(The House of Representatives was called to order at 12:00 o'clock p.m., Representative Joe Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

CLERK:

To the Chamber. The House of Representatives will convene immediately. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) The House please come to order. Will members, staff, and guests please rise? Direct your attention to the Dias where Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz will lead us in prayer. Thank you, sir.

HOUSE CHAPLAIN RABBI ALAN LEFKOWITZ:

Good afternoon. Good afternoon and Happy Holidays.

At this season, let us be reminded that "freedom" means coming to peace with the fact that
change is inherent in life. There are those who think that "creation" happened once, whereas "creation" is ongoing, therefore, change is ongoing.

Freedom does not come from outside of us -- freedom comes from within. We nurture freedom in our very own souls, as it manifests in how we view life and, in the obstacles, we choose to remove from or place in our paths. So often we may ask: "Why is this happening to me?" Where, in reality, we should ask: "Why is this happening for me?"

Therefore, we can remove the obstacle of being a victim.

Freedom is not a result of outside influences as much as our own inner spirit. One can have all the luxuries and wealth in the world and feel imprisoned; while another could be locked away in a life sentence or as a political prisoner and still feel free. In our freedom and expression of that freedom, may we all embrace the totality of life with its struggles, its challenges, and joys of everyday living. And we all say, Amen.
(All) Amen.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, sir. Would Representative Klarides-Ditria of the 105th district please come to the Dias to lead us in the pledge? Hello, madam. How are you?

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

(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):

Thank you, Madam.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Are there any announcements or introductions? Announcements or introductions? Representative Klarides of the 114th. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, I was
honored along with some of my colleagues to go to Derby High School to tour their Advanced Manufacturing Program. And this program is unique because it is a collaboration with Housatonic Community College, and it allows for the students to get credits in high school and at the college. And there's many, many different courses they could take, none of which I'm familiar with, and can basically explain like bench working, solid working, blueprint reading, things I'm not familiar with. That's why I'm here.

Representative Klarides-Ditria, Representative Rochelle, and Senator Logan are here with me to welcome them. I'd like them all to stand. I'd like to introduce them first.

UNKNOWN:

Where'd they go?

REP. Klarides-Ditria (105TH):

(Applause) They're right here. We have Isaac Mahea [phonetic], Michael Hernandez, Harold Johnson, Agnessa Pelvikej [phonetic], Blake Shepard
[phonetic], Tatiana Vichens [phonetic], Skylar Cursio [phonetic], Julian Delarosa [phonetic], Quinn Hayes [phonetic], and, of course, our former colleague, Superintendent Matt Conway, and Assistant Superintendent Ray Coplin. Please give them a big round of applause and welcome.

(Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. And -- and, Superintendent Conway, great to see you, my friend. Your old Chamber and really congratulations to the students. I know Representative Klarides and I met with the manufacturing sector some years ago, talking about what we could be doing and what you're doing is exactly that. And Derby is the Red Raiders, right? Is that correct? All right. Good memory. Thank you very much for coming up to our Chamber today.

Are there any other announcements or introductions? The esteemed Chair of the Finance Committee, Representative Rojas of the 9th district.
Sir, you have the floor.

REP. ROJAS (9TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. ROJAS (9TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Joining us here today in the Chamber with Representative Currey and Representative Genga are 29 of the smartest and brightest students from East Hartford's talented and gifted program along with their teachers. We have a couple special guests who are along with their classmates. One familiar face here to my right is my middle child, Stella Rojas, who has spent her entire life in this building. And certainly on my left here, we have Representative Currey's niece, Lily Johansen [phonetic], who is also joining us today, so a lot of political legacies here and perhaps some future legislators here across the back of the room. I'd ask the Chamber to just give them a warm welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
(Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much for coming in today and, Stella, it's great to see you again. You were a little smaller when we'd sit over there and -- and hang out, but it's -- it's good to see you back in the Chamber.

Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Linehan of the 103rd. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, first of all, would like to thank all the legislators and staff members who made the student manufacturing -- student manufacturer day successful. The event is going down -- on downstairs on the first floor. It is --
when I say, successful, I mean, it's wildly successful. We are hearing from students all over who are having a wonderful time.

Additionally, there are some companies there that are actually looking to hire these high school students now. And, as a matter of fact, I just spoke with one company, EDAC Technologies, where they hired someone right out of a high school at $20 an hour. It's now six years later, and they are sending them to Manchester Community College and paying him $90,000 a year. This is happening because manufacturing is happening, so I hope that all of our legislators take the time to head down and talk to the students and talk to the businesses there. But, once again, I want to thank you everybody and the staff because I couldn't have done this without your help. So thank you so very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam.  (Applause)

And thank you for -- I know there was a lot of
organization that went into it. You had a lot of
great help from staff members and others, but it
really is pretty cool to walk around, meet some of
the kids, see the companies that are involved. And
-- and I appreciate your Herculean effort on that.
Thank you. Representative Barry of the 31st.
Madam, you have the floor.

REP. BARRY (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I'd like to
commend Representative Linehan for her amazing work
on the manufacturing fair. I attended it, and when
she says it's successful, it was beyond successful.
I rise also for an introduction. I'd like to
introduce an all-girls robotics team from --

(Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

-- I'm clapping now for that.

REP. BARRY (31ST):

-- from Glastonbury. (Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

That's pretty cool.
REP. BARRY (31ST):

They are the Armored Artemesis, and they are Sienna, Hannah, Audra, and Clarissa, and they were— they demonstrated their robotic duck catapult. And it was pretty cool even though I couldn't get the duck into the little thing, but they could do it. And they're amazing, so thank you for being here.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you. (Applause) And as I'm reminded my -- by my soon-to-be 13-year-old daughter, girls rule, and I think you guys have proven that by doing what you're doing. Awesome job.

Representative Johnson of the 49th. Madam, you have an announcement or an introduction?

REP. JOHNSON (49TH):

Point of personal privilege, I thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I just wanted to thank the Manufacturing Caucus and Representative Linehan for their good work and getting all these people here today. I especially am very pleased that I had the
Windham Early College Opportunity students here this morning to see what was going on, and I'm very, very pleased with the great work that they're doing. So, like a few other districts, we do have an Early College Opportunity. It's doing very, very well and having Manufacturing Day and having them here was an excellent thing, so thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Appreciate all the work.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. There being no further announcements or introduction, is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. There's communication from the Senate President Pro Tempore Executive and Legislative Nomination Melissa Kane of Westport to be a member of the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Refer to the Committee on Executive and Legislative Noms.
Communications from the Governor Executive and Legislative Nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Refer Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

CLERK:

Favor reports House Bills and House Joint Resolution to be tabled for the calendar in printing.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter of the 1st district, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Trying to do too many things at once here. [Laughter] I move that we waive the reading of the list of resolutions and the resolutions be tabled for the calendar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

So ordered.

CLERK:

The list of bills No.57 dated April 24th, 2019.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Right back at ya, Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move that we waive the reading the list and the list be tabled for the calendar in printing.

CLERK:

And the daily calendar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. Chamber will stand at ease.

Chamber will come back to order. Ladies and gentlemen, in a few moments, we're gonna start the memorial to one of our dear friends and former colleagues, Representative Santiago. The family's going to be coming on the floor as some of the -- in addition to some former colleagues, so we will begin as soon as the family comes onto the floor.

Chamber will again stand at ease.

(Gavel) The House will come back to order.

Will the Clerk please call House Joint Resolution
House Joint Resolution No. 163 introduced by Representative Aresimowicz, Representative Ritter, Senator Looney, Senator Duff, Representative Klarides, Senator Fasano, Representative Baker, Senator Bradley, Representative Hennessy, Senator Moore, Representative Rosario, Representative Stafstrom, Representative Stallworth.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Question before the Chamber is on suspension of the rules for immediate consideration of House Joint Resolution 163. Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, the rules are suspended for that purpose. I would ask staff and guests to please come to the well of the House. We are about to take up the Memorial Resolution for former member of the House of Representatives Ezequiel Santiago.

Representative Ritter, the Resolution has been called. Will you move adoption, sir?

REP. RITTER (1ST):
(Gavel) Mr. Speaker, I -- as you alluded to, I move for the suspension of our rules, and I urge adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much. Mr. Clerk, before I ask if there's questions before the Chamber on the adoption, will you read the resolution, please, sir?

CLERK:

Resolution expressing sympathy on the death of Representative Ezequiel Santiago.

Resolved by this Assembly:

Whereas, on Friday, March 15th, 2019, the State of Connecticut and the city of Bridgeport lost a distinguished and beloved State Representative with the passing of Representative Ezequiel "Chequi" Santiago at the age of 45; and

Whereas, he represented the 130th district with distinction for 10 years and to the date of his passing; and

Whereas, he was born in Camden, New Jersey, on April 20th of 1973, and raised in the South End of
Bridgeport, Connecticut; and

Whereas, he attended Gibbs College, where he earned a certificate in Computer Technical Support; and

Whereas, he was a city statistics analyst for the city of Bridgeport; and

Whereas, he also had careers as a constituent representative for the city of Bridgeport, a computer technical support representative for online marketing, and an assistant teacher for Action For Bridgeport Community Development; and

Whereas, he started his political career by volunteering on the campaigns of his father, Americo Santiago, for State Representative and Secretary of the State and by assisting his stepfather, Mitch Robles, with other political campaigns; and

Whereas, he served on the Bridgeport City Council from 2005 to 2008; and

Whereas, during his tenure as a City Councilman, he addressed public safety issues in Bridgeport and helped secure Community Development
Block Grant funding for the YMCA, the South End Community Center, and the Cardinal Shehan Center; and

Whereas, he was first elected as a State Representative in 2008, representing the South End of Bridgeport and Downtown Bridgeport in a legislative seat previously -- previously held by his father, Americo Santiago; and

Whereas, he served for five terms as a State Representative and served as Vice Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the Banking Committee, Vice Chairman of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, and member of the Commerce Committee, Environment Committee, Planning and Development Committee, and Transportation Committee; and

Whereas, he also served as the Deputy Majority Whip in the Connecticut House of Representatives; and

Whereas, he was selected by his peers in the Bridgeport delegation to lead the delegation in the
Whereas, as a member of the General Assembly, he worked tirelessly to, among other things, win approval for a Bridgeport casino, raise the minimum wage, extend the foreclosure mediation program, protect workers' rights, improve police training, increase local police force hiring, increase minority representation in the court system, close the achievement gap, and protect funding for local social service agencies; and

Whereas, he is survived by his parents, Americo Santiago and Evelyn Robles; his stepfather, Mitch Robles; his three daughters, Lenymar Matos, ILenny Matos, and Chelsie M. Santiago; his grandmothers, Lydia Antonia Mercado and Olga Molina; his brother, Eddie Omar Santiago and Jodi Anastasia Santiago; his two sisters, Michelle Robles and Jason Rivera and April Robles; and his girlfriend, Paula Romero; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Connecticut General Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences on the passing of
one of its honorable members, Ezequiel Santiago, whose death is a profound loss to the House of Representatives, his family and friends, the residents of Bridgeport, and the entire State of Connecticut; and

Be it further resolved, that the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the family of Ezequiel Santiago, as an expression of the high esteem and affection in which he is held.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. And before we remark on the resolution, I would ask that you draw your attention to our boards on the side as we will be playing a video. [Video]

As we open up to remarks on the resolution, I'm asking Deputy Speaker Chris Rosario to take over the Dais, not only a fellow colleague from Bridgeport, one of Representative Santiago's best friends.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will you remark on the
resolution before us? Will you remark on the
resolution before us? Representative Gresko with
121st, you have the floor, sir.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Knowing that there
will be a long line behind me, I'll keep it as brief
as I could, but I've known Zeke for 20 plus years.
It was an honor, and it was a privilege. I've known
him since he was with the city council even in
Bridgeport even before, and I worked with Zeke. We
all had -- most of us have jobs outside the Chamber
here, so we worked together. And I could still
remember his face working with the -- with the
students in -- in the conservation core in the city
of Bridgeport. And he excelled in that. And you
saw in the video how he immediately connected with
-- with students and -- and children. It was an --
it was an honor. He was so well respected, and he
was poised to take the next step in this Chamber as
far as leadership goes, in my opinion. And he would
have been exceptional in that role, and I -- I
envision that.

And as I wrap it up here, when you see each other in the hallway or whatever, I would greet him with, jefe. And he would greet me back, and then after a while, I would say -- I would call him jefe, and he would call -- he called me jefulte. And I said, what is that? And he said that's the boss' boss. So we did that for a little while, and then he was so instrumental on so many issues up here. One day I asked him, I said, Zeke, how -- who's the boss' boss' boss? And he said to me, it's [Spanish]. So that's what I called him whenever I saw him in the hallways because he was -- he was that guy.

So, in -- in closing, I just want to say [Spanish]. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. I know Representative Santiago deeply cared about the environment as you do, and I know he's -- was a great role model for -- for many people, young and
old, in the city of Bridgeport and throughout the state. Thank you.

Will you remark further? Representative Stafstrom of the 129th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it certainly is no secret to you or to many in this Chamber that the Bridgeport delegation appear particularly -- those of us in the House are a pretty tight knit group and stick together, generally vote together, spend a lot of time together, and advocate for our city the best we can. And, you know, sometimes part of that -- well, first, let me say, that -- that wasn't always the case.

You know, there was -- there was a point in time, I think, folks around this building know that the Bridgeport delegation didn't always swim in the same direction. I hear chuckles [Laughter] from both below me as well as to -- as well as to my left. And I think a lot of that is a testament to
Ezequiel. It's a testament the fact that we've been able to come together, is he's been a steady hand for well over a decade in Bridgeport politics certainly but up here in this building and the like.

And I think part of the message that he delivered to the rest of us -- some of us, Mr. Speaker, yourself and I, who -- who came to this building after him and certainly along with Representative Hennessy tried to learn the ropes from -- from those guys in the delegation who've been here a little bit longer.

And I think one of the things we've recognized over the years and -- and because of Ezequiel is, you know, sometimes there's a perception, certainly down in Bridgeport and even up here, that Bridgeport doesn't always get its fair shake vis-à-vis some of the other large cities in the state; that we're not the capital. We don't have the major university, and those are rarities among other states around the country.

And we -- we often will say, you know,
Bridgeport's the largest city in the state. And Ezequiel -- and that's true by population, but Ezequiel was always quick to point out -- and I think something we always remember is, it's not that -- it may be the most populous in the state, but it's not the largest in terms of land area.

And Ezequiel was the type of person who, I think, recognized that very early on knew that a city of 16 square miles could pack a large -- larger punch than our 16 square miles might indicate that the delegation in the city, as this state's economy moves into the 21st century, want to be a leader in bringing about the economic revitalization in the state.

And Ezequiel never let us lose sight of that message. Never let us lose sight of what the goal was up here for the six of us in the House or the eight of us all together. Was to make sure not that -- not just that we're bringing the dollars home for -- for our residents and not just that we were advocating an agenda for the city, but that
Bridgeport -- as the most populous city in the state, he would never let me say the largest, the most populous city in our state -- has a vital role to play in the state overall and that the delegation that's sent up here to Bridgeport has to, has to be a key component of that as we have the conversations about how we grow this state, how we grow the economy, how we cut down on the income gap and the disparity across our state and so many of the other issues that were highlighted in the resolution.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand here in full support of the resolution in memory of one of our former colleagues, who literally devoted his life to serving the people he represented.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. As -- as a member of the Bridgeport delegation, I can attest that, no matter how crazy or hectic this building got, Ezequiel was almost like our -- he was our security blanket. He was our -- our steadying common force, and he let us know that things were gonna be okay.
And we're -- we're gonna work things out. Thank you.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Stallworth of the 126th district.

You have the floor, sir.

REP. STALLWORTH (126TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What an honor it is to stand to speak words about our dear colleague. My other task when I'm not here has been a pastor of a church. And, so, I know far too well what it means to give a eulogy, and I also know what it means to stay up all night trying to figure out something to say that's nice about a person who was really not a nice person.

However, with Ezequiel, one can talk all day and not run out of good things to say. That line from Cicero that says, "A friend is, as it were, a second self," is what one thinks of when thinking of Ezequiel. There's a line that we often use in African-American context when there's a funeral, and it simply says, "Sleep on, my brother, and take your
rest. We all love you, but God loves you best.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. Ezequiel was definitely someone who provided a calming presence, not only in our delegation but throughout the city of Bridgeport.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Reyes of the 75th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, as my colleagues have already said, on behalf of this legislative body, the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, and many of the other caucus that the great late Santiago belonged to, it is definitely an honor and privilege to be able to -- to serve here. And I served with him here for only three plus years, but I've known him and his family for a long, long time, and I do send my condolences to the Santiago and Robles Family. This is a very difficult time for them and -- as it is for us. Families and extended families
is one in the same in many cases, and I liked what I've heard from the Bridgeport delegation because it speaks of a strong family.

And I have to tell you that in this legislation, in this work that we do, sometimes a little -- sometimes a little bit more tricky and difficult to find trusted allies, and I felt that way 100 percent about Ezequiel. And we had a lot of conversations about different things here in the legislation, especially when you're new and you're trying to feel your way around. Everybody's busy, and you can tell the ones that can make time for other people. And Ezequiel was that person, and I certainly appreciate him for that.

And I also want to extend a heartfelt and deep gratitude for the work that his father, Americo Santiago, did in this legislative body. I've known him for a long time, actually long -- before I knew Ezequiel. And -- so this tribute for me runs deep and is -- is as sincere as I can be. I -- it is with a heavy heart that I stand and support the
resolution but also support the Bridgeport family, which I consider my family. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you for the kind words, Representative. I know Representative Santiago as the Subcommittee Chair of Conservation and Development not only cared deeply about programs and issues not only in the city of Bridgeport but throughout the state of Connecticut including Waterbury. Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Hennessy of the 127th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My condolences to Ezequiel's family. As a member of the Bridgeport delegation, I can't -- words can't express the loss that -- that we all share with the loss of Ezequiel. It -- it's something that took me weeks to just kind of wrap my head around because the loss of him here was so great, his presence so -- so supportive and kind that it -- it's easy to kinda take for granted
until you lose it.

So, Representative Stafstrom mentioned about how, you know, we work as a team, and, you know, I -- I believe that's true. And Ezequiel was such a strong part of that team, and the loss is -- is so great for us and for Bridgeport and for Connecticut.

So I was Chair of the delegation for two terms. I had the honor of being the Chair, and I remember the last time. He comes to me and says, Jack, you know, next time I'd like to be the Chair of the Bridgeport delegation. And, so, two years pass, and he -- he comes to me and says, so -- so, you know, remember we had that conversation? I'm like, Zeke, it's all yours. And -- and he said, you know, I -- I really want to do this. I want to step up, and I wanna, you know, really put my heart into it. And -- and he did. He did.

He was a great Chair of the Bridgeport delegation. He was able to, you know, bring us together in a kindly way, which is pretty difficult because it's, you know -- it's like herding cats, as
the say to get us together on -- on a certain time and a certain date, but he was just such a presence. He was so gentle and yet effective, and I'll always miss him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. I -- I want to thank you for your leadership of the delegation over the last couple terms, and I -- I know Ezequiel was really anxious to -- to lead the delegation. And I remember we had that conversation, and I want to thank you for -- for allowing -- giving him that opportunity to serve as a delegation chair. It just was difficult. You -- you couldn't say no to Ezequiel. I remember he would call -- every time he'd call a meeting after, you know, after hours -- after in district, it'd be a rainy night, but, yeah, everybody would show up because you just couldn't -- you didn't want to let him down, so thank you.

Will you remark further on the bill, the resolution? Representative Walker of the 93rd. You have the floor, madam.
REP. WALKER (93RD):

Thank you. Sorry. I was holding back because I didn't want to pick up the mic and cry.

But, first of all, I stand in strong support of this resolution for this incredible young man who believed so much in the needs of our people and our community, that his biggest focus. And I -- I remember when we first started 'cause the first day he came to the -- the -- to the capital I saw him that very first day, and he looked so lost. And, so, I said, come on in. Come and talk to me. Let's see what's going on. And we started talking, and he said, what do you do? And I said, well, I do -- I work on the Budget and Appropriations. And he said, really? I said, yeah. He said, I -- I want to do that. I want to work on you with that. I said, good. And he said, but I want to work for the nonprofits. He -- he said that, our nonprofit community is what holds our cities up, and we have so few people that understand the value of our nonprofits, that he said, I'd really like to do
that.

