam, Grenada, all the way to Iraq and Afghanistan. And I have the utmost

confidence in Mr. Saadi that he will run this organization well into the future and prepare for the future as the needs overall for our Veterans will continue to climb day after day.

So, I urge my colleagues to support this nomination and I thank you for your time, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I just wanted to take this opportunity also stand in support of the resolution before us of Mr. Saadi.

I've had the opportunity to see the good work that he does in the community. He's certainly a professional and well qualified for the position and he's already hit the ground running. So, I do rise in his support.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, Madam. Representative Harding of

the 107th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good afternoon.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Mr. Speaker, I speak in strong support of Mr. Saadi. I know Attorney Saadi personally. He's a man of his word. He's honest. He's humble. He's everything a public servant could be. He embodies what we want all commissioners to be. I strongly support his nomination.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Carpino of the 32nd, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've actually had the opportunity to work with Mr. Saadi over the last few years and someone I'm going to be proud to call Commissioner. Throughout the PRI process, we had some pretty major overhauls of the VA in Rocky Hill

and he was on deck with any changes that we could make to really support our Veterans. Since then, I've still had the opportunity to continue working with him and whether it is a legislative proposal that might be a little prickly or whether it is saying hello to school children, bringing up Valentines for the Veterans, he's a wonderful man and I look forward to supporting him.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Representative Ferguson of the 138th, you have the floor.

REP. FERGUSON (138TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I've had the opportunity and the chance to work alongside Tom Saadi, back home in Danbury, and I have to echo what my colleagues have all said. Truly an experienced and dedicated public servant. We are very lucky to have him before us for consideration to become the next Commissioner for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He has a very impressive resume, is an honorable man who truly loves his country and will do an excellent job in this position, which he has

already done an excellent job as Acting Commissioner and I urge his strong support. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Ferraro of the 117th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a ranking member of the Veterans Committee, I've had a chance to work with Commissioner Saadi and I also, along with my colleagues, rise in strong support of his being appointed to this position. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Smith of the 108th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of this nomination. Mr. Saadi has served the City of Danbury so well for so many years and I'm so happy and pleased to hear that my colleagues are very much

in support of this nomination and I add my name to the list. Thank you, sir.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you. Representative Vargas of the 6th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the House Chair of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, I rise to support this nomination.

I've had the opportunity to meet Mr. Saadi, although briefly and recently and very rarely does one's background, passion and skills match so closely the position of Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. So, I believe the department will be in good hands. I'm glad to see my colleagues on both sides of the aisles are in support and I wanted to add my support to his nomination. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Hennessy of the 127th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Veterans Committee, I stand in strong support for the nomination of Mr. Saadi. He's been doing great work for the State of Connecticut, and he probably will get a break now just having one job and the job of working for all Veterans, which is what he's been doing for many years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Based upon the comments that I've heard in the Chamber, I think it's going to be an overwhelming, but it will be a voice vote.

All those in favor, signify by saying, aye. Those opposed, nay? The ayes have it. (Gavel) The Resolution is adopted.

Any announcements or introductions?
Representative LeGeyt of the 17th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. LEGEYT (17TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to make an introduction. Today in the Chamber I have a junior from Canton High School, her name is Caitlin Bertolino. She happens to be my former student of some nine years ago and she's very interested in government and wanted to come in and see how the House works and find out a little bit about what goes on behind the scenes.

And so, I would ask the House to give her a very warm welcome. (Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you for visiting our Chamber. You could not have a better teacher or Representative.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call House Calendar No. 7.

CLERK:

House Calendar No. 7, House Joint Resolution No. 3, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JON M. ALANDER OF HAMDEN TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The esteemed Chair of the Judiciary Committee,

Representative Tong, you have the floor, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

It's great to see you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Tong, you have the floor, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are considering this morning the re-appointment of Judge Jon Alander. Judge Alander serves in the Criminal Division of the Waterbury Judicial District. He's a graduate of Yale Law School, Boston College. He recently received a leadership award presented by the Greater New Britain Bar Association for his work.

