

THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

(The House of Representatives was called to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Speaker Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

[Gavel] Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to get started. I would ask everyone to take your seats. Guests, please move to the back of the Chamber.

[Gavel] Will the house please come to order. Will members, staff and guests please rise. Direct your attention to the Dais. Will Chaplain Imam Refai Arefin, will lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN IMAM REFAI AREFIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let us pray. In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful, we give you thanks for showering your many bounties

over us, leading to a revival of our economy and our spirit. Lead us this day in Your ways that our State might be guided along the roads of balance, restraint and goodwill.

Grant strength, wisdom and foresight to our Speaker and to the Members of both the House and the Senate and to the Governor. That they will choose wisdom over neglect, the future over the fleeting, reason over fear, love over hate and ensure that justice is for all and liberty is not the privilege of the privileged. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently and act courageously in making Connecticut the most vibrant State in the union. Amen.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, Imam. Would Representative Ritter of the 1st District, Representative Klarides of the 114th District please come to the Dais and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REP. RITTER (1ST) and REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (114TH):

[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):

Ladies and gentlemen, members and guests, at
this time, it is my honor and my privilege to
introduce both leaders for some opening remarks. At
this time I will recognize the Republican Leader,
Representative Klarides of the 114th.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes people say
that you do this year-after-year. You have these
opening days and it's -- it's just the same thing
over and over again, but it's really not because
there's different people here that you serve with.
There's different people coming up to watch us and
observe this process. But most importantly because
we do different things every year. And we all do
this because of our love of this great State. And
no matter what problems we have in the State, I know
that although we fight and we yell and we scream at
each other at times, we sit here day in and day out
because we know how great the State of Connecticut

is. And we know we want to do anything we can to make it even better. So, I congratulate everyone that's here for the second year. Welcome all the guests, family and friends who have come up to visit with us and wish us all good luck on this next session. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, Madam. Thank you very much, Madam. the majority leader, Representative Ritter of the 1st District, sir, you now have the floor.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to everybody. And I know folks are kind of still shuffling in it looks like. As the minority leader said, it's always an exciting day when we all reconnect and reconvene here for what will be a very short 90 days. I was sort of thinking this morning about a lot has happened since we adjourned back in June. Obviously, we had the one special session. Some of it really happy and some of it not so happy.

I would like to start today on the brighter note. For starters, I'd like to congratulate the

Minority Leader on her recent engagement, ladies and gentlemen. [Applause]

She's told me, Mr. Speaker, this morning that you and I have a prominent role in the wedding party. But she gets to pick what we wear, which seems fair. [Laughing]

And on another, I see with us today we have young Jack Scanlon, who's over to my right. Congratulations to Sean and Megan. [Applause] As if Sean and I were not confused enough, our kids now have the same name. [Laughing]

But also in that year we had some really remarkable tragedies and sadness. And so it is sort of with a reminder of that. We lost Representative Santiago in our first session. And we lost Representative Orange more recently. And I know we've had moments for them and we'll continue to talk about that. But it's a reminder that one year makes a big difference in life. One month can make a big difference.

And so as we celebrate sort of the renewal of Connecticut's democracy here today as we celebrate

engagements and births, we also have to think about the things that didn't go so well for us in the last year. And I'm sure we will do our best to honor them, to live up to the standards that they put for all of us and have a great session.

And as you have always said, Mr. Speaker, we work best when we work together and when we start on time. And I know for the next 90 days we'll do that. Thank you everybody. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Majority Leader. We're also joined upon on the Dais by some former speakers and we'll go through the list. Speaker Brendan Sharkey. [Applause] Speaker Chris Donovan. [Applause] Speaker Jimmy Amon. [Applause] Speaker Tom Ritter. [Applause] And the other coach, Speaker Balducci. [Applause]

Again, welcome, legislators, friends, guests to opening day of the 2020 legislative session. Together we're gonna embark on a three-month journey to improve the State of Connecticut. We will do that by working together. We will do that by

listening to the public. And we will do that by compromising.

Over the past couple of months, as the Majority Leader mentioned, we've lost some very dear friends, but we've gained a few, too.

At this time, I would like our newest representatives to stand up and be recognized. Representative Farnen, Representative Smith and Representative Arora. If we can give them a round of applause, please. [Applause]

I congratulate all of you on your victory. I look forward to working with you and I look forward to hearing the voices that I know you will serve from your district.

Take this day in. For me, and some of you yet to announce, this may be your last opening day in the House. But look at it as an opportunity, an opportunity to finish some much-needed work. An opportunity to float some new ideas, an opportunity, as the Republican Leader said, to make Connecticut a better place.

This building is full of challenges, but it's full of opportunities. We need to seize those in the coming months.

My speech says we are going to wrap things up in early May. My fingers are crossed. [Laughing] So hopefully, we do, but when we adjourn, the work's not done. We really are a full-time legislature now. And with part-time wages, it never stops all of you from working around the clock.

Following you on Facebook, sometimes I get tired, but that's how we know we're doing the people's business.

So as we move forward, continue that work ethic, we're gonna need it. And I'm looking forward to the many challenges.