And, so, when I had the opportunity to talk to him and I talked to the Speaker about having him become the Chair of the Subcommittee for Conservation and Development, he was thrilled because he took it so seriously at that point. And he went out and started evaluating the agencies that were in the Bridgeport area because we talked about, how do we get people to understand their importance? And he took it one step further. He made sure that the agencies that he was supporting he visited all the time, and he talked to them about what are their needs. And you could not help but feel the passion that he had for his city, his beautiful city of Bridgeport, and also for the people in the communities who struggled for -- for lack of jobs or housing or even food. Those were things that he really made a commitment, that he was going to be their champion and fight for it.

And cradle to career, God bless him. I mean, that was -- that was his first and major nonprofit
that he really -- really impassioned for, but it wasn't just that. It was for the Beardsley Zoos, and it was for the Tom Thumb. And it was for the neighborhoods, and it was for the children. And it was for the families and the -- and the celebrations of the families that he always brought into our meetings. So when I say he came and he said, I want to make a big difference, he worked hard at that. And he did it with -- with sincerity, and he did it with an understanding that, if we don't do it with our people, then nobody will understand it. And he believed in that, so I stand in strong support of this resolution for -- for Ezequiel.

I also -- my condolences to the families. You truly had a -- a wonderful person who believed that family was number one, and his extended family was Bridgeport. And he celebrated that in everything he did. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to say that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. I -- I want to
thank you. I know you and Representative Santiago had a very close relationship. You worked very well together. And, if there was one committee where Ezequiel really shined and he really knew -- really knew the subject matter, it was Appropriations. And he was a great mentor to -- to me and others, so I want to thank you.

Will you remark further on the -- on the resolution? Representative Baker of the 124th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. BAKER (124TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I see you up there, I think about Band of Brothers and Ezequiel. He was always a leader even when he wasn't the delegation chair. I think about the times when we were together, and he -- he sat with us. And we strategized on the importance of his being on certain committees and the importance of those committees to Bridgeport. And -- and we were successful because Ezequiel and his strategy in such a way and all his -- Representative Stallworth
talked about Ezequiel being a soft-spoken person. I -- I'm sorta like him in a way, and I think that that's where we were able to connect and relate.

I think about the times where we served on the city council together. The person Ezequiel is today is always a person he has been when he served on the city council. He -- he didn't change. He didn't allow circumstances to change him. He just took his position up here to a whole another level and to be able to provide the things that we could do for the city of Bridgeport and -- you know.

You know, I think about his -- his family and his father and the -- the legacy that his father has -- has passed on to Ezequiel. He followed in those footsteps and what he believed in for the passion and give back to Bridgeport and to give all Bridgeport that Bridgeport has had. So, you know, sometimes it just -- it just seems difficult as I think about -- when I -- I look down the hall and I see his office. And his lights are off, and I -- I think about that -- that loss and that -- that void
that -- that we're missing up here, but I remember some of the things that he talked about and he said and how we have to continue to build up momentum and do the things we do.

You know, there's a -- a saying that goes, you know, well, time will change and heal all wounds, but Ezequiel's loss to -- to me is -- is it's a time for us to -- to build on that pillar. Even though that -- that missing piece is there, we have to come together and continue to build on the -- the legacy, build on -- on what he has contribute to us as a delegation, and to continue to fight the charge what we were sent up here to do.

So, Mr. Speaker, we gotta keep that momentum up and -- and I -- to his family, we're gonna continue to fulfill his legacy from a legislative standpoint. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. I'm glad you brought up Band of Brothers. We also have a -- have a sister in the delegation, Senator Moore, but in
many ways, Ezequiel was -- he was the mastermind of a lot of the things that we concocted and was out there. And there were thousands and thousands of pieces of legislation that run through this building where Ezequiel could've gotten the credit, could've gotten the glory, but he -- he didn't want to. He was a strong leader. I don't want to say he was quiet. He was a strong leader. Thank you -- thank you for those kind words.

Will you remark further on the resolution? Representative Tercyak of the 26th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My condolences to the family, especially to my old and dear friend, Americo.

It's been mentioned Zeke Chequi was a legacy. I'm a legacy. When I was first elected, I sat next to Representative Labriola, who gave me the talk about being a legacy; about the extra pressure that you put on yourself if your father served in the
Chamber as I look at Matt Ritter, who -- who understands about being a legacy; about the pressure that others put on you because of your understanding and because of your fealty or lack of fealty to what your family's fought for over the years. Zeke came through fine.

The last time we raised the minimum wage in this state, it was Zeke who stood up here for hours and carried on that battle. He volunteered for that, in part, 'cause I'm old and slow and, in part, because it was important. And it was a commitment to the working people and the people who want to work in this state. And it was a fight that he was proud to be a part of and proud to be a leader of. He would go anywhere at the hint of something that came close to an invitation to stand with working people who were fighting for a better life.

When Zeke passed, Representative Mushinsky came up to me and said, Peter, what are we going to do? There are thousands of people who have jobs again in this state, who have their dignity back, who stand
with pride, who go to work every day because Zeke.

Here's a lesson, folks, about one person. Because Zeke stood up and drew the line in the sand and saved the Platform To Employment program and its funding again and again; once he made that commitment that we have a program that works; once he met people who shook his hand and said, thank you, I thought I would never work again. It's rough being fifty-something years old and losing your job in Connecticut. Zeke got it. Zeke made a difference. We and thousands of people in this state are directly more fortunate because of his hard work.

He understood and accepted the responsibilities that come along with his position in life and his position here. It wasn't easy being Americo Santiago's son. Might have a wink now and then and say, born on the 4th of July. You know, that was Americo. What luck. You get born on the 4th of July, and your family names you Americo. How do you top that as his son dedicated to the same things and
following in many of the same footsteps? You do it the way Zeke did. You just keep quiet and humble and work like a dog day and night and every chance you get.

And we, and especially working people, and the children of people, who thought they would never be employed again, owe a special thanks to Chequi, to Ezequiel Santiago. And we'll never do well enough expressing it. It's a horrible loss for all of us, for the state, and for this Chamber. Thank you to the family for sharing him with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. Thank you for those kind words. I -- I know Ezequiel was a -- an embodiment of his district and of his family. He was a fighter. He didn't give up, and he was proud to be Americo's son, but he also made his own mark here. And we're proud to have served with him. Thank you.

Will you remark further on the resolution?
Representative McGee of the 5th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do stand in support of this resolution.

And I could remember that Friday as if it was yesterday, receiving the text message and call on the passing of Zeke. And Ezequiel, as described by many of us, a quiet person, I would characterize Ezequiel as a quiet storm. Every time I would see Ezequiel, whether we'd be in our meetings for the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus to discuss bills, you would see Ezequiel in the corner, sitting down, processing, and thinking about what next he can do for Bridgeport as well as his district.

Forty-five years old is extremely young. I'm 35. And in thinking about all that Ezequiel has accomplished in his short time here, I'm still trying to process, but as a person who has strong faith, I understand that all things work well and, indeed, for a purpose. And, so, on today, I'm
excited that we're all here and that, in the passing of Ezequiel, we're here to honor his family. We're here to continue his legacy, but most importantly, we're here to remember a great man who stood for the state, who cared so much about Bridgeport, and loved his district.

So, Mr. Speaker, thank you so much for your friendship and your willingness to look up to Ezequiel while here and not feeling like this -- there was an eagle thing, but you really, really, really looked up to him. And I'm so delighted that you are stepping up and living out what Ezequiel would have wanted you to do, is being that Chairman.

And I remember the first day you got up there on the mic. Y'all are up there doing your selfies and doing everything, and it was such a sight to see. And, so, continue to do what it is that you're doing but do it and remember him.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. Thank you -- thank you for those kind words. Ezequiel and I, we -- we
were -- we're more like brothers than anything. And he's -- he's gonna be missed. Thank you.

Will you remark further on the resolution?

Representative Smith of the 108th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Mr. Speaker, thank you. First, my condolences to the family for Zeke and to the Democratic Caucus. You have certainly lost a -- what we -- is really hard to find actually in these days -- a true gentleman. And he embodied the word, gentleman.

I had the -- the good pleasure and honor to serve on the Labor Committee with Zeke. Now, the Labor Committee can be quite contentious at times. Tempers can be raised, and heated debate can occur on a regular in pretty much every committee meeting we have except for Zeke. As hard as I tried to get him fired up or riled, I failed miserably every time because he was so calm. He was so collective. He was such a true gentleman.

We had a public hearing down in Bridgeport, and
we were forced to go offsite in his home city. And we got down there. He could not have welcomed us more to make sure that we felt comfortable, and that was just who he was. I was always so impressed on his ability in this crazy place to remain calm. I'm not sure what was going on inside, but outwardly, he displayed that calmness.

And Representative Tercyak mentioned the minimum wage hearing. Some of you who were here probably recall it as well. It went for hours and hours and hours. Because of my Republican colleagues, they kept asking questions to Zeke about the impact of minimum wage on businesses. And he stood there, did not get riled, did not get angry, did not get flustered. I don't know how he did it. I don't even -- I don't even know if he took a bathroom break, so he withstood it all in -- in the way he was truly.

So I know I speak not only for myself but for many others in my caucus who had the pleasure of serving with Zeke. We are truly, truly sorry, and
we'll miss him.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Santiago had -- had a calming nature about him. I -- I remember it was a couple years ago where his -- his town committee that supported him had a primary and all -- pretty much all the seats lost. And he came up to me and he says, I might get a primary. I said, Ezequiel, if you get a primary, I'm gonna be there with you. But he said, I'm gonna go talk to the new people that come in. And, lo and behold, all those new people that came in, they endorsed him. So that -- that was the type of person Ezequiel was. He was -- I used to call him, Teflon, but thank you. Thank you for those kind words.

Will you remark further on the resolution?

Representative Piscopo of the 76th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. PISCOPO (76TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My condolences to you. I just wanted to extend my sympathies to all of
Ezequiel's friends and -- and especially his family.

I -- I served with his dad, Americo. And although we didn't agree on a lot of issues in this room, we got along very well. I consider him a friend, and we -- we always just really got along very, very well. And I -- and I met Ezequiel -- I think it was the first day. I -- I ran into Americo in the hall. I said, hey, Americo. How are you? What -- what are you doing up here? And I shook his hand, and he was, my son. He then introduced me to his son, and he was so proud. I -- I don't think his feet were touching the ground. I think he was floating on air. He was so proud of his son, and it was -- it was so good to meet Ezequiel that day.

And I shook his hand, and he was one of those guys that, you know, you know when you shake -- shake his hand and look him in the eye, you -- you knew you were gonna like him. He -- he had that kind of personality about him, so I knew right away he was gonna be a good guy. And I -- and I was going to like him very much.
So my deepest sympathy and -- and condolences to -- to the family and all -- and all his friends here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you very much. Thank you for those kind words.

Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Doucette of the 13th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I only knew Ezequiel for a short time, about four months, but I was fortunate that, during that time, I -- I spent a lot of time with him and even more fortunate that I was able to truly call him my friend. And that was just the nature of the man. He was a warm soul. Those were the words that keep coming to my mind that we -- words I said to you, Mr. Speaker, at his service. I just -- I can't think of any better way to describe him.

As a new legislator, he served as a mentor to
me. He let me serve as his copilot on the Banking Committee. He really went out of his way to do that. He certainly didn't have to do that, but it speaks again to the character of the man. I -- I miss him every day, even more so as this session continues, and I know that we're working on bills that were very important to him that has -- have been alluded to.

One story he did tell me -- Representative Tercyak and Representative Smith brought up the minimum wage debate. He did tell me about that and how nervous he was taking out that bill, how important it was to him. And he told me at the -- at the very end of the long debate, typically the Majority Leader would -- would take over, say the final words, and -- and then the vote would be opened.

But, on that occasion, Denise Merrill was at the time, he said, looked over to him as he waited for her to sorta take the mic and -- and she looked at him and did this, pointed to her heart. Said,
bring it home and do it from the heart. And I thought that was -- that was a great story and again fortunate that he's able to share those types of things with me.

So it's been a little lonelier up here on these session days, but as I look at this seat here, it reminds me of the job that we have to do, the responsibility, and the opportunity, and I would encourage all my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you -- thank you, Representative. I -- I remember hearing that story from former Speaker Donovan of what a great job he did. And I know he really enjoyed -- he was really thrilled to be the Chair of Banking this year, and I -- I want to thank you and -- and his staff that's behind you for all the hard work that you’ve done this session. Thank you.

Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Mushinsky of the 85th.
You have the floor, madam.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the resolution.

I worked with Ezequiel when he was Chair of the Conservation and Development Subcommittee of Appropriations. And he came in during the recession, right after the recession hit, and -- and a lot of people were thrown out of work. And my committee at the time was Program Review and Investigations, and we had discovered this little program in Bridgeport that was having remarkable success retraining people and putting them in a new career. It was called Platform to Employment, and we suggested to Ezequiel that this become a statewide program. Was he willing to shift a lot of money into this one little program and make it statewide? And he said, when he saw the numbers, their success rate was 94 percent. He was very impressed, and he got behind this.

And, then as Representative Tercyak said,
periodically, there was an effort to cut the program because it was a quasi-public, you know, not part of a state agency really, but it was very good at what it did. So they would try to -- other folks would try to cut the program, and I would go see Ezequiel. And even though he knew I was coming to pester him, he always had a smile on his face. Come on in and let's talk about it and don't worry. The program is very good. I'm gonna protect it, and he would always reassure me with a smile that he would stand behind the program, and he did.

And as Representative Tercyak said, this one distinctive action that he was always standing behind the program made the difference in thousands of people's lives. These are people who -- who their employers had given up on, and they were considered too old and couldn't learn things. And this program took them and retrained them, and they're back in the job market making a really good wage. They make about -- average about 53,000 now, the most recent graduating class, which is
remarkable. And he saw that, and he protected it. And he changed the lives of all these people that got a new -- got a new career and -- and, therefore, a new life.

This year, he got to be a Chairman, and that was a really great accomplishment for him. He had the biggest grin on his face when he found out he was gonna be the Chairman of Bank's Committee, and he had all the new responsibility. And he could see how Chairman did things, and he -- it was just a joy for him to come to work to be a Chairman. It -- it just made him so happy.

I also have a really good memory of him dancing at the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Scholarship fundraiser. He was always the biggest dancer at the fundraiser, and he would do these call-and-response songs. And he'd have a big grin out there dancing up a storm.

So he was a very happy person and took joy into the job and took joy in his family. And I think all of us want to thank his family for sharing him as a
public servant and letting him spend time up here helping the public. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. I -- I know the -- the Conservation and Development Subcommittee and Appropriations was very near and dear to Ezequiel. And anybody who said that he was quiet didn't have to face him. They tried to cut that money from that -- that part of the budget because he was very fierce and very protective of all those programs. Thank you very much.

Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Candelaria of the 95th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of this resolution, but I also would like to share my sentiments with the family, my condolences again. That was a great loss, not only to the family but to the state of Connecticut.
and to his constituency in Bridgeport.

Ezequiel was kind hearted. He was a stateman. And, when people look at Ezequiel and his demeanor, that was the way he operated. Never undermine his kindness 'cause he accomplished a lot in this building through that type of kindness. Because many of us cannot say no to him for those exact reason. When we looked at his puppy eyes looking at us, who could say no to him? That was Ezequiel. And everyone in this room knows exactly what I'm talking about, but he was -- he was an individual that worked hard for the issues that he believed in. He was passionate, and we saw that consistently throughout the different committees and even in this floor.

But the one thing that I can recall about Ezequiel was his great work at the national level through the National Hispanic Caucus on environmental issues. He has his tentacles not only locally but at the national level, and many people do not realize that. He did great work in ensuring
that we pass resolutions that were sent to Washington on issues that impact the environment.

But one thing about Ezequiel that always catches my eye was his moves. He was a great dancer. We seen him on the dance floor shaking it and how he danced. I mean, he had a strategy as well, and people know I'm a salsa dancer, but I saw his moves on the floor and said, he's not bad at all. He got some great moves. And -- and it was that spirit and that livelihood inside him that -- that made him the individual that he was, but that doesn't happened by coincidence. That was the great love that he had from his family.

The great stateman that he was, he learned it from his father, Americo, who understood the skills and the hard work that needed to happen in this building to ensure that you deliver to your constituency. He was groomed by a great leader, and that's why he was the person that he was.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm gonna miss him dearly because not only was he a colleague, but he was a
friend. And I know that he was like a brother to you, and you are also gonna miss him dearly. But what we have is the great memories and the times we shared with him. That's what's gonna keep us going and continue his legacy and his great work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. I'm glad that you brought up that he was a great dancer, also Representative Mushinsky, because he -- he was the life of the party. And one of the things about Representative Santiago was, before I came to the Chamber, I worked under the tutelage of former Representative Americo Santiago. And in many ways, I learned everything I know, and some of the easiest campaigns I've ever had to work on were for Ezequiel for the city council, town committee, and for State Representative because everybody loved him. Everybody in the 130th district loved him. It was Chequi and a big hug and a plate of food and some coffee, so thank you for those kind words.
Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Porter of the 94th. You have the floor, madam.

REP. PORTER (94TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in staunch support of this resolution. My condolences again to the family. Thank you and thank God for the blessing of Ezequiel.

When I got here almost five years ago, I ended up on Appropriations. And anybody that sits on that committee knows how intimidating that committee can be. And I tell you I found grace and strength in the way that Zeke helped me along, not just in that committee, but in maneuvering through this building.

And the one thing that I remember that will always resonate with me when it comes to Zeke, we've said it. It's been said. He has such a humble spirit. He was an angel walking on this earth. He was the same yesterday, today, tomorrow. That was Zeke. He never changed. No matter what was going on, confusion, contention, argument, love, whatever
it was, Zeke was the same no matter what.

You're right, Representative Smith. You couldn't shake him. He was not to be shook. He was rooted and grounded and the kind of love that I dream of. He was a gem, and I have to say Representative Reyes reminds me so much of him.

When I would come in here, they were the two that I saw a great similarity in. Always greeting you. Always hugging you. You know, no matter what was going on, he was a constant friend, indeed.

I saw him Thursday, the day before we lost him. And we ran into each other in the cafeteria, and it was Taco Thursday. And I was on the other side of the bar where I wasn't supposed to be around there, but he came around. And we hugged, and we kissed. And we were talking, and he was so excited.

Making him Banking Chair, Mr. Speaker, was the greatest gift you could have given Zeke. He was so happy and so proud to be the Chair of Banking. I can't tell you how he would just go on and on about chairing that committee. And I'd just seen him a
few days before, and he had been bragging about
[inaudible 01:12:55]thin line I'm done. How you
doin'? And I'm like, oh really? [Laughter] So,
Thursday, when I saw him a few days later, I said,
really, Zeke. You're gonna rub it in like that?
He's talking about it again. And I said, you know
what? We couldn't have a better Banking Chair. We
couldn't have had a better legislator, a better
lawmaker than Representative Ezequiel Santiago.

I -- I miss him every single day. It's not a
day I don't think about him, and I've only been here
almost five years, so I can't imagine what you feel,
what the family feels. You know, you said it best.
You know him for four months, Representative
Doucette, and he made an impression on you in a
short four months because that's who Zeke was. Zeke
is what I call, the truth. And he really did do
things in a way that made sense to me, and he had a
way of keeping things calm. And he was a quiet
storm. I'd actually written that down and had to
show it to Representative Hall. I'm like, he was a
quiet storm.

I never realized how much he got done in this building. I knew a little bit about what he was doing, but, I mean, he did a lot in this building, and it was never about, I did it. It was never about being in front of the cameras. It was never about being in the press. He -- he wasn't interested in any of that. He was grinding. His hands were on the plow. He was out there laboring with love in a way that I have so much admiration for, and I just -- I'm grateful.

I feel truly blessed that our paths crossed, that he was able to instill some things in me that I will take to my grave with me, and that he has really laid a foundation for me on how to operate in this building and how to just stay focused and remember the real purpose of being here is for the people. Because one thing we can say about Ezequiel Santiago, he was here for the people.

It was his passion for people. It was his love for community. And, yes, he loved Bridgeport, but
I'm here to tell you that he loved the state of Connecticut as a whole. And everything that he did was done in that vein, and it -- it wasn't done in vein. It was done because that's just who he was, and that's what he represented. And Bridgeport is blessed to have had him grace them in the capacity of the State Representative.