He serves in a variety of non-judicial capacities. For example, he served as a chair person for the Corporation for Support of Housing

Taskforce, the Healthcare Access Commission. A Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Human Resources. So, he's active in our community. He impressed us with his demeanor and knowledge of the law and I urge adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? The ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Representative Rebimbas, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of the nominee before us in his reappointment. Certainly, the good Chairman highlighted all of his qualifications and this is an individual who has and continues to give back to the legal community. And I think anytime you have someone with these qualifications and experience, who is able to contribute in improving the system, it's certainly an asset to our bench. So, I do support in his renomination.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark further? Representative Ziobron of the 34th District, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I don't mean to bring brevity to this issue, but I have no choice after hearing the testimony from Judge Carroll yesterday in the Appropriations Committee. And I think it's appropriate to share his testimony in a snippet here before the Chamber, if that's okay, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Carroll yesterday in his testimony said this: In June of 2016, we had no choice but to involuntarily reduce our workforce by 300 people. Essential staff were forced to leave the branch, judicial marshals, temporary assistant clerks who support our judges on the bench, adult and juvenile probation officers, family relation counselors, bail commissioners, juvenile detention officers were among those laid off or terminated. We certainly did not desire to take this action, but

that was the only way for us to achieve \$15 million dollars in personal services savings. We did our best to transfer remaining staff to fill the gaps that resulted from the staff cuts, but problems were inevitable. Courtroom coverage by marshals were curtailed and judges were more frequently delayed in opening a court because of lack of support staff.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to raise the alarm --
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Folks, we're not off to a good start. This is only our first real day in session. I know there is a lot of staff in here. But if you're having conversations, please take them out in the hall. Representatives deserve to be heard by the people in the Chamber and right now, it's very difficult. We do have a Sergeant at Arms that will remove people from the Chamber. And I don't want to start that way.

So, please, show the Representative the proper respect by listening to what she has to say or any other Representative as they have the floor. Thank you and please proceed, Madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I just read Judge Carroll's testimony to the Appropriations Committee yesterday and I was just summarizing in my comments and summarization are this, Mr. Speaker, we continue to have a fiscal crisis in this state and by continuing to appoint and reappoint judges and ignore the fact that we have courtrooms without security, we have courtrooms without clerks, we have courtrooms that can't function without the support staff necessary, continues to concern me and for that reason, I'll be voting no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open. [Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of

Representatives is voting by roll, members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 3.

Total Number of Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	141
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 15?

CLERK:

Calendar No. 15, House Joint Resolution No. 11,
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE

HONORABLE KAREN SEQUINO OF WOODBRIDGE TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Stafstrom, sir, you have the floor.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Stafstrom, you still have the floor.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Judge Trial Referee Sequino has been on the bench since 1985. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Yale University School of Law. She has served our bench with distinction throughout her tenure on the bench, most of her time being spent in the criminal courts in the Milford, New Haven, Derby

and, I believe, Danbury areas.

As was mentioned, she is a resident of Woodbridge and is currently serving as an as-needed per diem basis as a Judge Trial Referee. I urge the Chamber's support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Representative Rebibas of the 70th, Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, for all of the good reasons that the good Vice Chair just articulated. She does come to us with a great knowledge and experience. And it's also very helpful that she's continued to dedicate her time to the Judicial Branch, which allows then people to be able to move dockets. And as we know, many times the criminal system is a very sensitive one, so the quicker we can reach resolutions and eliminate the number of individuals that have to appear in court on a regular basis and resolve them fairly is

something that she does provide an asset to our judicial system, so I rise in support of her nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you very much, Ma'am. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Will members please take your seats? The machine will be open.

[Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to see if their vote is properly cast? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 11.

Total Number of Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	141
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Representative Albis, please, sir, you have the floor.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I move that we waive the rules or suspend the rules for immediate consideration of Senate Joint Resolution No. 9.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The motion is to suspend the rules for immediate consideration on items sent from the Senate; is there any objection? Is there any objection? If not, the rules are temporarily suspended.

Will the Clerk please call Senate Joint
Resolution 9?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 9, RESOLUTION
CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS A.
BISHOP OF NORTH STONINGTON TO BE A STATE REFEREE.
DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Tong, sir, you have the floor.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of
the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption
of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question that's before the Chamber is on
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report
and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with
the Senate. Representative Tong, you still have the
floor.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Judge Bishop is a
Judge Trial Referee and has served most recently on
the Appellate Court. He also serves at the New