At this point in time, we're just gonna move on with the business of the Chamber. Mr. Clerk, are you prepared?

CLERK:

I am, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the suspension of our rules for the immediate consideration of House Resolution 1 and 2.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on suspension of the rules for immediate consideration of House Resolution 1 and House Resolution 2. Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, the rules are suspended for that purpose.

Will the Clerk please call House Resolution No. 1?

CLERK:

House Resolution No. 1, RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PRINTING OF THE HOUSE JOURNAL. Introduced by Representative Ritter.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the resolution. It's relatively self-explanatory. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. The question is on adoption. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye?

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please call House Resolution No. 2?

CLERK:

House Resolution No. 2, RESOLUTION RAISING A COMMITTEE TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE IS READY TO MEET IN JOINT CONVENTION. Introduced by Representative Ritter.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the resolution.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of the resolution. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye?

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. [Gavel]
The resolution is adopted.

With that, I will appoint Representative Kevin Ryan, Representative Patricia Billie Miller and Representative Richard Smith to inform the Senate that we are ready to convene in joint session.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we're waiting for the Senate Resolution, we're gonna take this opportunity to do any announcements or introductions. I know many of you have guests. We will do it till such time we get the Senate Resolution, then we'll take a break, take care of that and then come back to more announcements or introductions.

So, that being said, at this point in time, are there any announcements or introductions?

Representative Morin of the 28th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. MORIN (28TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all my colleagues, friends and family. It's so nice to be here with all of you. The Minority Leader and Majority Leader summed it up best. I have the pleasure of having some special guests with me today. And I want to give them the due for all they've done for me.

In the back row is my terrific and wonderful wife, Grace, and my great friend, Amy Morrin Bello, former Mayor of Wethersfield, current Town Councilwoman. And next to me, to my left, is the best father-in-law in the world, Bill Potter. And I just want make sure he gets some special due on this day because he's been with me for 25 years and counting of knocking on doors and doing all kinds of fun stuff in Wethersfield.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter of the 1st District, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, before people sort of scatter and remind them we'll be back here at noon for the Democrats, we are gonna have a caucus. So, once announcements are done, we're gone meet in the Caucus Room and come back out for the Governor's speech.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good to see you again.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good to see you, sir.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Now, Mr. Speaker, today I brought up my wife, Liz, who is making her third appearance in the Chamber, since I started here nine years ago. And I know, I've told you this privately, Mr. Speaker, that I am most impressed by the way you have handled

the Speakership role. You start on time and you keep us relatively not too late.

So, I would hope again, Mr. Speaker, because my wife worries about me, if I'm not home by midnight.

[Laughing] So, I'm hoping that there's no bill called at 5 of 12 or anything of that nature and we get out of here in due course and keep our -- our members safe and healthy.

So, great job, Mr. Speaker, in the past and continued success for early dismissals this year.

[Laughing]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. [Applause]

Liz, we should just check with each other, so if he's blaming me, it really was me. So, shoot me a text, we'll let you know. [Laughing]

Are there any other announcements or introductions?

Representative Linehan of the 103rd, Madam, you have the floor.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's only fitting as Chair of the Children's Committee that I'm sitting here surrounded by kids. So, first, I'd like to say that I have my son, Connor with me today. Connor is very, very interested in politics and he's been following everything. So, I'm proud to have him stand with me.

And additionally -- oh, go ahead. Look at that, Con. [Applause]

And additionally, I have with me the new Kid Governor of Connecticut, Myra Stanfield, from West Hartford. She's fantastic. [Applause].

You know, we are so proud of her because she ran on the platform of preventing animal abuse. And I think everyone in this room can get behind that. And we do know that those who abuse animals, the numbers are there they go onto also abuse children and other humans. So, I really support that and I think it's wonderful.

We are surrounded by the rest of her cabinet. And that is, Ariana Moreno, from Meriden,, Derek Gaszek from Southington, Lucy Martinelli from

Glastonbury and Tolland, and their parents are here. And I also have with me all the Representatives that represent these fine people. We have Representative Exum, Representative Abercrombie, Santiago, Representative Altobello, Representative Barry and Representative Gilchrest. We all welcome you here today. Thank you for the work that you do. Thank you for being involved. You guys are our future and we're extremely proud of you.

Let's give another round of applause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Welcome to our Chamber. [Applause]

Representative Ackert of the 8th District, you have the floor.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good to see you up there.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good to see you, sir.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

I just like a quick announcement, introductions, if I could. My pillars of strength in the last couple of months, my son, Travis. Behind me, Travis Ackert and -- [Applause] -- my daughter, Taylor, which you've seen here many times with her babies is here, Taylor. [Applause]

And new to the Capitol, my Grandson, Jamison, who is here with me for the first time excited. And he has the Capitol scavenger hunt. So, he's excited about doing the scavenger hunt today.

So, thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Walker of the 93rd District, Madam, you have the floor.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move the adoption of the budget -- joke -- joke -- joke -- joke -- joke -- joke -- joke. [Laughing]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Walker, only if we could adjourn immediately following that vote.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Absolutely. [Laughing]

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today, as you know, we had some municipal elections and New Haven has its new first -- 51st Mayor. And I'd like everybody to give my new Mayor, Justin Elicker, a warm reception from him today.