And to the family, we love Zeke, which means that we love you because he was a true extension of you and everything that you deposited in him. And I can't think of anything that would have made me more proud than to have him as a blood relative 'cause I do count him as a brother.

And you know my prayers are always with you, Chris, because you guys were like twins in this building. You didn't see Chris without seeing Zeke and even outside the building and the great pleasure of knowing him not only as a legislator but also as a dancer.

You know, two years ago at your Chris -- your birthday party, you know, that was one of the things
that somebody reminded me. You guys danced all
night. I say, yeah, and I could barely walk the
next day trying to keep up with Ezequiel on the
dance floor, but I just thank God. I really do. I
thank God for the blessing of Zeke, thank God for
the blessing of this body, and for us being here
today to honor him in a way that only we can,
knowing him as only we do. So thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. I -- I actually
heard about your meeting with Representative
Santiago. He had called me later on that -- that
evening to talk about your meeting at the cafeteria.
And he really was a quiet storm, and one of the
things that we -- we hopefully -- we'll all take
away is to be kind and treat each other with
respect. That's what he did every day. Thank you,
Representative.

Will you remark further? Representative Rojas
of the 9th. You have the floor, sir.
REP. ROJAS (9TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in heartfelt support of this resolution. Certainly to the family, I offer my condolences. To all of our colleagues who loved him dearly, I offer my condolences and certainly to the staff as well who were able to work with Zeke over the last 11 years.

And I had the privilege of coming in with Representative Santiago back in 2008. There were 22 of us at that time. I think there's only four of us remaining, Representative Cook, Representative Miller, Representative Johnson, and it was an amazing experience to get to meet Zeke at that time. And he was really innocent and kinda lost when he got into the building, but he was just such a sincere and genuine person.

And in the immediate aftermath after his passing, you know, you have a lot of conversations with people. And all I could continue to come back to was how truly of an amazingly nice human being he was. And all the years that we were here, you never
heard him say a negative thing about anybody or anything. You never heard him get cynical about the process when it -- sometimes, it's easy to get cynical about the process. You never heard him lash out or lose his cool. He's been described as kind of being that quiet storm, that calm leader.

And -- and as we head into the final days of session, I think all of us as legislators and certainly as an institution, we can honor his legacy by engaging in a little bit more quiet leadership, conducting ourselves with a bit more humility, and certainly being more humble and grateful and engaging in servant leadership because I think that's what he represented best. And I think we can certainly honor his legacy by all doing that.

In the days ahead, when we're all gonna get tired and we're gonna get hungry and we're gonna get stressed and even sometimes mad at each, let's try to invoke the way that Zeke conducted himself in this process so that we can all treat each other with a little bit more respect. Thank you, Mr.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. He came in with a great group of folks, and I -- I know he -- he was always proud to -- to talk about his class that he came in with. Thank you.

Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Sanchez of the 25th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. SANCHEZ (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of this resolution and my deepest and sincere condolences to the Robles and the Santiago Family.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to share two good memory -- memories with -- about Zeke. And I -- the first one being when it was announced that he was Chair of the Banking Committee. And he came up to me and said, hey. You're gonna be Chair of Education Committee, so what do you think? And I said, well, first of all, I'm grateful to the Speaker. But,
second of all, I'm nervous as hell. And he said immediately, nah, don't worry about it. We'll get things done. You have all the patience in the world. We'll get things done. And he -- he's right. And I said the same to him.

And, then, the other memory that I'd like to share is that -- and Representative Candelaria had alluded to on some of the national -- at the national level the resolutions that he's brought forward in Washington D.C. And I have gone to many of these conferences on the national level with Zeke. And the last one we went to, as you know, Mr. Speaker, we were in L.A. It was you, Zeke, and Representative Reyes. And we -- it was a really long, long day at -- at this conference, and Zeke stood up and talked highly about many of the accomplishments here in the state of Connecticut and many of the good legislation that we have passed recently. And he also talked about the city of Bridgeport, which he loved so dearly.

And, then after that conference, I recall that
you and Zeke came up and said, you know what we need to do? We need to go to a baseball game, so we ended up going to that -- that evening, we went to see a Dodgers game. And as I was watching the video, there's a picture of me sitting down with Zeke having some food and -- and a beer with a beautiful California sunset in the back. And I -- I recalled we had such a great time at that game. And the Dodgers, I think, hit something like seven home runs that night. I'm not a Dodgers fan by the way. I'm a Yankees fan, but it was a good game.

So -- but it's just those good memories and -- and just to be able to share that time with him and all these conferences and with you. And, you know, I -- I try to go back to that. I -- it's saddened -- it's sad that he's gone, but I will always remember these good memories of -- of Zeke and just wanted to say, Zeke [Spanish]. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. I -- I'm glad that you brought up that Representative Santiago was
involved in all these national organizations along with the National Hispanic Caucus Of State Legislators that Representative Candelaria had mentioned before, but he was also a member of [Spanish] and also a founding member of the Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs. And once Ezequiel passed, the outpouring of support from across the country was really stunning. And he -- at his memorial, we had state senators come from as far as Florida and the Assistant Speaker of the New York State House came -- actually came to pay his respects, so that's how highly they thought of Representative Santiago. Thank you.

Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Godfrey of the 110th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Piscopo and I are the last remaining members of the mighty class of 1988, but one of our classmates was Americo Santiago. And it was a -- it was a historic year.
It was -- it was the first year that a large number of Hispanic representatives took office. There had been a smattering, one or two before that, but it was the largest. It was a historic moment in the history of the House of Representatives. And -- and certainly we got -- we got to know Americo fairly well. And he had a great run here in the legislature. He -- he became Deputy Secretary of the State. He was very much a very passionate and mover and shaker at the time.

And, so, when we met his son, Ezequiel, who when we were elected was, like, still in high school, hadn't even been old enough to be a voter yet -- it was that long ago -- we, of course, started comparing and contrasting. And I -- I saw in Ezequiel his dad's passion and his ability to be a mover and shaker, although Americo, I have to -- I have to say I -- I don't think he got his calmness from you. I -- I think you were a little more outgoing? And -- and I'm thinking getting to know him and -- and kind of trying to decide what
Ezequiel is all about. I'm thinking, well, still waters run deep because he was a thinker. He -- and the highest accolade I can offer to any member of the general assembly, he did his homework. He knew what he was talking about. He wasn't -- he was just -- just wasn't flying by the seat of his pants. He had -- he had collected information. He had collected opinions. He -- he had fought deeply about -- about it.

But, then, of course, we saw him on the dance floor, and that's still part of still waters run deep. I go, okay. There's -- there's more than that to -- to Ezequiel Santiago. He -- he knew when to work and work very hard, but he also obviously knew when to play and played very hard. I don't remember ever seeing him when he didn't smile. He had a joy of life, and he had a joy of being a part of this peculiar institution known as the Connecticut House of Representatives.

And -- and Representative Stafstrom was actually -- actually right. It was -- it was
Americo and I chuckling. The -- the Bridgeport delegation has changed for -- much for the better over -- over the last years, and Ezequiel was a huge, huge part of that -- of collecting his colleagues from Bridgeport around him and making sure that the focus for Bridgeport and for the state of Connecticut was there. He was a natural leader, just because he commanded the interest and respect of his colleagues and his constituents.

And he served his constituents very well. Like all of us, constituent service, of course, is -- is our number one priority. That's whom we get our marching orders from. That's who we get to know to be able to bring their stories and their history and their concerns and their passions to lawmaking. And he certainly did that, and he absolutely adored the city of Bridgeport.

As we saw in the -- in the video, his connection with his -- with the people of Bridgeport, with the kids of Bridgeport, with the families of Bridgeport was of the highest, highest
order. And because he had that interest and concern, it was very easy for him to just turn on the tap of doing the same for all of the people of the state of Connecticut because Bridgeport's not unique in the sense of the need, in the sense of the contributions that they make. And he readily found alliances throughout the state to help him move forward.

And, of course, this year, Speaker Aresimowicz did appoint him to the Banking Committee. I kind of keep track of freshmen, and they would come to me and say, he's being such a mentor. He's making sure we -- we know what's going on and why. He's helping us as much as he possibly can. He's doing one on ones because that was just a part of his nature. He was helpful. He was kind. He was calm, at least professionally, if -- if not in his social life, which is a good thing in my -- my opinion. And we will miss him terribly because he was just there for anybody who asked, and he went out of his way, even if you didn't ask, to turn out and help you.
So, Ezequiel, my good friend, may flights of angels guide thee to thy rest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ROSARIO (128TH):

Thank you, Representative. You -- you mention his love of the House, and he really did love this institution. I remember we would have conversations. There were opportunities for -- for both of us to go to that upper place, that upper Chamber upstairs. And I go, Chequi, you do it. And, then, we'd both say, nah, that's for the birds, so. [Laughter] But, no, he -- he really loved this -- this building and this institution. He was a creature of the House. Thank you.

Will you remark on the resolution before us? Representative Butler of the 72nd. You have the floor, sir.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to first offer my condolences to the family.
Tell you the truth, when I came here today, I planned to just sit here and be quiet because I had one of those days at the oral surgeon that you would just like to go home, pop some pain pills, and get in a quiet space. And as the Novocain and everything else they gave you to actually numb you before the procedure is worn off now and I'm hoping, praying that these pain pills actually get me through the day, I could not sit here quiet. I could not sit here quiet because of what the family represents.

They were -- they're all part of Zeke. Zeke is a part of all of you. And long before I knew Zeke, I knew his father, Americo, and I could tell you that, you know, I seen the good work he did as a public servant, elected official, how he organized communities, helped people provide representation for the greater good.

As a matter of fact, Waterbury benefitted because, in some campaigns in the 75th district in Waterbury that Americo actually worked in, he
actually laid the framework that now, you know, there's been a Hispanic representation from the years and the work that he's done, you know, decades ago. And Representative Reyes and some of his predecessors -- excuse me -- predecessors had benefitted by the work that Americo laid down many years ago. So the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

When I met Zeke, I just knew that he was gonna be a very good representative, a good public service just like his father. And it proved true, and I'm just gonna share a couple of things that actually fought for with him because the video was good. If you noticed the video, it showed a wide range of things, people, organizations that he worked with for the common good, and we should all endeavor to reach that goal, to actually provide sound policy, support, funding for organizations, for individuals, for the greater good.

One of the things that I worked with him and fought hard for was the Platform to Employment,
which has been spoken about a couple times here today. But the fight with him on that, I could tell you that it meant so much to so many people. And it didn't -- this wasn't an intercity issue or a rural versus urban issue. We're at a time in the state of Connecticut where many people were laid off, especially I found myself in that category and tying in a recession, being in your 50s, trying to find a job, let me tell you is a very difficult thing. Zeke understood that.

And with Platform to Employment and the great job they were doing, helping people who were laid off for two and three years, these are some of the people that, you know, the media would say that they've given up. It wasn't that they -- they gave up. It's just that it's so difficult to be in that age group when you had a profession for 20 years -- plus years. And, now, you're looking for a job, and that particular job just isn't prevalent anymore. So you have to retool. You have to retrain. For some people, just to get their mindset around you
have to do something different than what you’ve been doing for the last 20 years, that's hard to overcome. But that's what they did, and they were very successful. He's heard about some of the numbers.

This organization is still around today, and we need to support it because they're still people that are going through that phase in their lives in their 40s and 50s, finding themselves laid off. And we need to get people back to work. We talk about our budget. Let me tell you. The best way to boost the budget is get people back to work. Okay? The best way to boost the economy here in the state is get the people back to work. Zeke understood that, so — and that is still the case today, so I hope that we all support that.

But, also, one of the things that I worked -- waiting for -- for and that Zeke was very vehement about and supported wholeheartedly was the CIA funds. No, not the federal CIA funds. Okay. We're talking about Community Investment Act funds here in
the state of Connecticut in which pretty much support initiatives like housing, open space, and dairy farms.

Now, there's a lot of housing in Bridgeport, but I don't think there's a lot of open space. And I certainly don't think there's a lot of dairy farms in Bridgeport, but he supported that. And that's one thing that we all learned, every one of us, is sometimes you have to look at what's important to somebody else, some -- some other part of the state. And we fight for policy and funding for certain things. We have to understand how important it is even though there's no -- no farms in my district or no dairy farms or not even a lot of open space. He fought hard to make sure that those funds were restored, and it makes Connecticut a better place to make sure that we have milk. The milk that we drink is from a farm that's a couple miles away. And, if we don't support them, we lose a very special part of Connecticut. Zeke understood that.

So let us all understand that, when there's a
bill on the board or some funding that has to be accounted for that may not be in your district but is important to the state of Connecticut, we sometimes need to put ourselves in the shoes of that industry, that issue, or that part of the state and how important it is to that part of the state. And Zeke understood that. We should all endeavor to be those kinds of elected officials, public servants to understand that.

And, finally, I'd just like to say that, in terms of a legacy, he was a great elected official as you've seen the kinds of things that he supported and help accomplish. A great public servant, being a public servant, understanding that we fight for people in our district, organizations, businesses that provide jobs, businesses that provide services, but more than anything else, we represent the people in our district. And we try to do the best we can for them, by them. And anyone who hopes to be an elected official going forward need not look any further than Ezequiel Santiago and his legacy and
let them come here and serve in the manner that he did. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Miller of the 145th. You have the floor.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As so many others in this room, I stand here with a heavy heart. If I start crying, please forgive me.

Zeke and I came in at the same time as Representative Rosario -- Rojas -- excuse me -- had mentioned. Zeke, I -- you know, I've heard all these beautiful things about Zeke, and they're all true. I got to know Zeke when he tried to secure the funding for the program, Cradle to Career. I had never heard of it, but to see the passion and the love that went behind him fighting so hard for that program. And this was a time when we were dealing with the deficit. He went to the Governor to lobby for the program, and that program is now a
vital program in Fairfield County, not only in Bridgeport, but in Stamford as well. And that's all because of Ezequiel.

You know, so many people go through life trying to figure out, why am I here? What is my purpose? But you know what? Zeke knew what his purpose was. He knew that he was created to love all of God's people, not people in Bridgeport, not people in Stamford, not Hispanic, not Black, but all people. Representative Butler talked about the -- the CIA program. Everyone was his constituent, everyone, and the love that he had for people.

You know, in my faith, we talk -- you know, my faith, the Bible tells me that I have to love everyone as God loves me or as I love myself. And that's what Zeke did. He loved everybody, and that was what motivated him because you couldn't do the things that he did without loving a person, without looking beyond their faults. He looked beyond their faults, and Zeke did what was right.

And to his mother, we've heard everything, Mom,
about what Dad did, but what about you? You carried him for -- I'm going to guess -- nine months. You brought him into this world. You were the one that saw the pain. You were there to nurse him back to health, and you knew you had a special child. You knew he was special. You knew he was different. And, so, we want to say, thank you, to you. Thank you for all that you’ve done to make him the man that he is today because he couldn't have done it without you, Mom. So thank you for the sacrifice that you made. You did. You raised a son that was a quiet person, but he had a deep love, and he had a fortitude to fight with what was right and fight for what was right. And that's who Zeke was.

And there were times that I would look at Zeke, to his daughters, and he would talk about his daughters, how much he loved you, how proud of you he was. And I would say, Zeke, how old are they now? To see you grow into the women that you've become. He -- he was so proud of you. And, so, I want to say thank you to the family. As so many
others have said, thank you for giving him to us because, without you, there wouldn't have been a Zeke.

And, so, thank you for giving him to us, his colleagues. Thank you for giving him to the state of Connecticut. Thank you for getting -- giving him to the Hispanic community where we hear what he's done on a national level.

And I want to say, Zeke, I know when you met your maker, he said, well done, my loyal and faithful servant. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Representative Delnicki of the 14th district. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I -- I rise in — wholeheartedly in support of this resolution and extend my utmost condolences to the family.

I -- I didn't know what to expect when I got named as the Ranking Member to the Banking
Committee. I had never had a conversation with Zeke prior to that. Never said hello. I don't even know that we passed -- crossed paths, but I quickly found out he was a very easy person to talk to with a disarming smile, very understanding. And, even if you disagreed with him, you could never get upset because you knew it was sincere from his heart.

And I -- I truly am thankful that I had a very short opportunity to actually serve with him and work with him on that committee because as a person who'd never held the Ranking position and, of course, I didn't realize he had never been a Chair. And I figure this guy's been around for a long time, and I'm gonna be dealing with a Chairman that's, you know, very skilled, very adept, and is gonna keep me on his toes. He was very easy to talk to. And, when I later found out that he had not been a Chair, I was surprised because of the talent and the quality and the abilities that he possessed.

And I can tell ya from my heart, I will miss him because, again, whether or not you agreed, you
knew he was sincere. You knew he cared. You knew he was like all of us dedicated to his community and dedicated to doing what he felt was right. And that is quality. That is without value. It is beyond value, so, again, I -- I thank the Speaker for having made him or selected him as the Chair of Banking. And I thank the Minority Leader for having given me the opportunity to serve as the Ranking Member with him. This was a good education. He was a decent man and someone very easy to work with. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Hilda Santiago, the 84th district. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. SANTIAGO (84TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in full support of the -- the resolution here today.

To Americo, I've known Americo Santiago for many, many years. We were community activists back in the '80s and '90s. And, so, we started calling each other cuz 'cause, as you know, we have the same
last name. And he was very proud when Zeke became a State Rep. I also went out to Waterbury to -- to assist in -- in America's run for State Rep in -- in Waterbury. So I got to know Zeke even before he -- before I came to the legislature.

As community activists around this state for the Puerto Rican community, for the Latino community, we're so very small, and we all get to know each other after awhile, working for so many years, working for human rights, especially for our community, low-income community, our poor communities. But, Ezequiel, Ezequiel and I shared -- when I became a State Rep in 2012, we shared the same legislative aide, Tanya. She now has moved on and moved out of the state, but he already had been here four years before me. So everything that Tanya was doing for him, she would do for me. And I say, oh yeah. That's a great idea. Ezequiel's doing that. I want to do it, and we shared her for a while. And he was always, always working on something for Bridgeport. He loved Bridgeport. He
always fought for Bridgeport, and you couldn't say anything bad about Bridgeport 'cause he was there to defend it.

He talked about his daughters. He talked about his mother, and we talked about a lot of things the first couple of years, so I followed him around. And, then after awhile, I had to remind people there's two Santiagos in the Chamber. One is Ezequiel Santiago 'cause he was here first, and the other one is Hilda Santiago because I was always getting credit for stuff he was doing. [Laughter] And I wanted to make sure he got his own credit, and I want to get my own credit, but after awhile, people just got used to saying Ezequiel Santiago and Hilda Santiago.

But one of the things that I like to remember about Zeke was that he was calm, cool, and collective. He was soft spoken. You couldn't mistake that for his weakness because, when he had to do something in this Chamber, he got his job done. I like to see him as the gentle giant, and he
was so good and soft spoken with a lot of people, but he had good leadership qualities. And I'll always remember that.

What I like to remember most about Ezequiel is his dancing. At the Spring Fling, we danced all night. He loved his reggaeton. He loved his old school music. He loved his salsa, and he was one of the best dancers, so we would be dancing all night. Representative Miller, who can dance anything. Representative Candelaria and just all of us and even Representative McGee who learned how to do Bachata and salsa too. [Laughter] So those were the fun times.

And one of the things we always remembered at the last day of session was that there was always a Bridgeport party, party in 105, and everybody had to go down there and at least eat the food, drink the drinks, dance, and have a good time and the soda. Yeah, I drink soda. And that was one of the things that I remembered about Zeke because he was a serious person, but he was also full of life. And
he was taken away from us too soon.

I give thanks to his family for sharing him with us, and I think for everything -- I thank him for everything that he's done, not only for Bridgeport, but the state of Connecticut. So I'm gonna be by myself now, the only Santiago. I am gonna miss him and -- but he'll always be in our hearts.

If we listen to that song that he liked to dance or as we listen to that issue that comes up in favor of Bridgeport or that issue that is -- that comes up with job training, we're always gonna remember him. So thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to the family, [Spanish]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Representative Johnson of the 49th district. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. JOHNSON (49TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in very staunch support of the resolution today.
And as a member of the class of 2008, I came in with Ezequiel Santiago, and we had many, many conversations about people's civil liberties, about making sure that distressed municipalities are treated fairly, that the educational system is addressing all the needs of -- of the students in the distressed municipalities.