London Judicial at Norwich, does mediations there and also in the Hartford Mediation Center. He has participated in hearing 60 appeals and has served as a mediator in approximately 90 matters just in the last year. He was admitted to the U.S. District Court in 1969 and also the Connecticut Bar in 1969. He is a Veteran, a 1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army Intelligence and a graduate of Notre Dame and Georgetown Law Center. Judge Bishop has served with great distinction for many years in our Judiciary and I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. He passed Judiciary Committee unanimously. He did an excellent job in responding to all of our questions. And once again, this is an individual with a vast professional background. So, he certainly is an asset to us, and I'd like to take the opportunity to

actually thank him not only to the service to the Judicial Branch, but certainly to the United States of America. So, I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Ma'am. Representative Urban of the 43rd, Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that Tom Bishop's qualifications have already been well noted. But on a personal note, I would talk to you about his empathy and his ability to interact with constituents, in particular, my son, who is having a time choosing what law school to go to and Judge Bishop sat with him, went through the law schools that he was accepted to, talked to him about his best path for his future and Lex followed his advice and is now an Associate at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft and I owe a lot of that to Judge Bishop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the resolution

before us? If not, will staff and guests, please
come to the well of the House? Will the members
take your seats? The machine will be open.

[Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll,
members to the Chamber. The House of
Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the
Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members
voted? Will the members please check the board to
determine if their vote is properly cast? If all
members have voted, the machine will be locked, and
the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 9, in concurrence with
the Senate.

Total Number of Voting	145
Necessary for Adoption	73
Those Voting Yea	142

Those Voting Nay 3

Those absent and not voting 5

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 1.

CLERK:

Calendar No. 1, House Joint Resolution No. 1.
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF SUSAN PROSI-
JOHNSON OF STRATFORD TO BE REAPPOINTED A MEMBER OF
THE CONNECTICUT COMMUTER RAIL COUNCIL.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vargas, sir, you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Vargas, you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

I would like to inform my colleagues that Susan Prosi-Johnson has professional experience including the Stratford Transportation planning program and being project manager. She's conducted studies on transit highway rail parking safety planning, coordinated with state and federal agencies for funding and municipal projects. And among other activities she's been involved in, she's been on the Stratford Library Board of Directors. She's active in the Stratford Medical Reserve Corps and she served on the Stratford Community Emergency Response Teams. She has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and she's a member of the Transportation Engineers Fellows. I urge a favorable vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Wood of the 141st, Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand in very strong support of Susan Prosi being renominated for the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council. I've known Susan now close to 10 years, and boy she works hard.

She knows the information. She has a background in city and urban planning and she's been a transportation planner for 42 years. She gets the work done. So, I urge you all to support Susan Prosi-Johnson for this position. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Gresko of the 121st, sir, you have the floor.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand in support of Susan Prosi-Johnson. Along with her many accolades, she is the program manager right now for the replacement of the walk bridge on Metro North Line and her positive experience with SWRPA and WestCOG municipalities, our DOT, federal agencies, her resume is killer, and I look forward to casting a vote in the affirmative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the resolution? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, let me try

your minds. All those in favor, signify by saying,
aye. Opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The
Resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 2?

CLERK:

Calendar No. 2, House Joint Resolution No. 2.
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JOHN S.
JOHNSON OF NEW LONDON TO BE REAPPOINTED TO THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY.
DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vargas, you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of
the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption
of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report
and adoption of the resolution. Representative
Vargas, you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Johnson is from

New London. His professional experiences includes being currently a managing partner at 60 Willow Street, LLC, in Mystic, Connecticut, Proprietor of The Gallery at Firehouse Square in New London. And currently he's the CEO and owner of Thames River Properties, LLC in New London and he's the managing partner at JBG Ventures in Stonington and formerly the owner and President of Machine Works at Essex in New London, Connecticut.

Other information includes he's currently Cochairman of the New London Municipal Revenue Board. He's the Vice Chair of the New London Port Authority and he's formerly the Director and Vice Chair of the Connecticut Marine Trades Association. I urge a favorable vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Wood of the 141st, Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to go along with what the good Chair of the Executive Nominations had

mentioned, John Johnson is a very qualified and capable candidate. I loved in his resume he wrote or his testimony he wrote, "The brightest lights for economic recovery here in Connecticut is the 80 miles of our coastline." He's very well suited to this job and I urge confirmation. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All of those in favor of the resolution, signify by saying, aye? Opposed, nay? The ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 3?

CLERK:

Calendar No. 3, House Resolution No. 3.