He was a very, very hard worker, and I can't tell you how pleased I am, Mr. Speaker, with your appointment of him as the Banking Chair. This is something that I had worked on many years, the public banking issues, the infrastructure banking issues, and, immediately, Ezequiel Santiago came to me. And we discussed the process that we would use to try and make sure they were able to get this legislation through the session.

So I am very, very sad to see that we've lost him, that Bridgeport's lost him, the state of Connecticut has lost him, and I give my sincere condolences to the family. And that's -- that's just about all I have to say. It's just a big loss.
to us all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Representative Gucker of the 138th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. GUCKER (138TH):

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I can top everything that's been said before I speak wholeheartedly in -- in support of the resolution.

Now, when we sat down, it's very daunting to be a freshman to -- to come up here for the first time. And you could see the big lights, and you're a little bit nervous. In fact, this is my first time actually speaking in front of the Chamber. I was gonna sit here very quiet, but I really wanted to talk about an experience I had with Ezequiel. You know, when we sat down in -- in your office, Mr. Speaker, we talked about what committees we wanted to be on. And you gave me two out of three of 'em. The one I didn't ask for, but I think it was probably a blessing in disguise, was Banking. I got to meet Ezequiel in Banking, and I watched his
calming nature. And I watched how he took somebody like myself, a freshman, to the side, and said, it's gonna be good. It's gonna be all right. Stand up for what you believe in and don't back down. You'll get there.

So as we went through the process of the Banking Committee, sadly one of my -- my one and only bill that had gone to Banking had gotten lost. And I did -- did a followup, and I walked up to Zeke, and I said, my bill. It didn't show up. What happened? He goes, we'll take care of it. Don't worry. And, then, he read through my bill and came back and said, you know, this is a really good bill. We are going to get this out of committee. We are going to make sure that this goes forward. It was such a relief.

It was so endearing that he took the time to take somebody who's never been up here and take what was passionate to them to be -- become passionate for him. And I can't express the profound loss I feel because, as I was getting to know him, I lost
him. So it's -- it's been a little bit of a rough ride, but I think about him often.

You know, as myself as being an old Eagle Scout, I think about the Scout Oath and Scout Law. And I can tell you just about every one of those words in the Scout Oath and Scout Law could spell out Ezequiel's presence and his life as I experienced it. I think we need more. I think he was a great example, and I only wish to be half as good as Ezequiel is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Cook of the 65th district. You have the floor, madam.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand in complete support of this resolution, one I wish that we didn't have to stand for.

Over the last 11 years, we've experienced great loss in this Chamber, both inside and outside. We all know it too well, but there's something about losing a member that we've served with. I think I'm
the last of our freshman class that have stood to speak about Zeke because there's so many things that you could say. And as I listen to all the stories and -- and Zeke and I didn't share many committees together, but you share the bond as being a class member.

One that came in and -- and when we came in, we were one of the largest freshman class with great things that we wanted to accomplish. We came in with glassy eyes and big dreams and had things that we all wanted to achieve and accomplish. And I think one of the things about Zeke that -- that resonated with me was that he was a quiet soul; that he was a man beyond his years; and that in his mere 45 years of age had accomplished so many more things of people twice his age, that you could tell that he was raised with great support and love and was given dignity and honor. And he knew what respect was. And I think that we often forget that here. And he was humble, humble beyond words could express. He carried himself with pride and dignity, and you knew
that what he said was what you got.

And, when we look at the people that we long to be and the things that we want to do and we leave this building with, although Zeke was taken far too early from us, but from his family most importantly, he left a great legacy. And as much as we might not have all served with him in committee or had the privilege to call him a friend, he taught us all something. And whether we recognized it before, for those of us that are sitting here in this room, I think we've learned it now.

So, as a classmate, I want to give you all my deepest condolences and may God continue to hold you all in His hand.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the resolution, and there's just a couple points I'd like to make about -- about Zeke and the loss of
Zeke to this Chamber.

My wife, Sylvie, and I were teachers for 35 years in the Hartford Public Schools, and we've always taken an interest in young people. We're not from the same generation. I'm more from the generation of Zeke's dad. I remember back in the days, as Hilda Santiago was speaking about, the days where we were activists, young activists like Willie Matos, Americo Santiago, Cesar Batalla, in Bridgeport. While we were fighting up here, always felt uncomfortable, you know, when people said, oh, you're a politician. I've always felt myself more of an activist than a politician. And -- and it's been kind of hard to adapt to the role of -- of being a legislator and being inside the Chamber, but it came natural to Zeke.

And I remember he left in me -- seared an image that I've used as a metaphor many times over and over. I was trying to convince Zeke, and, you know, he was quiet. He was humble. He was everything everybody said in this Chamber, but there was
something about him that was very strong. He didn't just follow blindly or agree with people just to be agreeable. We had many, many conversations where we disagreed. And I remember one time he came over to my -- my way of thinking, but he -- but when he told me he had agreed with me, he said it in such a way that left such an image seared in my mind that I said, you know, this, in a few short words, is more powerful than what I've been trying to say in thousands of words and more effective. And I've used it many, many times over that -- that metaphor.

I was trying -- I was focusing on the neighborhood public schools, and he told me he had this dream. He said, you know, I've been thinking about what you've been saying, because he actually did listen, and he did mull it over. And he questioned and probed, but he told me, I've had this dream where I saw this gigantic ship in the middle of the ocean, and it was listing. And it was our neighborhood public schools where over 90 percent of our kids are there. And, then, there were these
little boats. They're saying, we can take a few of the kids. We can't take 'em all but take a few of the kids off this listing ship. And, then, he says, then I realize, wait a second. We should be putting our effort in making sure we stabilize that larger ship where most of our kids are.

He said that to me. And I must have used that example a million times over very effectively. And how he did that, I don't know, but I'll tell you something, and this is for the family. This is for the family. You've heard it from the people in the Chamber, from all his peers, that he has touched all of us. So he may not be physically here with us, but Zeke lives on in each one of -- each one of us. He's left something. And you heard it -- rarely have I heard so many people wanting to speak -- everybody wanting to speak on this resolution, and that's because [Spanish]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Rosario of the 128th district. You have the floor,
REP. ROSARIO (128th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in strong support of this resolution of my good friend, my colleague, my brother, Ezequiel Santiago.

What more can I say about Ezequiel. Ezequiel, he was -- he really was my soul brother. And, when people used to see us walking in the hallway, they say, there goes the dynamic duo. But I want to let people know that, that didn't just begin when I got up here to the legislature. Our family -- I want to extend my condolences to the Santiago and Robles Family. Our families go back 30, 40 years, even before I was born. And the Santiago Family has been key to my development as -- as a young man, and I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Americo.

I remember I was the legislative aide for the Bridgeport City Council when Councilman Ezequiel Santiago was on the council, and he would say, Chris, run for council. And I was like, nah, nah, nah. I want to be behind the scenes. And he was
always pushing me, always pushing me to do -- to do better and be better. And -- and when he eventually got into the State House, I had an opportunity to run in 2012. And he said, Chris, run, run. And I -- and I turned it down. And I reflect on that day in my office, and I wish I could go back in time so I could serve two more years with him.

I eventually ran in '14 and -- and had the -- the great pleasure of coming to serve in this Chamber with all my colleagues here. And it was Americo. I was still on the fence. I wasn't sure if I wanted to run, and Americo says, Rosario, you're running. And -- and that was it. And -- and the rest is history, but Ezequiel, Ezequiel was really, really just a calming force in -- in my life.

We talk three, four times a day, but believe it or not, we didn't really talk politics. We -- we talked a little bit of legislation. We talked about our families. And, Chelsea, you know, that's all we talked about. We talked about our kids, what we're
gonna do this weekend. You know, I -- I find myself
ordering his meal. He used to like bacon, egg, and
cheese, orange juice. We used to eat breakfast for
-- for lunch and dinner. We were inseparable. He
was -- he was my brother, and I'm really gonna miss
him.

And I just wish that going forward we're all --
we're all not gonna be here forever. The names are
gonna change in this Chamber, but the institution
stands and his memory and all the work that he's
done for the state of Connecticut. And I know we
had one thing that we shared, and that was our love
for the city of Bridgeport and our love for the
state of Connecticut. So I miss you, brother.

[Spanish] And God rest -- God rest his soul. Thank
you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative
Klarides of the 114th. Madam, you now have the
floor.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this resolution.

And on behalf of me and this Caucus, we would like to say thank you to the family. Thank you for giving him to us. Thank you for sharing him with us, and thank you for raising a wonderful man.

I didn't have the pleasure of serving with him on committees, but when you read all about him, you hear the wonderful things that have been said about him today. They're words that most of us can only hope to be described as: Kind, thoughtful, considerate, hardworking, supportive, an advocate. And as I think one of my colleagues mentioned, we -- we've done these memorials. We do them for members that are sitting, and we do them for members that have left, but it's always harder when it was somebody sitting right here.

We do get caught up in this job. We fight too much. The word, calm, is not often used to describe most of us, particularly me. [Laughter] But we all show our passion, our advocacy, and our commitment
in different ways. And I think that the best gift that we can give him is being more like him. None of us are perfect, but if we can strive to be better every day, that is what we can give him. And that is what we, in this Chamber, can give his lovely family. So thank you again. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and God bless Ezequiel.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Representative Ritter of the 1st district. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I just want to thank everybody in this Chamber for their very warm words because -- let me also offer my -- my thoughts and prayers to -- to the family.

This is real. This is genuine. This is authentic. People are not speaking things that they don't truly believe here today. And, so, I know that the harder days might still be ahead, but I hope you can take a piece of this and the legacy
that he created and know that it is genuine. People truly loved your son, your father.

I went down to Bridgeport last summer, and Representative Rosario was down there. And we had some fun door knocking in the 100-degree weather in Bridgeport. And Zeke and I were driving because I had melted into a puddle, and I think he thought I needed air conditioning probably. And Zeke's car, he must have vacuum it every five minutes. I've never seen a cleaner car in my life. [Laughter] And I was -- I remember saying to myself, I can never let Zeke drive in my car 'cause he will think that I'm an awful human being with what my kids throw on the ground there that's never been cleaned up.

But it reminded me today when I think about his car that he was meticulous, right? And in -- in this Chamber and it's not a negative criticism, but there are people who read the bills, really study them and understand them. They might make less noise, right? And there's people and I'm probably -
- you know, talk a lot, right? Throw things out there and we all have different roles to play and different personalities.

But, when you listen to people, whether it's on the Bank's Committee or the Appropriations Committee when -- when Tony was talking about it, they figure out how to get things done. And sometimes it's in a very quiet, different type of way, but Zeke was meticulous. He knew exactly what he wanted to accomplish and how he was gonna do it. And that is a really skillful trait in a place like this where it is hustle and bustle and 151 very strong personalities.

He loved his city. When you think of him, the first thing you think of is Bridgeport. And it's interesting having a big delegation. You know, a lot of you are from small towns, right, and you probably just have yourselves, maybe one other person. You know, me, when I see Minnie or Julio or Brandon or Josh or Ed down here, it's nice once in a while to have your -- your local family support ya,
even when you gotta give 'em bad news. That's your -- that's your team. Zeke really was the glue, the captain, of that team. And you could see them gel and come together. He really took that to a different level that everyone alluded to, but what I really think will be another hard part for everybody is, for those members, this is not gonna be the easiest session.

And, Chris, I particularly think of you. We all have your back. We all care a great deal about you, and I know just like for the family -- and you are his family -- the harder days are gonna be ahead. And we will be there to support you. We'll be there to support the city until you guys get back to full strength, but you really are, at the end of the day, probably his legacy up here. Beyond what he accomplished is gonna be the things that you accomplish. And I know that everybody in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle is gonna help you do that and fulfill all that potential that you have. And, when you guys next talk, you can say,
you laid the framework for me, and I appreciate it. And I never forgot it and everybody else in that Chamber never forgot it and helped me get where I need to be.

We care about you a great deal. To the family, we're always here if we can ever be helpful in any way. And, again, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. In a few moments, we will do a moment of silence to adopt the resolution.

But before we do that, I just want to address the family. Again, thank you. Thank you for sharing Ezequiel with us. Thank you for all the support you gave him all -- over the years. Thank you for the man that you made him. He's left this -- his mark on this Chamber and this state. Someday somebody's gonna look back at words he spoke on this House floor when they talk about legislative intent. Somebody in the city of Bridgeport is gonna see a program. They're gonna say, that's a great program.
What a great idea. And it would have been Ezequiel's.

I know when I made him the Banking Chair, people weren't sure. Banking Chair, could he do it? It's -- it's not an area that you would immediately think Ezequiel, but I will tell you I heard from all sides of the aisle, both chambers, Executive Branch, public, lobbyist, advocates, that he was an amazing Chair, that he was an amazing individual. His Senate Chair, Senator Bergstein, that just got elected, came in. They didn't know each other. Within one week, she text me and told me what a brilliant choice and what a great individual he was.

So while we're mourning his loss, let's celebrate his life. All of us got to know Ezequiel Santiago. All of us did. All of us will be touched. We'll have that little hole in our heart, but we'll have the memories in our head.

Representative Klarides, you said it and I think others have said it, but you said it more accurately. We need his presence in this Chamber to
remind us that while we may differ that we can do it in a different way.

So, Hilda Santiago, with your permission, I'd like to have you remain as H. Santiago, so we know in this Chamber that there is another Santiago here with us, and he's gonna govern how we act with each other. With that being said, I'd ask you all to rise. We'll do a moment of silence to adopt the resolution.

[Moment of Silence]

[Gavel]

The resolution is adopted, and the House will stand at ease.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

(Gavel) The House will come back to order.

Mr. Clerk, would you be so kind as to call Calendar No. 245?

CLERK:

On page 28, House Calendar 244, Substitute House Bill, No. 5559 - AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The distinguished Chairman of the Transportation Committee, Representative Lemar.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us, I move the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The question is on acceptance and passage. Representative Lemar, would you explain the bill, please?

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us requires the Department of Motor Vehicles in consultation of the Connecticut police chiefs and an autism advocacy organization to develop instructions in a blue envelope that will
allow an individual who has autism to keep their license, registration and insurance card in a place where they can easily hand to a police officer and provide guidance to that officer on how to handle that interaction. This bill came to us from advocacy organizations and Representative Linehan, specifically, who had been working on this issue for a number of years, to deal with a very real concern that both folks with autism and our sworn officers were dealing with, which was sometimes that conversation doesn't go the way a police officer may have been previously trained for. And to have that prior knowledge that that person that has been pulled over or is being asked for their information has evidence of this that they can provide to the officer to provide that clarification.

Through you, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. The distinguished Ranking Member of the Transportation Committee, Representative Devlin.
REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Speaker.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Speaker, sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Mr. Speaker. (Laughs)

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

I'm -- yeah. Sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

I do it all the time.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Yes.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Through you, to the distinguished Chairman of the Transportation Committee, a few questions?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.
REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you. So, this bill is one that we did discuss in the Transportation Committee and it did pass unanimously through committee. But just a couple of clarifying questions, if I may. Could you please describe how the individuals, either the adults and/or parents of minors who may have autism, be aware that this is available through the DMV?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Lemar, do you care to respond?

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Speaker, Mr. Speaker. Through you. Yes, we worked with the advocacy organization and the original sponsor, who at first thought that the license could be tinged a color of blue as to ensure that an officer knew, based upon the color of the license, that a person had autism. We received further testimony that that might not be the best approach. So, we worked with advocacy organizations to figure out what would work best for them. In that process, they thought it was important for that
consultation between the advocacy organization, the Connecticut State Police Chiefs and DMV to -- while they're considering the language that they'll put on that card, to also engage in a public information campaign around it. So, we anticipate the fact that those three entities are working in collaboration that public information will start to disseminate through the advocacy organizations that are made available and aware of this issue.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, what is the process for informing law enforcement?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Lemar.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you. The Connecticut State Police Chiefs Association has agreed to be a part of this commission and has
indicated that they will incorporate the information that is on the envelope to their member organizations and municipalities so that folks are aware of what a "blue envelope" means.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And reviewing the fiscal note for this bill, which is not a large amount, but the bill reads that effective January 1st, 2020, the DMV will be providing envelopes upon request, yet the fiscal note is for full year '21 to actually print envelopes. Are there any expected costs to be incurred before that?

Through you, Mr. Chair -- Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Lemar.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you. The fiscal note indicates a cost of $1,500 dollars in
total for fiscal year '21. We think it's a very limited purchase that will be necessary in order to have these envelopes available. And they anticipated they will be able to cover it with current allocations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Excellent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the good Chairman's responses. This is a good bill, and it did, as I mentioned, have full support of the committee and I suggest my colleagues support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, ma'am. Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in full support of this bill. And through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the good Chairman and the Ranking Member and everybody on the committee who took the time to look at this legislation, its importance,
and pass it out of committee in a way that would allow for somebody with autism to be able to alert a police officer that they are on the spectrum and still protect their privacy. Two years ago, this body passed out a bill which would -- which allowed police officers to take training, to understand how to effectively communicate with members of the autism community.

That training has been done numerous times around the state and we've heard really great feedback that it's actually helping and it's making a difference. This legislation will add on to that now and it will ensure that members of the autism community, those who are on the spectrum, will actually be able to trigger those police officers to go into their training, to know how to safely and effectively communicate. So, I appreciate everybody's work on this and I appreciate the support, not only by the Chairman, but also by the Ranking Members and the entire committee, and I urge you all to pass this bill.
Thank you so very much, Mr. Speaker, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on this bill? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?
CLERK:

House Bill 5559,

Total number Voting 146
Necessary for Passage 74
Those voting Yea 146
Those voting Nay 0
Those absent and not Voting 4

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The bill passes. (Gavel)

Are there any announcements or introductions?
Announcements or introductions? Representative Genga.

REP. GENGA (10TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

You're welcome, sir.

REP. GENGA (10TH):

Yesterday was Intern Recognition Day, and my intern couldn't be here because she had a class she couldn't miss. So, I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize her because she certainly deserves it.
My intern, Arlene Ontay (phonetic), her mother, and her sister, Jolene. Arlene is from UConn. She's a junior there and she's done a great job for me and I want to thank her for sharing her skills, her experience, her opinions, and making my life so much easier in the House. And as somebody said, amen. And I want to thank you for this opportunity to do that and to present her citation and ask the house to give a warm welcome through a recognition to an intern that's done a great job.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the House please give a warm welcome? 
(Applause) And thank you for your service here at the General Assembly. Are there any other announcements or introductions? If not, we'll return to the call of the Calendar. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 267? They give you new glasses, you still invert the numbers. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 276?

CLERK:

On page 63, House Calendar 276, Substitute
House Bill, No. 7168 - AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this has a slight change to the current statute around transitional services. Right now, we started at age 16. What this does is changes it to the age of 14. We know that transitional services are a lifeline
for our young adults to be able to go into adulthood after high school and what this will do is get them better prepared to go into the real world. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Good evening, Madam Speaker. How are you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good. How are you?

REP. CASE (63RD):

Good. A few questions, through you, to the proponent of the bill, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Through you, Madam Speaker, a few questions to the good Representative. In lines 15-20, can you please just explain the individual education program shall be updated annually thereafter, and it keeps
going on, but nothing in this subsection shall be construed or required by DORS to complete. So, is DORS not required?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Yes, DORS is exempt from this legislation because DORS starts at age 16 because they do the job training and because they get federal money. So, that's why they're exempt from this legislation.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

So, through you, Madam Speaker, just another quick question. So, this bill, basically what it accomplishes is it expands the services. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I apologize. Did you just ask what this bill does as far as expanding services?

Through you, Madam Chair -- Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Correct.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

So, what this bill -- sorry. So, what this bill does is it expands -- it starts the transition at age 14 of the services that are done through the school district, so life skills and opportunities like that.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Case.
REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a good bill. It's been worked on. We try so dearly to good things for our special populations. The one thing that caught me that I just wanted to make sure is in the fiscal note, it says it does not anticipate any costs, and I want to make sure that we're not putting something out there that could have a cost. And anticipation is one of those words that catches my eyes. But I do agree the bill should pass. Let's move forward and help out a great population.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

Have all the members voted? Mr. Speaker, have all the members voted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce that tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 7168,

Total number Voting 148
Necessary for Passage 75
Those voting Yea 148
Those voting Nay 0
Those absent and not Voting 2

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 154?

CLERK:

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this bill offers basic protections to students who wish to enroll in distance learning programs to obtain their college degrees. As the number of college
students who enroll in online degree programs is increasing, providing some consumer and academic protections has become even more important for us. And so, two years ago, this General Assembly authorized Connecticut and Connecticut institutions to enter into the State Authorized Reciprocity Agreement, also called SARA. SARA is a voluntary agreement between states, including Connecticut, to establish a system of monitoring colleges and universities that offer online degree programs. However, all institutions don't yet participate in SARA.

Forty-nine states have joined the SARA compact, but California has not. And additionally, there are institutions that exist in SARA states that don't currently participate in SARA. And so, this bill will create a process for our Office of Higher Education to assess the programs and require some basic standards for colleges and universities who wish to offer online degree programs to students in the State of Connecticut. It's a good bill. I hope
that my colleagues will support it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Hall.

REP. HALL (7TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good afternoon.

REP. HALL (7TH):

Just a quick statement, Madam Speaker. What this bill does, it attempts to maintain the high standards that we have for all our learning institutions and it fills a gap that we have right now between the non-SARA standard institutions and the ones that are members. So, it's a good bill. It improves the out-of-state learning and continues with the high standards we expect for our students of Connecticut. A great bill. It came out of committee unanimous, ought to pass.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 7253,

Total number Voting 148
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The bill passes. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 149?

CLERK:

On page 15, House Calendar 149, Substitute House Bill, No. 7229 - AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN RENTAL UNITS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative McGee. That helps.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and
passage of the bill. Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

    Madam Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 7376. I would ask that the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

    Will the Clerk please call LCO amendment schedule "A", which is 7376?

CLERK:

    House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 7376, offered by Representative Butler and Representative McGee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

    The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none, hearing none. Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

    Thank you, Madam Speaker. Currently, law requires landlords to include a notice in each dwelling unit's lease disclosing whether the unit
has a working fire sprinkler system. If a unit has a working system, the lease must also include a notice indicating the date of the system's last maintenance and inspection. This particular amendment eliminates the requirement that landlords provide these notices when renting any type of dwelling unit. Instead, it requires them to include the notices only when renting a dwelling unit that is required by state fire prevention statutes to be equipped with a fire sprinkler. Madam Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the amendment before us? Will you remark on the amendment? Let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The
amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you care to
remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a good bill.
I think it was almost unanimous in committee and it
ought to pass. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark
further on the bill as amended? Will you care to
remark further on the bill as amended? If not,
staff and guests please come to the well of the
House. Members take your seats. The machine will
be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):


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

CLERK:

House Bill 7229 as amended by House "A"

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 316?

CLERK:

On page 38, Calendar 316, Substitute House Bill 7271 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE RECEIVERSHIP ACT, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the bill before us is the product of years of work by the Uniform Law Commission as well as the Connecticut Bar Association, to try to provide some predictability and transparency in the appointment of receivers over commercial property in our state. Currently, the appointment and authority of receivers for commercial property in our state is a patchwork of decisions by generally lower courts throughout the state, some of which are not entirely consistent.
So, the bill before us attempts to reduce to statute, in a very lengthy bill, the various procedures by which a receiver can be appointed, when a receiver can be appointed, what sort of notice needs to be provided, and also the powers and duties of the receiver as well as the owner of the property for which a receiver is appointed. I urge support for the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you care to remark further? Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good afternoon to you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good afternoon, madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the proposal that's before us. Just a few clarifying questions to the good Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Please proceed.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker. What type of cases are receiverships usually appointed it?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Hold on. (Gavel) Thank you. Representative Rebimbas, would you repeat the question?

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Certainly. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker. In what type of cases are rent receivers typically appointed in?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, generally, a rent receiver is appointed in a case where the property has fallen into foreclosure and the value of the property is less than the note on
the property. A receiver could also be appointed in a case where there's a dissolution of a company that owns land or commercial property, or in an instance where there is a judgment against the LLC that owns a particular piece of property.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you, Madam Speaker. This would be limited only to commercial property as it's defined by law. Is that correct? So, this would have no impact in the residential home that someone chooses to rent out.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes. Through you, the Ranking Member is absolutely correct. The definition of commercial property specifically says
a property over floor dwelling units.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank the good Chairman for his responses. And I do rise in support of the proposal before us. Certainly, as the introduction on that was previously made by the good Chairman, this allows for a consistency throughout the court systems and not a judge-by-judge decision or a court-by-court decision. And also, then everyone knows what is expected from the parties to the receiver as well as any bank interest and things of that nature. So, this is a good bill and I do support it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):
Madam Speaker, thank you. And just congratulations to the Connecticut Bar for putting this bill together and help working on that and really bringing us into compliance with the rest of the country. I just had one question to the proponent of the bill, however.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Can you hear? Please proceed, sir.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

I just want to make sure that before a receiver can be appointed, must there be a default in the underlying agreement, either the note or the mortgage or whatever may be the basis of the lien on the property?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Madam Speaker, there must be a notice and a specific finding by the court pursuant to sections
3, on notice, and 6, on appointment. I believe it's slightly broader than the Representative's question is. It's instances in which a receiver can be appointed. Certainly, in a nonforeclosure case, a receiver could be appointed if there's a -- in a dissolution action or some other type of action as well. So, there are other instances in which a receiver could be appointed, but I believe the Representative is correct that the primary situation in which the receiver would be appointed is when there's a default.

Though you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Chairman for his answer. That's all I had.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff
and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally, please. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 7271,

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 338?

CLERK:


DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Good afternoon. Yes. Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill is intended to facilitate access for minors at high risk.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative, hang on. (Gavel) Thank you. Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill is intended to facilitate access for minors at a high risk for contracting HIV. A treatment known as PrEP, which stands for pre-exposure prophylaxis, when taken consistently, this particular treatment, PrEP, reduces the risk of HIV infection by 90 percent, hopefully eliminating the prospect of a lifetime of HIV treatment. Without going any further, Madam Speaker, I recommend that -- the
Clerk has an amendment. It's LCO, No. 7452. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO, No. 7452, which would be designated as House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO, No. 7452, offered by Representative Curry, Representative Allie-Brennan, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The Representative seeks Chamber of the -- seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none, hearing none.

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you again, Madam Speaker. As I was saying, this is to provide access to a treatment which is proven to have a high impact in reducing the risk of contracting HIV for those at risk of contracting HIV. The changes to the statute are to
include the word, "prophylaxis," along with treatment in the current statute and also to clarify the mandated reporting status for minors under the age of 13. The most important and salient aspect of these changes is it provides access to this prophylaxis, along the same lines of HIV treatment, which are currently in law, specifically, without the consent of parents under specific conditions. These conditions are whether -- are left to the determination of the health care practitioner, the MD or the APRN, who, after considering notification of the parents, is explicitly asked by the minor not to provide that information to their parents, because the practitioner determines either there's a risk of such treatment being denied or of the treatment not being sought by the minor because of notification of the parents.

The main reason why this is so important is the stigma which is still attached to HIV, which would reduce the prospect of some people receiving treatment because of their fear of being judged,
reprimanded, or, even in some cases, rendered homeless by having to provide consent -- parents to provide consent. So, this is a very important bill because it's focused on prevention of HIV, which we all know can be a particular scourge to the gay community and also to minority communities. The drug itself has been approved by FDA for many years and has proven to be successful and effective.

In summary, I just want to thank Representatives Curry and Representative Allie-Brennan for their important work on this bill, and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you care to remark further on the amendment, on the amendment?

Representative Carpino.

REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There was a lot of confusion in committee, when everybody here wanted to get to the right answer. So, I will limit my
comment to the amendment and ask for support for the amendment, as it goes a long way in clarifying the important issues that we'll get to in a moment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

All of those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Carpino.

REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Thank you, Madam. A few questions, through you, to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.
REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Can the good Chairman of Public Health help us understand when a child will be able to seek this prescription without parental consent?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you for the question from the Representative. This is intended for all minors. Under current law, minors over the age of 13 can obtain treatment for HIV without parental consent. This is extending it to the prophylaxis, again, under the conditions that I mentioned previously. It would also make it available to minors under the age of 13 with the difference is that there is the likelihood of there being a mandated reporting requirement by the practitioners to DCF for further investigation.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Representative Carpino.

REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Thank you. And if you could just elaborate when DCF would actually be involved? Reading the statute, it seems there may be some differences, as minors covers a very large group of children.

Through you, ma'am.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

I didn't catch the very end of Representative Carpino's statement. There's still a little noise in the room.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Okay. Hang on. (Gavel) Thank you. Representative Carpino, do you mind repeating your question? Representative Steinberg was having a difficult time hearing you.

REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Understandable, ma'am. Could the good Chairman just explain in a bit more detail when DCF would get
involved through this process, when a minor seeks this prescription without parental consent?

Through you, ma'am.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you. I heard that that time. Through you, Madam Speaker. This would only involve minors under the age of 13 when they present having an HIV infection or require prophylaxis. The practitioner is obliged to provide the name and address and age of the individual to DCF for further investigation. What transpires at that point is really according to DCF's existing protocols, which are enumerated in statute in a couple of different places.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Carpino.

REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Thank you. And I thank you for that answer. This is an important bill. I understand that HIV is
a life threatening disease with no cure and it is also one that comes with an awful stigma. Although there is still a struggle and I understand and I respect my colleagues in this Chamber who will struggle with the parental consent issue here, but for myself and for those who understand the life-altering implications of HIV, I urge support. We are merely giving children the right to protect themselves.

Thank you, ma'am, and thank you to the good Chairman for answering all of my questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative Godfrey.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'm the board of directors of APEX. It's a nonprofit in Danbury, formerly Aids Project Greater Danbury, and I have been on for more than a decade. So, we've been following all the HIV-related issues for a very
long time. The organization is decades old. And this is an important way of getting the word out, making sure there is help for children. We're finding more and more children presenting with symptoms or requests or the need for both testing and education.

And I want to -- I just want to expand a little bit on Representative Steinberg. It's not the gay community alone. We're finding the biggest numbers at our nonprofit are in minority communities, African American communities, particularly, and Hispanic communities, and in communities where the culture is very much against the behavior that leads to HIV, which is sex and which is sharing works, bloodborne works. And -- you know, and sadly we are seeing more children go in there. We do need -- Representative Carpino is absolutely right. We do need to provide more help, more services, and we need to have the statistics and the information available to both understand and to track what's going on in these communities, where we may be able
to intervene and help so much.

So, I strongly urge all my colleagues to join with Representative Carpino, Representative Steinberg and I and vote for this.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Lanoue.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A question to the proponent of the bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Under what -- what are some examples of why a minor would not want to involve their parents while getting this treatment?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.
Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you for the questions, Representative. There is plenty of evidence that the stigma related to being at high risk of HIV, namely being involved with high-risk sexual activity, can create great stigma, great tension within a family, where the family members may not agree with the lifestyle of the person involved. And the fear we have, the concern we have, is that if the parents disagree with the lifestyle of the individual and their desire to seek prophylactics — prophylaxis, they may choose to deny treatment in that sense, which would put that person at risk.

There's also some documented instances of a real schism occurring in the family whereby the minor may end up on the street, homeless, because of the strong feelings of the parents. And the intent of this bill is really to focus on preventing the contraction of HIV, which we know would lead to a lifelong treatment regimen. And acknowledging that
these activities do take place in the community, the emphasis is on the prophylaxis, even if it means, and in this very isolated conditions, it would not involve the consent of the parents.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Lanoue.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. Why are we just carving out this particular disease? How about it if it was an issue of cancer, for example, or an orthopedic operation? Should they be -- should a minor be able to circle -- circumvent the parents in situations like that?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I thank the Representative for that question, because that is an important distinction. Unlike the diseases that you
referred to, they don’t have the kind of stigma that HIV does and they would not likely create the kind of problem within the family unit that a discussion of that kind of sexual activity would in the family. So, I really think they're very different and this is a rare exception, one which we would not grant to virtually any other disease.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Lanoue.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just one final question, through you. If the parents -- if the minor is uncomfortable involving their mother or father, couldn't they get a judge, for example, to appoint somebody else, another family member, that would act as a guardian on their behalf for this treatment? Shouldn't somebody be involved with somebody at such a delicate young age like this that's close to the minor child?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. An interesting question. I would say, first of all, this is not a vaccine. This is a daily regimen which does not really put the minor at any sort of risk. So, even though it is a momentous decision, the minor can take this without really bringing about any concerns other than that of what their parents might think about it. And I would argue that going through a judicial process, for particularly people who are not of means and are not aware of those kind of things, would be, perhaps, considered onerous and difficult. I understand the Representative's question, but we think this is an appropriate response to this specific case of a highly-stigmatized disease.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Lanoue.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):


Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll just close by saying as a member of society, as somebody who has relatives that are close to me, as somebody that could be a father, even though I'm not, I don’t want to waive my parental rights because there are people that may be dysfunctional or they're -- that small minority of people who may come from dysfunctional families. Most of the families in my district are very loving, understanding people that would be more than very understanding of this treatment. I don't think we should have to waive our parental rights because there's that small fraction of people that come from dysfunctional families.

For those reasons, I will be opposing the bill; however, I am very sympathetic to people with this disease. We need to continue to work on that, but I am not gonna waive my rights or the rights of the parents in my district, for that reason.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark
further on the bill before us? Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you, I just have a couple of questions for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

First off, I agree with all that's been said with regards to the stigma surrounding these patients who are afflicted with this disease and I certainly understand the need for being able to get the treatment that they need. I just have some logistical questions that I'd like to have answered. And my first question is if the parents don't know that their child is receiving this medication, who pays for it? How does the bill get paid?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):
Thank you, Madam Speaker. Excellent question.

It is explicit in the bill that the minor is responsible for payment for the access to the prophylactic treatment.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I thank the gentleman for his answer. And through you, just to expound on that. He said -- to be clear, he said the minor is responsible for payment of the bill? Is that correct, ma'am?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Yes. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):
And are these -- is this medication -- Through you, Madam Speaker. Is this medication expensive?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take the Representative's question. Expensive in the context of pharmaceuticals is certainly a relative term. In that sort of broad spectrum, this is considered relatively less expensive.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I certainly appreciate the ambiguity of the answer because it is very difficult to discuss expense when you're talking of it in relative terms. But I am concerned how a twelve-year-old would be able to pay for this. Is it covered by most insurance policies, number one?
Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I don't have a good answer for that and I can't speak to the programs that might be interested in underwriting such treatments, but I do know they exist.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker. If it is covered by the insurance policy, would the parents' insurance policy pay for the medication and then in the description of benefits just not clarify what the medication was for? Is that how they would get around it? I'm just wondering, logistically.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm gonna speculate, which is always a dangerous thing, but I would submit that it's unlikely for a minor to seek an insurance claim for the very reason that the Representative brought up. So, I don't think insurance is the path that will be taken to reimburse for this particular treatment all that often.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the good gentleman for his answer. Of course, the last question I would have, logistically, is how would the minor get to the appointment to see the particular doctor?

Through you, Madam Speaker.
Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Another good question. It's a broader issue we have with access to care in various communities across the state. I have no singular answer. Hopefully, there would be perhaps a friend in which they might confide or mass transit or they would find the means to get to the medical appointment because it's very important to them. But I don't have a specific answer in every case. We're a very diverse state. We have rural areas and we have urban areas and the issues in those areas are different.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Those are my questions. And as you can see, they're exclusively on a -- on the basis of logistics and how a child, a minor, would, a) get to the appointment, b) get the
funds to pay for this medication, and all the while not be -- let his parents know that he's going through this, which I would consider would be a very traumatic experience. So, I would hope that in addition to this -- the idea and the concept that there would be some research done as to how to get these individuals to the -- to have access to medical personnel and, two, how to be able to afford such medicines if they need it.

So, I'm inclined to support this bill, but I really have some concerns as to how effective passing this bill is going to be in actually getting the medicine into the hands of those who actually need it.

But thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me my expression.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON (92ND):
Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise in
support of the bill. I'm really excited that we have the science to prevent this terrible disease in young people and grateful at the -- that the advocates have brought it forward and was happy to cosponsor.

Years ago, I remember going -- being invited to a meeting in New York about a disease that they called, GRID, then. It was later called HIV. And it was the gay cancer. They didn't know what it was. And one of the things that was happening at this meeting was they had invited people from Connecticut to warn us that there -- that we also had an exposure. It was not a New York problem. And what they did was, they put up a map of the railroad cross and they had pins where they had cases, and they tended to be about the rest stops. And they told me that a lot of folks were hooking up in the rest stops, mostly in the gay community, although not only, and that people were getting exposed there.

And I watched the progression up the highway.
You could see the pins. That doesn't happen anymore. It's a lot easier to transmit a disease, as horrible as it sounds, because you can get an app and meet a lot of people that you've never met before, and maybe it isn't the first thing that you think of, to ask someone what their status is or to demand proof. It's very, very difficult. And I see a lot of denial and stigma coming back. It's as if every generation has to relearn. Some -- we're a little bit better off, but we have to relearn some of the issues that we had to work through once before.

I see a lot more stigmatization. I see a lot more denial. Some of it is coming nationally, not so much in Connecticut. But many families and individuals still have a lot of difficulty accepting, necessarily, who they are. It's heartbreaking to me if someone that I love would be afraid to tell me something so important. But the reality is it happens and people have to have access. And I might've been hurt if someone didn't
tell me, but the notion that their lives could be at risk because they're afraid to tell one of the adults in their family, is equally horrifying. Let them live and then work out your relationship later.

This is so important and I'm so grateful that we have the ability to do this. I support this.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Dauphinais, you have the floor, madam.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A question for the proponent of the bill, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Can you explain what the medication regimen is that is required for this medication in order for it to be effective?
Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Representative, for the question. It is a daily regimen of a pill that if taken consistently, will be preventative.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you. If you miss this medication does it lose its effectiveness?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. By definition, if you fail to comply with the regimen of administration, yes, it would have an impact on effectiveness.

Through you.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you. Just a few comments. I find this very concerning and as a nurse I know that single medication has side effects as long as well as positive effects. I believe it's very important for everyone to know what those side effects are. If a parent doesn't know that the child is taking the medication, they are not aware of what could be happening with their child. So, for other reasons as well, I do believe there are other prophylactic measures that children have access to that are of no cost to them. But I also am very concerned about a child taking a medication without their parents knowing. I also think it's a false sense of protection. If you should miss that medication and you believe you're being protected, it's not gonna be effective. So, anyway, I believe in parental oversight on all of these things, and so, for that reason, I would not support this bill. Thank you.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Hennessy.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise in support of the bill. I'm on the Public Health Committee and listened to extensive testimony regarding this bill. There is a population that's vulnerable that this bill addresses. It's a good bill. It ought to pass. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further? Thank you for your help.