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MARILDA GANDARA OF HARTFORD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vargas, once again you have the

floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Vargas, you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mrs. Gandara is from the City of Hartford. Her professional experiences include being the former President of the Aetna Foundation, a Managing Director and Vice President of the Aetna Real Estate Investments Problem Loan and Hotel Groups. She's also formerly the assistant Vice President of Aetna Corporate Planning and Financial Reporting Department and also a former counsel for the Aetna Law Department. She's currently a member of the Board of Advisors for Ironwood Mezzanine Fund, L.P. And other activities she's involved in, she's a former Trustee and Chair

of the Strategic Planning Committee and Education Committee for the Bushnell Performing Arts Center, formerly a Founding Chair of the Alumni Association for the Harvard Business School Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility, Corporate Governance Seminar and also a former Trustee of the Capital Regional Growth Council for the Trinity College Boards Fellows on a personal note, I've known Marilda Gandara for many years. Her work on philanthropy and community issues is well known throughout the Capital City and I urge my colleagues to give her a favorable vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Thank you very much. Would you care to remark further? Representative Wood of the 141st, Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Mr. Chair. And to follow up with what the good Chair of Executive Nominations had mentioned, she also has deep, deep roots in the community and she was also the Founding Chair of the Bushnell Performing Arts Center Educational

Committee. So, she has a deep understanding of what we need to be doing to creating an educational equity and I'd stand in strong support and urge to the Chamber to do so. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Ma'am. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the resolution, signify by saying, aye. All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 4?

CLERK:

Calendar No. 4, House Resolution No. 4.

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF HASSAN M. MINHAS OF STAMFORD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vargas, you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption

of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Vargas, you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Hassan is from Stamford. His professional experience includes being currently the Doctor on Call for Eastern Connecticut Health Network. He's currently a private practitioner at Minhas Psychiatry, LLC and he's currently Director of Outpatient Services for the Autism Center Hospital for Special Care and currently Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine. And he is a former Consultant/Psychiatrist IPC at the Hospitalist Company. Other information includes currently being a member of the Developmental Disorders Committee for the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law. He's a former member of the Council on Psychiatry and Law for the American Psychiatric Association and

formerly a member in training, representative for the Rhode Island Council for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. I urge a favorable vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the resolution, Representative Wood of the 141st, Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in strong support of Dr. Hassan Minhas for this position. Our state is losing psychiatrists, they don't stay here, and to have somebody of his capability stay here and be willing to volunteer his time is a real gift. So, I urge you all to support, stand in support of his nomination. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Would you care to remark further on the resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All of those in favor, signify by saying, aye. Opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 5?

CLERK:

Calendar No. 5, House Resolution No. 5.

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF PHILIP
ELLIOT RUBIN OF FAIRFIELD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.
DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vargas, sir, you have the floor
again.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of
Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of
the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report
and adoption of the resolution. Representative
Vargas, you still have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Rubin is from
Fairfield, he currently is a Chief Executive Officer
of Emeritus Haskins Laboratories and an Adjunct

Professor at Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Surgery, Otolaryngology. He's formerly a principal, Assistant Director for Science, Office of Science Technology, Policy Executive Office of the President of the United States. He's formerly the Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, Office of Science and Technology, Policy and Executive Office of the President of the United States and formerly an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Connecticut. He also is a Director and Treasurer of Impact of Gender/Sex on Innovation and Novel Technologies. Currently a participant in the Yale University Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics. Formerly the Chairman of the Board of Discovery Museum and Planetarium in Bridgeport, Connecticut. And he's also formerly a member of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors. I urge a favorable vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Wood of the

141st, would you care to remark further?

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Yes, a few words. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Rubin is a very qualified candidate and we did see on, this is a week ago on Executive Nominations, we did see three candidates for the Board, the Connecticut UConn Board, and all three bring very different experience. And I applaud the Governor's office for doing that, for coming up with three candidates like that. Dr. Rubin's experience is extensive. I'm not going to go over what the good Chairman mentioned, but it is very solid and he's also a man of temperament. I was very impressed with his temperament and ability to understand the issues with the experience. So, I stand in strong support and urge the Chamber to support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Would you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Would you care to remark further? If not, I would try your minds, all those in favor, signify by saying, aye. Opposed, nay? The ayes have it. The

Resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for purposes of journal notation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Please proceed.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Missing votes due to illness, Genga and Perone.
Missing votes due to family business, Porter and Sanchez.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Albis -- oh, I'm sorry, Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a journal notation, please. Representative Labriola is away on business. And Representative MacLachlan is back in the district in business. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There being no further business on the Clerk's desk, I move that we adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The motion is to adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair. Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, the House is adjourned, subject to the Call of the Chair. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Albis of the 99th District, the House adjourned at 2:02 o'clock p.m., sine die.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 48 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on February 21, 2018.

I further certify that the digital sound recording was transcribed by the word processing department employees of Alphatranscription, under my direction.

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3244 Ridge View Ct 104
Lake Ridge VA 22192