Representative Mastrofrancesco (Laughter) of the 80th District, you have the floor, madam.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO (80TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The name is Mastrofrancesco. Can everybody say that three times fast? (Laughter) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise. I have questions for the proponent of the bill, if I
May.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO (80TH):

Thank you. Can you tell me, through you, Madam Chair -- Madam Speaker, what the side effects are on this particular drug?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. No, I cannot cite the specific side effects of this particular medication. It has been approved by the FDA and in use for at least five years to my understanding.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Mastrofrancesco.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO (80TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, well done.
Thank you.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO (80TH):

And through you, Madam Speaker. In the amendment and part of the bill, it mentions that the child or the person is responsible for the billing on that. And through you, Madam Speaker, can you tell me if a minor of a parent is responsible for any bills for a minor by law?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. No, I'm not familiar with the law on that point. I should also add, though, that a little research indicated that the manufacturer of this drug, called Truvada, in its marketing name, does provide a type of scholarship program which would greatly mitigate the costs of this particular treatment.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Representative Mastrofrancesco.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO (80TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, am I correct to assume that if a child is responsible for paying the cost of this bill, the medication, if he goes to the pharmacy or to the doctors, the doctor will not seek to get the money or the funds from the parents, because the parent does not know the child is taking this medication?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the question because it's important for me to clarify the process the practitioner, the MD or the APRN, goes through. In consultation about the availability of the PrEP treatment, the practitioner would start with the default assumption that the minor would want to tell his or her parents. But when instructed by the minor that they are not
comfortable doing so, it would be at that juncture that they practitioner would use their discretion, based upon the conditions as stipulated in statute, to not inform the parents and therefore would not be involving the parents in any further aspect of this particular treatment.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Mastrofrancesco.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO (80TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. Is the physician or the person administering, giving the prescription for this drug going to contact the minor or child to follow up to ensure that they are taking this medication on a daily basis?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Excellent question. The practitioners have had experience in advising
minors with regard to HIV for sometime now. There's an expectation that when a physician is prescribing this prophylaxis they will inform the patient about the compliance regimen, about potential side effects, and will certainly do a routine follow up with the minor to make sure that they are both complying and that everything is going as expected. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Mastrofrancesco.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO (80TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't really have any more questions, just a comment. I have -- I am really concerned about this particular bill. That, as a parent, I believe that they have a right to know what type of medications, especially a medication that has side effects, that their child is taking. I'm very concerned that the child - the parents will be responsible paying for that bill and not knowing what their child is taking. I'm very, very much concerned about the effects of this. So,
I will not be supporting this bill at this time.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank the Representative for answering my questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Currey, I believe. You have the floor, sir.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill as amended and I'd want to thank the good Chairman of the Public Health Committee as well as the members of the Public Health Committee, who unanimously supported this bill. You know, we were recently given a report by the Department of Public Health in which we found that here in Connecticut we saw an uptick in HIV cases, which was in direct contrast to the decrease we saw throughout the northeast. So, I think it's incumbent upon us to take every necessary step for
caution that we can to ensure that our minors, especially our most vulnerable populations, our LGBT youth, are not contracting HIV.

I appreciate the good gentleman from the 45th's comments around parental notification and consent, but I find it a bit misguided in ways that he wants to misrepresent our population as dysfunctional. As I'm sure many of the families in his own district and throughout the state are dealing with some of these same issues. I appreciate the comments folks make about parents wanting to be involved in their child's health and their wellbeing, but unfortunately, that's just not the case for everybody here in the State of Connecticut.

Some of our youths are being thrown out of their homes. They're now homeless, living on the street, because their parents want nothing to do with them because of they have come out of the closet. Those parents aren't going to take the time to make sure that their kids have the necessary medications to ensure that they're not contracting
HIV and having to live with that their entire lives. So, for all of those reasons, I will be supporting this bill as amended and I would hope everyone does the right thing and does the same. Thank you.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Dubitsky.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. At the same time we are now going to be allowing thirteen-year-olds to have -- to be medicated without their parents' consent, we are working on other bills to make it illegal for 18-year-olds to smoke an E-cigarette. Just imagine your kid, your thirteen-year-old kid, falls and injures himself on the playground. As any responsible parent would do, you bring the kid to the doctor. The doctor tells you your child needs medication and asks are they taking it -- is this
child taking any medication that might somehow conflict, somehow not have a bad reaction? Well, if you're a parent, how would you know in this instance? You would obviously say, no, my kid's not taking any medicine. So, you get this medicine and you give it to the kid without knowing that your kid is taking a course of prophylaxis every single day.

This bill undercuts the responsibilities and the rights and the obligations of a parent to take care of their kid. Now, I certainly understand in situations like Representative Currey just indicated when a child is separated from their parents and is not being cared for by their parents. That's a different situation. That's a situation that we can deal with without having this blanket law that affects all children and all parents. If that's the problem, if the problem is children who have -- are essentially emancipated, then let's deal with that. But to just say that all children may now be given a course of drugs that could well have adverse reactions to other drugs that they're given by their
parents without their parent's knowledge, I think it goes way too far and I just can't support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 6540 as amended by House "A",

Total number Voting 147
Necessary for Passage 74
Those voting Yea 121
Those voting Nay 26
Those absent and not Voting 3

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 94?

CLERK:

On page 9, House Calendar 94, Substitute House Bill, No. 6184 – AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Children.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report 
and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):  

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the
bill. Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill would require the Office of the Early Childhood to develop a one-page document listing key developmental milestones for children and require that it is placed conspicuously in daycare centers. And, Madam Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO, No. 7432, and I would ask the Clerk to please call that amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 7432, which will be designated as House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO, No. 7432,
offered by Representative Linehan and Representative Rochelle, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):


REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This amendment changes the age range affected in the underlying bill from zero to three, to zero to five. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the amendment before us? Will you remark on the amendment before us? Representative Green of the 55th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. GREEN (55TH):

There we go. Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a friendly amendment and we do support it. Thank you.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Just to reiterate that this bill requires that the Office of Early Childhood develops a one-page document listing key developmental milestones for children from ages birth to five. That information will be available for download and childcare centers will have to
place that in a conspicuous area. This did pass out of committee unanimously and it has no fiscal note.

Through you, Madam Speaker. Oh, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Green.

REP. GREEN (55TH):

There we go. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. We support this bill. This is a good bill. It exposes early childhood to zero to five and it also gives parents an option of knowing what they need to do at the next step and that here is the criteria that you need to meet for zero to five and that if you need further services. So, I recommend to my colleagues to support the bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative
Rochelle, you have the floor.

REP. ROCHELLE (104TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to thank my Chairs, the Ranking Members, the Co-Chairs for all of their work on this bill. This bill was borne out of conversations that happened in my local council of boards of education. They were speaking to a need for more avenues for children to get assessed earlier and have -- to know the avenues earlier to get treatment if they are falling behind on their developmental steps. So, this is a way that our government can be responsive to make life easier for kids that are falling behind. As the daughter of a daycare provider and a sister of somebody with autism, I'm excited to see this bill go forward so that we can be further assisting those who need help.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative
I thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of bill 6184 as amended and I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well. Science tells us that the early childhood years are the most critical for children's development and as we know, as parents, there is no handbook for being a parent, and we have a motto in my business as a child advocate and as a parent advocate, which is, *you don't know what you don't know until you don't know it*. So, this bill will make available information for parents on children's development and, of course, the milestones to be aware of. We should be continually striving to make parents and caregivers aware of the Office Early Childhood's resources and the programs, and especially when they focus on early intervention.

I think this bill is one more thing that we can do to provide parents with information that no matter what childcare facility that they're in,
whether it's a family care setting, whether it's a center setting, that they have opportunities to learn more about their development on the children. So, we can do this all together to ensure that our kids have a strong foundation and they're learning, they're healthy, they're cared for and they have the resources they need and are ready to succeed in life.

So, I thank Representative Rachelle for her work on introducing this bill. I'm very proud to be working with her as a cosponsor and as Vice-Chair of the Children's Committee. And I'm happy that we'll be working on this. So, I urge everyone to, all my colleagues here today, to support this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be
The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 6184, amended by House "A",

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) Thank you, Mr. Clerk, and would you now please call Calendar No. 178?

CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 178, House Bill, No. 5517 - AN ACT CONCERNING LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES AND CONTRACTS THAT INSURE THE LIVES OF CONVICTED FELONS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Real Estate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 7364. I would ask the Clerk to call the amendment and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO, No. 7364, which will be designated as House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

LCO 7364, designated House Amendment Schedule "A" and offered by Representative Scanlon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):


REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The amendment before us is a strike-all amendment that turns the main bill into a task force of study, and I move
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and again, good afternoon. What we were getting at here, on the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, was a concept that was brought to our attention by some of our colleagues, and I want to give a special shout out to Representative Brandon McGee, who came to us with
an issue that he was finding that there was some folks that had been convicted felons, folks who had served their time and that reentered society, were having a hard time purchasing life insurance. And we, as a committee, tried to find an answer during the course of the session as to whether this was a problem and how rampant of a problem this was, but I'm not afraid to say, we couldn't quite get the answer, and still don't have the answer.

And so, we thought that it'd be more appropriate for us to then study this issue, try to get at whether or not this is in fact a problem that is hurting some people here in Connecticut that are convicted felons when it comes to purchasing life insurance, something that is a very good thing as far as I'm concerned. And that's why we have put together this task force. And again, I want to thank my friend, Representative McGee, who brought this to our attention and I hope that we can get behind this today so that we can study this issue. If it is in fact a problem, come back and try to
address it so that the folks that have served their time are not gonna be in fact discriminated against when they go to purchase life insurance.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, you have the floor, madam.

REP. PAVALOCK-D'AMATO (77TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A -- Just a brief statement. This bill has gone through significant transformation. As my colleague stated, it first started off as a restriction, now has transformed into a task force. But this bill reminds me of past banking bills that we've done, and I think my issues with those bills, as I recall, was -- we're setting up a task force for a single question. It's a single question that, you know, requires sitting down, talking, doing some research, but I think a single question requires a ten-person task force. It's not even an efficient way to get the answers
that we're looking for.

My constituents keep asking me, you know, when are gonna start helping law-abiding citizens and taxpayers. And I get that question more and more often. I'm not against, again, asking the question, researching and finding out that information, but I just don't think that a ten-person task force, another one, is the best way to achieve that goal.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Vail, you have the floor, sir.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And if I may, a few questions and comments for the proponent of the bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

And I do understand that this has turned into a
study, but I have concerns about this. I sell life insurance, you know, as part of my other job, and life insurance rates are strictly based on someone's life expectancy at the time of purchase. So, it's based on your age at that time and based on what -- if your life expectancy ends up being 75 years old, the actuaries will do the math and figure out your life expectancy and you'll be charged a premium, and that's how that works. So, there's different determining factors in what can affect that life expectancy. And being a felon is one of those factors.

And when you commit felonies, it may be just one, or you may do it multiple times, but you're gonna have a shorter life expectancy. Or they're not gonna be able to figure out at all what your life expectancy will be because of the inconsistency of your life choices. So, if I may, a question.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.
REP. VAIL (52ND):

Is there any data out there now of the average life expectancy of someone that commits felonies in general or certain felonies?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I'm sure there is somewhere out there, but I do not have that information in front of me right now.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Vail.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

And again, so some people can be denied insurance coverage for the occupation that they have, because their life is at a greater risk. And again, a question, through you, is it your understanding that even police officers either could be rated or denied life insurance coverage because
of that risk?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. And again, my good friend, Representative Vail, has brought up some questions that we discussed in the committee and as he knows, I believe, I am the son, brother, and brother in-law of police officers and I am very conscious of the fact that they have occupational hazards and, therefore, sometimes are seen -- that their insurance rates might reflect that occupational hazard, such as corrections officers or any other, you know, hazardous occupation. But what we're trying to get at here, though, is something that's a little bit different, in my personal opinion about that, which is that those are occupations and those are hazards that they are living every single day when they get up and they put that uniform on.
Whereas somebody who is a convicted felon, in theory, has served the time that they have been adjudicated for and they are no longer -- if they are out in society, they are no longer, in theory, committing crimes or criminal acts that might reflect in their lifespan. And so, I do, with respect, think there is a bit of a difference there between an occupational hazard that is something that is an ongoing thing, and somebody who may have made a mistake when they were 18 years old and is now 58, trying to do the right thing and purchase life insurance for their family. But I do see the gentleman's point.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I actually see good Representative Scanlon's point in that as well. And maybe that's they consider if this bill does pass and they do do a study. That maybe they can
ask if you've done a felony within the last ten years or twenty years and maybe they can look at that aspect. Because I certainly believe that people deserve a second chance, but again, this involves life expectancy. And I don't think felons are being -- you know, there may be other areas where they're -- you know, they are being targeted, but I think they're being left based on the risk that comes with that lifestyle.

So, I mean, again, I represent Stafford, which has a racetrack, and there's people that drive there as a hobby. Nobody gets paid to race on Friday nights at Stafford Speedway, but there's inherent risk in racing a car. And so, if you fill out a life insurance application honestly and you put that is a hobby, you can get denied for being a racecar driver. You could be an insurance salesman during the day, but you drive a modified car on Friday night at Stafford Speedway, you might get denied coverage.

So, our choices in life affect the life
expectancy that we're gonna have. And I can see where they're going with us, but I'm gonna be voting no on this, and thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Hampton.

REP. HAMPTON (16TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker. Thank you. Through you, to the proponent of the bill. I didn't see any --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HAMPTON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I didn't see any testimony from the victims advocate or any victim's groups. Did any of them opine and is there any consideration for victim's organizations to be on this task force?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. That is not something that we considered or heard testimony about.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Hampton.

REP. HAMPTON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you very much. Representative Scanlon and Vail just got almost to this and I understood
the content. But I just wanted to ask, particularly. In both the original bill and the amendment, I didn't see any distinction made, so, in the original intent and thinking, between someone who has committed a felony and has been - and is still serving his or her sentence, and someone who no longer is. And I just wondered what the original thinking on that has been or whether you still -- whether that still hasn't been determined, and that's one of the reasons for the task force.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. That is not something that we actually considered during the committee. It's not something that came up during the public hearing. That's something that subsequently I've heard about. I think it's a great question. I think it's something that I would hope that if we are to move forward on this today, we
could answer during the task force process.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Well, I thank the Representative for his answer. That's -- that is -- I just mention it because during this session, we've particularly seen a number of bills that are aimed at doing things like considering giving the vote to someone convicted of a felony who is incarcerated - while the person is incarcerated. Now, there's a lot of - - the secretary of state has said that there are a lot of mechanical problems with that. But aside from those, it seems that we're making the area around what doing a sentence means and what not being convicted of something and not doing a sentence means.

And as we make that grayer and grayer, you know, you begin to wonder what's the purpose of a sentence and what it is supposed to accomplish. And
I would just like that under our common understanding of what the curses of a sentence is to be fairly firm, but which doesn't have anything to do with someone getting or not getting a second chance. Once they're done, they're done, and then they're back in society and they have all the rights and privileges of everyone who is not serving a sentence. So, yeah, I just thought it was worth bringing up because the distinction seemed to me to be fuzzy and it's still fuzzy in the task force. And so, I hope that's meant to be considered.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, I have a question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.
REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Thank you. My question is, currently, how do convicted felons pay for their funeral expenses after they pass away?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I'm not aware of that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. So, does this mean that potentially, if a convicted felon passes away, it could add extra expenses to the family? And if that convicted felon doesn’t have a family, it could add extra expenses to the state.

Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):
Through you, Madam Speaker. I now understand what the Representative was getting at here. You know, like all people who pass away, there are costs associated with that. And usually when somebody has life insurance, the life insurance pays for the course of that funeral, funeral home, the arrangements and all those things like that. If a person does not have life insurance, yes, that does fall to the family or in some cases the state, depending on the circumstances of the person who passed away.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And as far as life expectancy is concerned, let's say someone like a soldier. Do soldiers have life insurance, Madam Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.
REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. It's my understanding that they have the option to purchase life insurance. I don't know that it's any sort of requirement in the military that they have to have it, but I believe that they would have the option if they so choose to.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

So, Madam Speaker -- so thus, being a soldier, I'm under a tremendous amount of stress and pressure. That could potentially shorten my life expectancy?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I suppose it could, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

The last one, Madam Speaker. Could these convicted felons be issued, perhaps, instead of a whole life insurance policy or something longer, a shorter, maybe something like a term life insurance policy, five to ten years or something like that that could be renewed?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I suppose that that's something that this task force could study, as to whether that would be an option. But again, why we want to have this task force in the first place is because it was brought to our attention that this could be an issue, that folks who are convicted felons, regardless of how many years before they had committed their crime and served their time, could be discriminated against because of that status as a convicted felon, regardless of
what they're doing currently in their life. We were not able to get that answer. We wanted to study it.

If we have a task force, then I hope that they might answer that question that you just raised as well.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And just to let you know, I will be voting in the affirmative. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Zullo.

REP. ZULLO (99TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just a comment and one question for the proponent, if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.

REP. ZULLO (99TH):
Through you, Madam Speaker. I am just briefly looking at an article from the Prison Policy Initiative that pegs shorter life expectancy to incarceration. My question to the proponent is have you thought about potentially expanding the scope of the task force to include not just a study of whether the designation as a felon decreases life expectancy or causes insurance companies to decline coverage, but whether having been incarcerated in general does. Because it would seem to be that somebody could potentially have the moniker or the designation as a felon and actually have served potentially no prison time. I'm sorry.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I think it's a great question. I have not considered amending this task force today just because we -- the proponent of the bill, Representative McGee, and I had sort of
discussed this with our Ranking Member in the insurance industry and we felt that this was the best possible outcome to study this thing. But I think that that's something that they certainly could look at as this task force, because there are folks that would be much more inclined and interested in this than, perhaps, you or I, and they dedicate their life to this kind of thing. And if they come back to us next year and suggest that as a possible change for legislation, then that's something that I think we should definitely consider.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

REP. ZULLO (99TH):

That's all, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Ackert, of the mighty 8th.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I listened to
the dialog. I always think back of a representative that's not here that always talked about our task force. But I think that there's times that when we want to air this out and I think the dialog that we're having here is actually bringing that out.

And I respect the comments made by Representative Gibson because it brought to mind actually that we have a death benefit on the state. And unfortunately, they reduced it. We had to reduce it drastically, so that are costs probably to the family and also that we did reduce the state and those practitioners that help with burying our individuals are getting paid much less. And I remember having that dialog on it.

I do want to comment on the active duty military, are fully -- have full life insurance policies and they are due that. So, they do have a -- it's not huge, but it would help the family out when the service member is lost during service and for a portion of time after their service time. So, I appreciate the dialog that we're having here and
maybe there's a validity in this task force. So, thank you for the -- thank you to the proponent for the bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

    Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative Blumenthal. Your light's on. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats and the machine will be opened.

(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 COOK (65TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5517 as amended by House "A",

Total number Voting 148
Necessary for Passage 75
Those voting Yea 101
Those voting Nay 47
Those absent and not Voting 2

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill as amended is passed. (Gavel) Will
the Clerk please call Calendar No. 55?

CLERK:

On page 4, House Calendar 55, House Bill, No.
5972 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESUMPTION OF
OWNERSHIP IN JOINT BANK ACCOUNTS, favorable report
of the Joint Standing Committee on Banking.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The good Representative from the 13th.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):
Good evening, Madam Speaker. There it is.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Good evening, Representative.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):

Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative, you have the floor, sir.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a simple bill that changes the evidentiary standards that courts would use to determine ownership of a joint bank account in cases of fraud or undue influence. The purpose of the bill is to protect the interests of elderly or deceased depositors and their heirs from inappropriate use of joint bank accounts and to address the common form of financial exploitation of
the elderly and elder abuse.

Under current law, there is a rebuttable presumption that creating a joint account is evidence of the intent by the person creating the joint account to have it vest if he or she dies to the other account holder. This bill does not change that. However, in the case of a legal challenge which alleges fraud or undue influence, it would amend current law to require the party making that challenge to prove by the preponderance of the evidence rather than the higher standard of clear and convincing evidence that there was fraud or undue influence. The bill has no fiscal impact. It was passed through the Banking Committee unanimously. I urge its adoption.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Good evening, Representative.

REP. DELNICKI (14th):

And I've got a couple of questions for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

I am sure the Representative is ready, so please proceed.

REP. DELNICKI (14th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you. Just for clarity purposes, the reference pertaining to clear and convincing evidence versus the preponderance of evidence, what is the specificity of that, as say, a percentage of the evidence presented?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Doucette.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):

I don't believe there's an exact percentage; however, clear and convincing evidence is a
substantially higher legal standard. The preponderance of the evidence is the most common standard in all civil cases. Clear and convincing evidence is a much higher burden of proof. It essentially requires the court to find in every case that there is a smoking gun, if you will.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14th):

Thank you to the proponent. And through you, Madam Speaker. Is it true that the preponderance of evidence is a greater standard of fifty percent or thereabouts?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Doucette.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):

Yes. Through you, Madam Speaker. It certainly is greater than fifty percent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):
Thank you again to the proponent. And through you, Madam Speaker. So, does this in any fashion lessen the protection of the primary holder of the account?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

No, it does not. Through you, Madam Speaker.

If anything, enhances the protection of the depositor of the account. Oftentimes, joint accounts are established by elderly persons for the reason of convenience as they get older. This would, in fact, protect the interests of that original depositor from any fraud or inappropriate use of that account by the joint holder at a later date.

Through you, Madam Speaker.
Representative Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14th):

Again, thank you to the proponent. And through you, Madam Speaker, one last question. Is there a specific issue or problem that this addresses that is commonplace when it comes to elder law?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Doucette.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. There are numerous cases that have been pointed out to me by proponents of elder law attorneys, where the preponderance of the evidence would have shown fraud or undue influence on a part of a joint account holder or someone working through a joint account holder, but the court is unable to find, based on the exacting, much higher legal standard of clear and convincing evidence, which, as I stated earlier, essentially amounts to the court having to find a smoking gun in every case.
Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative.

REP. DELNICKI (14th):

Again, thank you to the proponent. Just a statement here. I handled my parents' estate and found that, fortunately, because I was known in the community, I had no problems establishing the ownership, a joint ownership with them, so as to be able to handle that estate. But I certainly could see where if you had a situation where somebody was not known in the community, having something like this as part of the law would be of benefit to them because it does not take the fraud concept away, does not take the nefarious issues away, yet allows for an easier transition. So, I think it's a good bill. I voted for it in committee, and matter of fact, it did pass unanimously, and I recommend passage of this piece of legislation. Again, thank you to the proponent.

Through you, Madam Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on this bill? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will members please take your seats? The machine will be opened.

(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.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. And the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5972,

Total number Voting  148
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 24, 2019

Necessary for Passage 75
Those voting Yea 146
Those voting Nay 2
Those absent and not Voting 2

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel)

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 419?

CLERK:

On page 52, House Calendar 419, House Bill, No. 6564 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE TIMING OF THE ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUDGET AND THE EFFECT OF SUCH TIMING ON MUNICIPAL BUDGET PREPARATIONS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative McCarthy-Vahey.

REP. MCCARTHY-VAHEY (133RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative McCarthy-Vahey, you have the floor, madam.

REP. MCCARTHY-VAHEY (133RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And, Madam Speaker, this is a fairly straightforward bill that does exactly what the title says it does. It establishes a task force that will study the timing of the budget adoption that we do here at the state and what that means for our municipalities.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Oh, and I move for passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill? The good Representative Zawistowski. Did I get it right?

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Yes, you did. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):
You're welcome, Representative. Please proceed.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Madam Speaker, this study would allow -- this study would deal with an issue that's really a problem for a lot of municipalities. When they're setting their budgets currently, it's really a guessing game as to what our budget, the state's, is going to look like and what they're going to get for aid. A couple of just quick comments. On my wish list, I would love to see the appointments to this task force made promptly. It's not always the case with some of the appointments here. So, I mean, I think that would be a very positive move.

And also, I would love to see somebody, well, at least one or two, representatives from municipalities as appointees on this, because I think input really needs to be made. As somebody who used to serve on a board of finance, we need somebody who has actually been in the trenches to really help with this issue. This was passed
unanimously in committee and I certainly support it and recommend that my colleagues do the same.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on this bill? The good Majority Leader, Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Yeah, thank you, Madam Speaker. And I just wanted to make one comment, that a change we made last year that I'm not always sure municipalities are even aware of. We allowed, last year, by law, for municipalities to change their charters without going through the charter revision process, which is expensive and cumbersome, for one reason. And that is to change their budget adoption dates. So, just a reminder to CCM and COST. In other words, just keep that in mind. I'm not against this at all. It's a very good idea. The timing is difficult. But if you're a first selectman and you are operating under a very old charter, and you are
doing your budget in March or early April, and there are a lot that are, and you go, well, I don't want to go through the revision process because it's expensive and it's gonna take time. I've got to appoint people and then they're gonna look at other things. You can go in and just modify the budget adoption dates. I don't know if towns have done it yet, but I just to remind the Chamber that option does exist because of a law last year.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will members take your seats? The machine will be opened.

(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
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 6564,

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DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar 337?

CLERK:

On page 42, 337, Substitute House Bill, No. 6522 - AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION IN SCREENING FOR INFLAMMATORY BREAST
CANCER AND GASTROINTESTINAL CANCERS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Health.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):
Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Good evening, Representative.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Steinberg, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a very straightforward bill as everyone knows. It would require physicians in the State of Connecticut to
continue their education periodically and to be kept up to speed on the latest innovations in medicine. Among those requirements are one contact hour of risk management studies. This bill would simply enable or allow physicians to complete some of that work by focusing on screening for inflammatory breast cancer and gastrointestinal cancers, including colon, gastric, pancreatic, and neuroendocrine cancers as well as other rare gastrointestinal tumors. Many of these represent fairly rare diseases or situations, but their ability to recognize and treat these particular rare incidences may save lives. So, we this it's a very straightforward bill and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on this bill? Representative Petit.

REP. PETIT (22ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree with the comments of the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the verbiage that allows this to be
done in place of risk management credits makes it quite palatable and valuable to physicians for their continued medical education and I urge support of the bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'd just like to remind folks that when you're home watching TV and those commercials come on for metastatic breast cancer; inflammatory breast cancer is by definition metastatic breast cancer. This is where we haven't yet made progress in saving people's lives. And the one thing that does matter that we know is how early that horrible cancer is diagnosed. That a woman's only chance of really surviving, getting beyond that one year, that second, two and a half year marker, is by very early diagnosis. Let's hope that some doctors take the opportunity to look
at this. That they'll recognize the next chance
they're given the opportunity to misdiagnose
metastatic breast cancer, because that's what
happens most often. It's rare. We have a chance to
be saving lives with this bill. We shouldn't be
squandering it. I hope everybody will vote yes this
year.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representatives. Will you remark
further on the bill? If not, will staff and guests please come to
the well of the House? Will members please take
your seats? The machine will be opened.

(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 COOK (65TH):
Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 6522,

Total number Voting       149
Necessary for Passage     75
Those voting Yea          149
Those voting Nay          0
Those absent and not Voting 1

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 367?

CLERK:

Page 45, Calendar 367, Substitute House Bill, No. 6666 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF CONTRACTORS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Administration and
Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The Chamber will stand at ease.

Will the Chamber please come back to order?

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker. I apologize for the delay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

No worries, Representative. Please proceed.

REP. FOX (148TH):

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the underlying bill reduces the timeframe in which contractors can pay their subcontractors from 30
days to 25 days for commercial construction contracts. There's no fiscal impact. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And the good Chair has properly characterized this as a simple bill to reduce the time of the payment from 30 days to 25 days. It's a good bill. It ought to pass. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the
members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been
properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked
and the Clerk will take a tally, please. And will
the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 6666,

Total number Voting 149
Necessary for Passage 75
Those voting Yea 149
Those voting Nay 0
Those absent and not Voting 1

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please
call Calendar No. 408?

CLERK:
On page 50, Calendar 408, House Bill, No. 5642 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE A STATE FUNDING AND SERVICE DISPARITY IN NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT, report -- favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Representative McCarthy-Vahey.

REP. MCCARTHY-VAHEY (133RD):
Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative, you have the floor, madam.

REP. MCCARTHY-VAHEY (133RD):
Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this bill is a task force to look at the service funding disparities in the northeastern part of the state and to establish if there are ways to minimize any
disparities that may be found. And, Madam Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO No. 7468. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 7468, which will be designated as House Amendment Schedule "A".

CLERK:

LCO No. 7468, designated House Amendment Schedule "A" and offered by Representatives Dubitsky, Zawistowski, McCarthy-Vahey and Ryan.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Without objection, hearing none, seeing none. Representative McCarthy-Vahey, you have the floor.

REP. MCCARTHY-VAHEY (133RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And, Madam Speaker, this amendment simply clarifies that folks who live in the northeastern part of the state would be the ones to serve on it, so that at least five members
of this task force would come from this area of the state, would either live or work in the northeastern part of the state.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you.

REP. MCCARTHY-VAHEY (133RD):

And I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you care to remark on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH): All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

REP. MCCARTHY-VAHEY (133RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And, Madam Speaker,
I think I've sufficiently summarized what the bill does and I am happy to take any questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Zaza -- I am tongue tied. (Laughs) You have the floor, madam.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's not always -- at the end of the day, it gets a little harder to pronounce, I think, anyway. Madam Speaker, this bill draws attention to some perceived and probably real funding disparities in the northeast corner of our state. It's something that's been in the mind of the people in that area for some time. This would allow for a study of it.

The focus of the testimony on this bill was on mental and behavioral health issues including a lack of outpatient services which force people into inpatient services or out into the community. And even judges opting for incarceration because community-based services were not available. The
bill is not something that -- the proponents are not asking for more money overall. They're just asking for a better reallocation of current state services. So, we're not looking at a fiscal note on this. It passed unanimously through committee. I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Madam Speaker, here we go again. (Laughter) Another task force, number 5,328. (Applause) How many more of these are we gonna -- I'm sorry. It's a good bill, ought to pass. (Laughter)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Representative Belsito -- I mean, Representative D'Agostino. (Laughter) Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the
House. Members take their seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5642 as amended by House "A",

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Those absent and not Voting 1

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 322?

CLERK:

On page 39, Calendar 3222 -- 322, rather, Substitute House Bill, No. 7288 - AN ACT CONCERNING SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL SERVICES CONTRACTS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on General Law.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, in a normal voice. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):
Thank you, Madam Speaker. What this bill aims to do is address an inequity and a problem that's been happening in these types of contracts where there's been risk shifting. We've learned that a number of people contracting for snow removal services, particularly on the commercial side, have been insisting on clauses in those contracts that put liability for anything that occurs on the snow removal company even if the snow removal company is instructed not to perform services and not to go out. They are being imposed liability provisions, risk-shifting provisions in contracts that still put the liability on them, even if they're told not to come out or not to perform services.

As a result, as you can imagine, insurance costs have spiked up. They can't get insurance. So, we see a number of operators now taking on these contracts with no insurance and no intention of abiding by any of those liability provisions. It's a good bill. It ought to pass. It came out of the committee, I think, generally unanimously, and I
move adoption. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark?

Representative Cheeseman of the 37th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And my good Chairman aptly summarized the issues this is addressing. We heard testimony from a number of snow removal contractors who have been very badly affected in terms of increased insurance policies with a real inability to address this other than through this method. So, again, I echo the words of my Chairman and I urge adoption. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Fishbein, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. And good evening, I guess. Just a few questions for the
proponent, if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

    Good evening and please proceed.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

    Thank you. It was my understanding that the Gazo case; I think it was Gazo v. The City of Stamford, already dealt with this issue, that our courts had said that this is a nondelegable duty. Isn't that the case?

    Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

    Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

    I don't know the case off the top of my head, but it certainly -- it should be generally improper to shift liability onto someone who takes no action that causes that liability. Unfortunately, that apparently has not stopped these contracts. And I think the way they're getting around that, in addition to an indemnity provision, is also a hold to harmless provision. Now, it's the same effect,
obviously, as Attorney Fishbein knows, but to make sure that we've captured all possible ways of this kind of risk shifting that may be an attempt to right around the case law, we're voiding those provisions entirely as a matter of public policy so they don't have any wiggle room through the superior court system.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, am I to understand that if I own a property and I contract with someone to remove snow and ice and in the contract with that vendor it says that they shall be responsible if somebody gets hurt that this new law would invalidate that language?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):
Through you. It's a great question. No, we are not being that broad. If you plow and through negligence in your plowing you leave a strip of ice and someone slips and falls, you are still liable because that is work that you performed and therefore you're liable for any negligence associated with the work that you performed. The limit here is with respect to any kind of risk shifting where the -- by contract or verbally, the owner has instructed the snow removal company not to perform work. So, for example, what we heard about is a number of contracts where there's a minimum amount of snow. You do not have to come out and plow unless the snow is above two inches.

But unfortunately, these provisions will capture any liability that occurs, even if somebody slips on an inch and a half of snow. And so, what the snow removal companies are doing is saying, look, even though my contract says I don't have to come out unless there's two inches of snow, I'm going out anyway because of this risk shifting
provision where I am liable. So, you are still -- we are not altering the negligence case law so dramatically. You are still liable for any work that you perform.

It is only when you are instructed not to perform work, in the contract, told not to come out. Don't plow this area. Only come out if there's two inches of snow. You cannot be liable for any work that you were told not to perform. Obviously, that's very logical. And unfortunately, and surprisingly, we learned that there are contracts out there that were imposing exactly that kind of liability, hence, the reason for this provision. I should note just real quickly, this language does not apply to municipal contracts or state contracts.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEGIN (90TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I thank very much the Representative for his clarification
because that was very important. But he brought me to the next question. Why would we be not applying this public policy, good reasoning, to municipal or state-owned roads or property?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Through you, Madam Speaker. As the Representative knows, there's compromises in any bill and this was one that we felt we needed in order to get the adequate support to get this passed in a private level. I think the General Law Committee is happy to look at this again from a state and municipal level, but we wanted to make sure that there were no related costs that we were somehow imposing on our municipalities or state contracts.

We hadn't looked at those contracts, so we just didn't want to touch those until we were sure of the terms of those. We had a lot of testimony on the
private side, particularly the commercial, big box stores, those types of contracts, where we saw the provisions. We just felt like we didn't have enough knowledge based on the municipal and state contracts to impose it there. We may get there.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. And I note there was no testimony submitted from CCM or COST or any of those entities with regard to this legislation. I'm a little concerned that we leave our municipalities open to this situation. But I thank you and the ability to answer -- ask questions.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff
and guests please come to the well of the House.

Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 7288,

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Those voting Nay 0
Those absent and not Voting 1

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 78?

CLERK:

On page 7, House Calendar 78, House Bill, No. 7087 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF THE TRIENNIAL AUDIT OF STATE CONTRACTING AGENCIES BY THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report
and passage of the bill. Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Yes, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this is a straightforward bill establishing a reporting procedure for the Contracting Standards Board. The Contracting Standards Board would give its audit to an agency, which would have the opportunity to respond and the audit and any response would be forwarded to the GAE and the Legislator's Committees of Cognizance. An identical bill passed this bill unanimously last session. The bill passed the GAE Committee unanimously this year with one member absent. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO No. 7489. Would the Clerk call and I be permitted to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 7489, which will be designated as House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 7489, offered by Representative Currey, Representative
Rotella.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):


REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Madam Speaker, during review of the bill it was thought that perhaps a certain level of expertise might be specified for at least two members of the Contracting Standards Board. The amendment would require that two of the appointees have -- be certified in procurement. This would be done without changing the number of members on the Contracting Standards Board and the amendment would not change anything else about the Contracting Standards Board. The bill also addresses the quorum requirement and the GAE Committee is indebted to Representative France for improving this aspect of the bill. I would urge adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark
further on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark further on the amendment? Representative Concepcion.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH):

It's a good bill and it ought to pass.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the good work of the Vice-Chair of the GAE Committee and working together to try to improve this amendment. I think that the purpose of it, to have expertise on this Contracting Standards Board is important. And I also appreciate working together to establish a quorum that ensure that neither the executive branch nor the legislative branch could essentially take over this board and it establishes a quorum that requires both parties to appoint members in order to have quorum. Thank you.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your mind. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Yes, Madam Speaker, I believe I have summarized the bill sufficiently and move passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I concur with the
Vice-Chair's summary. It's good to have the GAE Committee have the appropriate oversight and the bill ought to pass. A good bill, ought to pass. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be opened.

(Ringing)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Have all members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine
will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally, please. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 7087 as amended by House "A",

Total number Voting 149
Necessary for Passage 75
Those voting Yea 149
Those voting Nay 0
Those absent and not Voting 1

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill passes as amended. (Gavel) Will the House please stand at ease?

Will the House please come back to order? And will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 298?

CLERK:

On page 36, House Calendar 298, Substitute House Bill, No. 6630 - AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY REGARDING SOLAR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR AND JOURNEYMAN LICENSES, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Public Employees.
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

And we will now call on the dean of the House, Representative Mary Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85TH):

Madam Speaker. Good evening, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good evening.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85TH):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill simply requires the commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection in consultation with the commissioner of Labor to study solar electrical contractors and journeyman licenses and regulations regarding the installation of commercial and
residential solar electrical systems. We started to work on this in the Labor Committee this year. It needs additional study and both agencies need to be involved. And the purpose is to help create career ladders for those people involved in solar installation. I urge your support for the bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Polletta, you have the floor.

REP. POLLETTA (68TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker. And I rise in support of the bill in front of us this evening. As a son of a licensed electrician and someone who has looked at this bill and voted for it in committee, I do think it's worthwhile to at least study this and see where we're going, as solar has become more and more prevalent in our state. I urge adoption. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative Ackert, good evening.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker, and thank you. And I appreciate. I looked at this legislation earlier and I appreciate the bill being raised. But I do have to make a comment on what's happening out in the trade, and I guess I'm taking this opportunity to do that. Solar, obviously, is doing very, very well both on the commercial side and on the residential side, except there's been a concern that people have -- when I pulled these -- and part of this bill, what they're going to at look at, is actually when that unit comes out of the box, the solar panel, it's actually live. So, it's electrified. So, the concept was that maybe just electricians should be installing the panels.

And the solar installers came out and said wait a minute, guys, there's people that do the racking
and the roofing, and then there's the electricians that do the tie in. And what I would like the Department of Consumer Protection to do is to make sure that those contractors that are doing the work stay in their lanes, so to say. So, if you're doing the racking work and you're a carpenter or a roofer, then you do that, but you stay away from the electrical component of it, which the utilities would like the electricians to do the tie ins.

Well, it's happening at times because the Department of Consumer Protection does not have the staff to make sure those contractors stay in their lane. So, I would -- taking this opportunity to say that you're going to study this, what I want you to study is make sure that -- maybe stop by a job every now and then and see if the electricians are actually doing the contracting work that they're supposed to be doing and those that are doing the roofing are the ones that are supposed to be doing the roofing, so the installation called racking, they call it.
So, I hope that part of the study is that we make sure that the licensed people, as by our state statutes say that those that are licensed to do the work, other ones doing it, rather than essentially somebody buying a license from a contractor and then have them hire whoever they would like to do the work. So, hopefully that will be part of the study and I look forward to seeing the results of that.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 6630,

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

And the bill passes. (Gavel)  Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 13 -- stop.  Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 320?

CLERK:

On page 39, Calendar 320, House Bill 7285 - AN
ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE LICENSED BUILDING TRADE EXAMINING BOARDS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on General Law.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

It's with a great sense of irony that I move for passage of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Thank you, Madam --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

I'm sorry. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, the bill does indeed establish a task force. This is in response to a Supreme Court case called, North
Caroline Dental, where the court effectively gutted the work that our license trade examining boards do. Previously, they did things like review applications, review permits, even imposed discipline on their members. The Supreme Court of the United States held that members of a particular trade cannot regulate that trade even if they're doing it under color of law. It is still an antitrust violation.

So, we are looking forward to recommendations that DCP and the trades can come up with with respect to how they can respond to that Supreme Court case in a manner that is still legal and not an antitrust violation. This bill puts together a number of parties from all of those different groups. They'll come back with recommendations to the General Law Committee. It's assumed that we will then run those by the Attorney General's Office to make sure they meet Supreme Court guidance and then we'll update the statutes to update what our license trade examining boards do. And I move
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Cheeseman, you have the floor, madam.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And if the good Chair hadn't mentioned how ironic it was that he had to bring out a task force bill, I certainly planned to. But he gave a very full summary about the issue at stake. It is a task force that will see how we address the Supreme Court decision and I urge everyone to support passage of the bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Representative Cheeseman. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 ORANGE (48TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the machine to be sure that your vote has been properly cast and the Clerk will take a tally. Oh, I'll lock the machine and then the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 7285,

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

And the bill passes. Thank you, Mr. Clerk.
(Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 269?

CLERK:

On page 32, Calendar 269, Substitute House Bill 7126 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF DOUBLE OR TREBLE DAMAGES TO AN INJURED PARTY IN A CIVIL ACTION RESULTING FROM CERTAIN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good evening, sir.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Blumenthal.
REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill is addressed at a problem that is far too prevalent on our roads. It causes an estimated number of 1.6 million crashes every year, nearly 390,000 injuries and more than 3,000 deaths, and that is use of a cell phone while driving. What this bill does is it will establish a proper deterrent for that activity, that dangerous activity. It will do so by adding using a cell phone while driving to the list of already included activities which are illegal and are a cause -- if they are done deliberately or with reckless indifference, a cause for double or treble damages as the jury or a judge may find in a civil action when somebody is injured as a result. It passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee and I urge this Chamber's support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark?

Representative Rebimbas, our good Ranking Member.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):
Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I do rise in support of the proposal before us and just a few questions to the good Vice-Chairman, just for clarification purposes.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you. To the good Vice-Chairman, this -- in the introduction, it was indicated that it extends to cell phones. Does this also include other types of mobile devices?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And, Madam Speaker,
through you. Is this also discretionary for a judge to assign double or treble damages? Is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Yes, it is discretionary for the judge or a jury to add double or treble damages should they find it appropriate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker. There's actually a criteria as well for, as the good Vice-Chairman had indicated, appropriateness of allocating that designation. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Blumenthal.
REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Yes, that's correct and I would add that the jury or judge must find that the individual who caused that crash did the activity of manipulating their cell phone or other mobile device with deliberate or reckless disregard.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker. Is it also correct, for example, if somebody is using one of those devices in order to contact first responders in emergency circumstances or someone in the health care field because there's an emergency, are they excluded from that?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Yes, in the
underlying law that already exist, those activities, those situations are already excluded from the violation and they would be excluded from double or treble damages as well.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I just want to take the opportunity to thank the good Vice-Chairman for his clarifying responses in this regard and also, obviously, it's been a pleasure working with him on the Judiciary Committee and I do rise in support of the proposal before us and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker. Proponent -- a question for the proponent?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):
Please proceed.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

This is a sweeping change. From my understanding, this is a sweeping change to how we are going to be -- how people are going to be fined or the liability for individuals when they are texting and driving, which I think most people would agree is a good thing, that we're clamping down and having more serious consequences. However, this is a significant change. So, no longer will people be insured, but they'll actually be personally liable potentially for hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. My understanding is that it would depend on the insurance policy. Many insurance policies would cover these. I can't say that every insurance policy would cover double
House of Representatives

April 24, 2019

or treble damages.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker. If this in fact is gonna be the case, where individuals may not be aware that they will be personally liable now or could potentially personally liable for significant amounts of money, is there anything in the bill that would allow -- that will drive some sort of education or awareness toward the public that they could be responsible personally for damages should they be caught texting and driving while in an accident?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. There's nothing specific in this bill that would provide extra notice, but I would note that the activity is
already barred by statute. All that this would do would just take the underlying violation and allow double or treble damages to apply in a civil action due to injuries caused by that activity with deliberate or reckless indifference. And I would also point out that if one has exercised that level of deliberateness or recklessness, then that person would probably have implied notice that that activity could lead to them being held punitive — to punitive damages. Elsewhere in the law, that is the case under those state of mind requirements.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I would agree with the proponent that, obviously, we want to do everything we can to prevent distracted driving, but as we all know, we all drive on our highways, people are engaged in this activity and I don't think that most people are aware that they're going to be personally responsible for covering that damage. I
would recommend that insurance companies have to at least notify their people they are insuring that if you are involved in an accident like this that this could potentially be the consequence of your action, that you will be personally, not insurable, but personally responsible for potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars.

But maybe that, in fact, just getting a notice from your insurance company, telling you that you could potentially be responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars should you be in a car accident while driving distracted could reduce the amount of distracted driving. But I think it's something that I think all of us need to be very aware of because it is a total -- it's a very big change to our current statutes.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill? Representative Ackert, you have the floor, sir.
REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I just had to ask the question on this and I -- because I don't know the answer. I'm not in insurance and I'm not a personal injury attorney either, so I don't know how any of this works out. But my question was -- I was trying to get with staff on this. But I'm just reading it out. So, if my sixteen-year-old child that I have the car and is insured with me, has an incident that causes severe damage, how would that, in this legislation, be covered if it's not covered by the insurance? Because it does specify in current language, the owner of the rental -- oh, that's owner of lease, I guess would be -- so, who would be responsible for that?

Through you, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you. This bill changes nothing with regard to that set of
conditions. It would be governed by the insurance contracts. I would just note that various forms of reckless driving including driving over the speed limit at an excessive speed in the wrong lane or while intoxicated are already included under this section. And so, I would think that it would be treated the same way that all those are, but it would depend on the individual contracts. No change has been made to any of the insurance regulations or any other aspect of the law in this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

And I thank the good Vice-Chairman for his answers. I just thought of it. For whatever reason, it just clicked with me, and I can tell, I mean, you literally can drive behind somebody and they're looking down. And so, I hope we maybe do a better job -- I mean, I see the billboards, stop texting, you know, look up, all -- bumper stickers. And I don't know -- how do we stop it other than
have a -- I know they make a shutoff in a car that you can literally -- once you get in the car, your phone is not activated. So, I hope that we don't find people in this position and we do a better job maybe as a state of stopping people from texting and using their personal electronic device while driving.

So, thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the good gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be opened.

(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
Speaker Aresimowicz (30th):

Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally. And the Clerk will announce the tally.

Clerk:

House Bill 7126,

- Total number Voting: 149
- Necessary for Passage: 75
- Those voting Yea: 135
- Those voting Nay: 14
- Those absent and not Voting: 1

Speaker Aresimowicz (30th):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 237?

Clerk:

On page 64, House Calendar 237, Substitute House Joint Resolution, No. 161 - Resolution
PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to take up a resolution containing an amendment to our constitution. I would like to briefly remind the Chamber that the rules and procedures governing the constitutional amendment. If this resolution passes by at least three-fourths of the membership of each Chamber of the General Assembly, it will be placed on the ballot in November 2020. If this resolution passes by a majority of the membership of each Chamber, but less than three-fourths in either Chamber, it will be continued to the next regular session of the General Assembly elected at the next general election and must be approved again by a simple majority in each Chamber before being placed on the ballot in 2022.
If this resolution passes, I will then tell you by what level it passed and what the next step is. But I just wanted to lay that out before you. With that being said, Representative Fox of the 148th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good evening, sir.

REP. FOX (148TH):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the committee -- before the body is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Representative Fox, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 7493. I ask
the amendment be called and I be granted leave of
the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 7493? It
will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A".

CLERK:  House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 7493,
offered by Representative Fox and Senator Flexer.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber
to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to
summarization? Is there objection to summarization?
Seeing none. Representative Fox, please proceed
with summarization, sir.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the
resolution before us essentially does two things.
First, it's a constitutional amendment to allow for
in-person early voting in lines 15-18 of the
resolution. Should the resolution pass, the
legislature would then vote to determine the number
of days, hours, the specifics of the actual early
Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the resolution, in lines 31-36, amends article four, section four, of the Constitution. This is the provision in our Constitution that says that the votes must be received and counted on the day of the election in the presence of electors. This section of the resolution applies only to our state constitutional officers. Lines 21-24 of the resolution does essentially the same thing as the prior section just mentioned, except it applies to the election members of the General Assembly. Finally, if House Joint 161 goes forth to the ballot, the question that appears in lines 882 is the question that would appear on the ballot.

I'd like to emphasize what this resolution does not do. It does not make any changes to our current election laws. What this does is that it essentially -- it's essentially enabling legislation and it puts reforming of our election laws in the hands of our lawmakers who are responsible for the
constituents to the people in this room. Mr. Speaker, I believe it's time for Connecticut to have the opportunity to join the other states that have enacted some form of early voting. I believe that in light of today's increased civic engagement as well as a lot of our constituents' options that reflect today's busy, hectic and sometimes unpredictable lifestyles, allowing the voters to have the opportunity to decide if they want the opportunity to vote early and allowing the Representatives to consider these options is timely and appropriate. I move adoption, and request that when the vote be taken, it be taken by roll.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

I haven't done it in a while, right. I've got to get used to it. Would you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative France, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few questions for the proponent, through you.
DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Chamber will stand at ease for a second.

The gentleman asked for a roll call on the amendment. So, the question before the Chamber is on a roll call. All those in favor of a roll call, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The twenty percent has been met, so when the vote be taken, it'll be taken by roll. Will you remark further? Representative France, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few questions through you for the proponent?

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you. So, in line 7-18, is amending article six, section seven, the intent of that
section is dealing with the absentee voting process that we have enacted. Through you, Mr. Speaker. That existing language before this amendment is codified already in statute. As we amend the Constitution with this language and we add this language that allows in-person prior to the day of election, effectively early voting, how would that be affected? What would be the process that would be enacted, assuming that the legislature passes with the sufficient people to amend the Constitution? What would be the next step?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Representative for the question. The next step would be that the -- assuming, as the Representative indicated, if it goes through the process, approval of both Chamber, approved by public, the next step would be that this body then enacts the specifics,
per se, of how the early voting would be enacted.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

And it says article six, section seven deals with absentee voting. The current process for absentee voting is to present the absentee ballot to the town clerk. If we were to have this constitutional amendment pass through the legislature as well as by the people and amend the Constitution, would the requirement be for this early voting in person to also must be done by the town clerk or could it also be done by a registrar or some other designated person by this body of the legislature?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I thank the
Representative for the question. Again, that would be determined by this body at a later date.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you for that answer. So, just to clarify, it could be the town clerk as it's currently in the absentee ballot or it could be the registrar or some other person that is designated by this body should it pass and become -- the Constitution is amended. Is there any restriction of the duration of early voting prior to the election day as specified in the language of this amendment?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No. The language before us, in lines 15-18 of the resolution, is
fairly open-ended, stating that the General Assembly may further provide by law for voting in person. IT does not dictate a specific timeframe.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

I thank you for that clarification. I appreciate that answer. In the implementation across the country of early voting, as I am aware, predominantly, the states that have chosen to do this have implemented it by using and leveraging the absentee ballot process, which reduces the cost. There's no additional cost since the town clerks or the receivers of absentee ballots are already in place. Is that your vision of what you think is the intention of this body, potentially, assuming everything passes and the Constitution is amended?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Fox.
REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Representative for the question. Again, it will be decision determined by this body. So, what is my singular vision is somewhat -- not necessarily indicative of what this body may decide on.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

And I thank you. And I understand that and I appreciate the answer and the clarity that we can't be predictive of what the future legislature would do supporting that. As I look at this language, certainly, the conforming changes in article third and article fourth that are later on have no bearing on the substance of the change in potential. But I think this provides an opportunity for this body to ensure that early voting, if enacted by this body and the Constitution amended, in person, protects the integrity of the voting system because we would
have an in-person process and be able to validate
who is showing up and the integrity. So, with that,
I support the amendment. I appreciate the work that
good Chair has done and I recommend the -- my fellow
Representatives here in this body vote and support
this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark
further? Will you care to remark further on the
amendment before us? Will you care to remark
further on the amendment before us? If not, staff
and guests please come to the well of the House.
Members, please take your seats. The machine will
be opened.

(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 CANDELARIA (95TH):

Have all the members voted? Please check the board to ensure that your vote has been 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 Amendment Schedule "A",

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DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Would you remark further on the resolution as amended? Would you remark further on the resolution as amended? Representative Perillo, you have the floor, sir. No? Okay. Would you remark further on the resolution as amended? Representative Perillo, you have the floor, sir.
REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we've seen and as we've discussed, this bill -- this resolution is really about ensuring that as many people as possible have the opportunity to cast their ballot. We certainly all agree with that, and in that interest, Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment. It is LCO No. 7308. I ask that he please call that amendment and I be given leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Will the Clerk please call -- the Chamber will stand at ease. Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 7308, designated House Amendment "B"?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "B", LCO No. 7308, offered by Representative Candelora and Representative Perillo.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Perillo, you have the floor, sir.
REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many individuals in this Chamber may recall, there was a contested election in November of 2018. And as permitted in our rules, a committee was formed, a committee of four individuals, to determine whether or not something should happen as a result of that contested election. And that committee was indeed appointed, appointed with two Democrats and two representatives, again, as provided for in our rules. That committee agreed largely on the facts.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Ritter, please proceed.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just would like to say, this is not germane to the underlying bill that we are discussing, House Joint Resolution, 161. This is an amendment the State Constitution, which is probably very rarely done. And so, to offer any
amendment on it that is not germane to the underlying amendment that were seeking to do to the Constitution, we would object under any circumstance, no matter what the subject matter was and no matter how important it was. So, I'd like to ask the Chair to rule on the germaneness.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. The Chair rules that it's not germane to the underlying resolution before us.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

I would appeal the decision of the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The question is on appeal. Will you remark?

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69TH):

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the explanation of
germaneness perhaps could be offered to us at this point? Because I didn't hear anything from the Chair as to the basis for ruling that the amendment was not germane.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Okay. To appeal the Chair, we would need a second on that. Do we have a second? Are you second that, Representative O'Neill?

REP. O'NEILL (69TH):

This is a second for Perillo -- Representative Perillo's appeal. But I have a question, if I may, to the Speaker. What is the basis for the ruling that it is not germane?

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

So, Representative O'Neill -- the Chamber will be at ease. We'll get an answer for you in a second.

Will the House please come back to order? To -- so, to determine whether an amendment is germane, Mason's section 402 provides that it be relevant, appropriate and in a natural and logical sequence to
the subject matter of the original proposal and any subsequent amendments. The underlying resolution, as amended, proposes an amendment to the State Constitution, allowing for no-excuse voting — no-excuse absentee voting and early voting, and is therefore not germane to the ordering of a new election in the 120th Assembly District.

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would speak in favor of the appeal of the ruling of the Chair. I believe that Mason's says that it need only be related to the same subject. The subject that is before us in terms of the constitutional amendment is related to voting, how we cast ballots, the availability of ballots, the opportunity of the citizens of Connecticut to be able to vote in elections and so that their votes are properly counted and that they have that opportunity. The amendment would open the door to people in the Town of Stratford being allowed to have the opportunity to vote.
We had a committee on contested elections that considered this matter with a deadline at the beginning of February. That deadline was met by the committee and yet nothing has been done by this legislature to address that issue. This amendment would change our Constitution to guarantee that in any future circumstance, such as what happened in Stratford, where voters were disenfranchised and not given the opportunity to vote in the election that was being held there, that we, in fact, change the Constitution to make sure that they get that opportunity and that people in the future in Connecticut, when things like this happen, they will have the opportunity to have an election that is a meaningful opportunity to vote.

What we have before us is an amendment to the Constitution which I believe has widespread support in this Chamber that would enable more people to vote, to participate completely in our political process. That is what the underlying amendment is designed to achieve and it is designed to achieve it
by way of absentee ballots and by making ballots
available to voters so that they get that
opportunity to vote. The amendment that is before
this Chamber now and which is the subject of this
ruling would do the same thing. It would give
people the opportunity to vote in a contested
election situation in the future when we have the
problem that -- kind of problem that we have had in
Stratford.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the amendment,
in fact, is germane to the subject that is the
matter of the amendment to the Constitution, and
that the amendment to the amendment is, in fact,
germane because it relates to this very same
subject.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Ritter, you
have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do appreciate
Representative O'Neill's comments. A couple of thoughts. One is, again, this underlying resolution, and I'll get to the fact that it's a Joint Resolution in a second, is amending the State Constitution. This amendment is not amending the State Constitution. Number two, another part of the State Constitution, a whole another section, deals with this scenario, where the legislature empanels a commission and would decide who to seat in the House.

So, you are offering an amendment that does not amend the Constitution. You are offering an amendment that is dealing wholly with another section of the State Constitution. And third and final, on germaneness, Mr. Speaker, this is a House Joint Resolution. Under the Constitution, to amend the Constitution, as we know, there are certain thresholds, 75 percent that have to be met to put on the ballot in 2020, or 50 percent in subsequent legislative sessions to put on the ballot in 2022. Okay?
You would be amending a House Joint Resolution, awaiting further Senate action for something wholly prescribed under the State Constitution for House jurisdiction. It is not germane.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Candelora, you have the floor, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think, as pointed out in Mason's rules, it's merely the subject matter that needs to relate back to the original bill. We have a resolution before us, questioning whether or not there should be a referendum to the voters on whether or not to have early voting. It is not, in fact, an amendment to our Constitution. Rather, it's a resolution to the voters. The document that is being amended to it is likewise a resolution to a specific group of voters, that being the voters in the 120th District that were potentially disenfranchised by a vote.
Because Representative Perillo pointed out, we had a contested election committee that had made a determination that the election of -- the outcome of the election the likelihood was substantially called into question. And so, what this resolution is doing is fulfilling our constitutional obligation this Chamber had to make a determination of whether or not relief should be sought. So, in fact, it does relate back, in its substance, to voting. And so, I just reiterated, it is not a constitutional amendment, but rather it is a resolution. And the reason why it's being put onto this document is that this is really our only opportunity because under our Mason's rules, we cannot amend bills with resolutions. It's much more difficult.

We can amend a resolution with a resolution. So, if we vote that this is not germane, we'll be foreclosing the ability for this House Chamber to make a determination of whether the voters in the 120th District will have a right to properly have an election. So, I would hope that we would vote that
this is germane.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Ritter, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST): Mr. Speaker, I think the other side of the aisle and my entire caucus knows how I feel about the good Representative that just spoke, but I still stick by my earlier arguments that it's not germane. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir.

REP. O'NEILL (69TH):

Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that for an appeal of the Chair, individual members are allowed to speak but once. And the Majority Leader, however much I may respect him, has now spoken, I think, three times. So, hopefully it will not happen again.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):
Thank you, Representative O'Neill. Your point is well taken. Would you remark further?

Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, the issue is to germaneness. And the resolution before us is about doing whatever we can as a legislature to ensure that voters are enfranchised, are given that opportunity to vote. In fact, in November, voters waited in long lines and voted with extraordinary turnout because they knew that their vote would make a difference. Mr. Speaker, those aren't my words. Those are the words of Governor Lamont on the day he was sworn into office. Yet, here we had a situation, in the 120th District, where 76 individuals walked into a polling place and were disenfranchised. The resolution is about enfranchisement.

(Gavel)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative, you're not longer speaking on
the appeal of the Chair. You're speaking on the merits of what you wanted to do, and I'm ruling you out of order, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I will confine my comments to the issue of germaneness, which is what I am trying to do, and that was the issue that was brought up. Is that -- would that be appropriate, sir?

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

That would be. Thank you, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you very much, sir. So, as again, as I was saying, the germaneness here is about the fact that in the underlying resolution we are attempting to ensure that individuals are properly enfranchised, that they are given every opportunity possible to vote. In November, that did not happen. The facts are very clear. The facts were agreed upon by all four members of the committee. And the amendment that's before us is aimed at ensuring that
no voters in this race were disenfranchised. That, Mr. Speaker, is why I would concur with the Representative from Southbury. This issue is in fact very much germane and the amendment should properly be before us.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. The question before the Chamber is whether the ruling of the Chair shall be sustained. To sustain the ruling of the Chair, you'll be voting with a green light. To overturn the ruling of the Chair, it will be a red light. With that being said, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally?

CLERK:

On the appeal of the ruling of the Chair, to sustain the ruling of the Chair,

Necessary for Passage 75
Those voting Yea 90
Those voting Nay 59
Those absent and not Voting 1

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The ruling of the Chair has been sustained. The amendment is not properly before us. We will continue to debate with the resolution as amended.

(Gavel)

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Would you remark further on the resolution before us as amended? Would you remark further on
the resolution before us? Would you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House.

Members please take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(Ringing)

CLERK:

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 161 as amended by House "A", 
Total number Voting 149
Necessary for Passage 75
Those voting Yea 125
Those voting Nay 24
Those absent and not Voting 1

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

As states earlier in the process, the three-fourths threshold has been met and if passed by the Senate with the same threshold, it will appear on the November 2020 ballot. With that being said, the resolution is passed as amended. (Gavel) (Applause)

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Representative Butler of the 77nd District, sir, you have the floor. Representative Reyes of the 75th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Mr. Speaker, for a purpose of a Journal notation.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. REYES (75TH):
In business to the district, Representative Hall and Representative Stallworth.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a Journal notation. Representative Fishbein and Representative Fusco were outside the Chamber on business. Representative Frey is in district.

Thank you very much.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Currey, is there some business we must do?

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of stays and referrals, and I move that they be referred to the committees as indicated.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Without objection, so ordered. Representative Ferraro of the 117th, sir, you have the -- no.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as you know, it's been a long day and this last bill was the -- took a lot of emotion out of a lot of people. And I just want to point out one point of order. I do believe this Chamber has, in the past, observed the tradition of no applause after a bill has been passed, and I would just like to point that out for future reference.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Currey of the 11th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. CURREY (11TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There being no further business on the Clerk's desk, but plenty on our members', I move that we adjourn, subject to the Call of the Chair.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adjournment, subject to the Call of the Chair. Is there objection? Seeing none, so ordered. We are adjourned. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Currey of the 11 District, the House adjourned at 9:30 o'clock p.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.)
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 321 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

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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