Thank you. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Welcome to our Chamber, Mayor. I happened to be at an event with you down at Southern Connecticut State University. And throughout the almost two hours I was there, I kept looking for the opportunity to go say hello. But you were going from table-to-table, meeting with every individual you could to talk about New Haven. I have to say it was really great to see you. I look forward to working with you in the future, sir.

Thank you and welcome to the Chamber.

[Applause]

Representative Turco of the 27th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good to see you today.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good to see you, sir.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Good. I'd like to welcome to the Chamber today three very special guests from Newington. They are outstanding public servants. They're in the front left corner over here of the Chamber on our -- serving on our Town Council. We have Chris Miner, Carol Anest and Dr. Sharon Braverman.

If the Chamber can please welcome them to -- here today. Thank you. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Wilson of the 66th, you have the floor.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good to see you smiling up there, as usual.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good to see you, sir.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

I'm honored this morning to introduce a fine gentleman from New Fairfield, whose dad served in this Chamber back in the '60s. It's my honor to introduce the candidate for -- one of the candidates for the 5th Congressional District, David Sullivan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir.

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

REP. REYES (75TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with great exuberance for this 2020 session, sir. And I was courageous enough to bring my two young excitable grandkids with me, Julian James and Veta Ray. And they want to talk. They want to go to the office. They want to go to work with everybody, but -- [Applause] -- we are excited. I share their -- their exuberance as well.

And I just wanted to introduce my wife, Hilda Reyes and my sister-in-law, Iris Pabon, from the

great City of Waterbury, in wishing everybody here
in the peoples House a great 2020 session. God
bless you all. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, sir. [Applause]

Representative Carney of the 23rd.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Here with me today I have my nephew, Andrew
Glazer. He is a 3rd grader from Race Brook School
in Orange, so he is not my constituent. He's
actually Representative Ferraro's. So, watch out,
Charlie, this kid's coming for you in about two
decades. [Laughing]

Andrew is interested in American Ninja Warrior.
He is a huge New York Islander's fan. And
unfortunately, like me, he likes the Mets. So, I

hope everyone will give him a warm welcome.

[Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Welcome to our Chamber.

Representative Cheeseman of the 37th. You now have the floor, Madam.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of an introduction. I am delighted today to have my good freezing rain, Gerri Lewis, from Old Saybrook with me.

And, Mr. Speaker, I did give the Capitol Police a heads up that Jack Scanlon is one of the cutest things I've ever seen and I said, keep an eye on him because I might be tempted to take him home with me. [Laughing] And I can't wait till he's old enough to come see us at the museum.

So, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. [Applause]

Representative Garibay of the 60th District, you have the floor.

REP. GARIBAY (60TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to make a few introductions. First, I'd like to introduce, she's up in the gallery, Sabrina Rivera, who is a young person very close to me and keeps me in touch with the youth. [Laughing]

I'd also like to introduce my niece, Jenny, who's back here. She lives with us and she's very proud. She watches it on TV and they're always pointing out, there's Jane. [Applause]

Okay. She can do that for a half hour, so.
[Laughing]

My sister, Carol, who has been a huge supporter of everything I do. And she's with Jenny right now. And thank you, Carol.

And last, but not least, my husband, who is an immigrant to the United States and became a citizen in the mid to -- I can't remember the actual date. And he is the proudest American I know. A hugely supportive husband and without him I couldn't be here doing what I'm doing. Thank you. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McCarty of the 38th. You now have the floor, Madam.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much. I rise for purpose of an introduction. And I'd like to introduce to the Chamber two very important people in my life, my two lovely granddaughters, Kaitlin and Adelle, they are both students in the Waterford public schools. We wrote notes today, so hopefully this is an educational experience for them. Kaitlin is a 9th grader and Adelle is in 2nd grade. Her teacher, Mrs. Brailey, was Teacher of the Year last year. And I'm proud to say both of my grandchildren love school.

So, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

[Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you for bringing them up and welcome to the Chamber. [Applause]

Representative Porter of the 94th District. Madam, you now have the floor.

REP. PORTER (94TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good morning, Representative Porter.

REP. PORTER (94TH):

Great seeing you. I rise for a point of introduction. I have with me my two most favorite people in the whole wide world with me today, my son, Akeim and my daughter, Omena. Ask that you just give them a nice House warm welcome.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. [Applause]

Representative Lanoue of the 45th, sir, you now have the floor.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good morning, sir.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

I rise for the point of introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

Mr. Speaker, there's somebody I want to introduce to you, who I have a --

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Hang on one second, Representative. [Gavel]

Thank you. Representative, please proceed.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's somebody I want to introduce to you in the Chamber, who I have a 38-year relationship with. Somebody who's truly been there from the beginning and hasn't left my side since. I'm very proud and honored to introduce you to my mother, Suzanne Lanoue, who is truly by my side now and hasn't left it in the -- I'm forever grateful for that. And I hope the Chamber will welcome her today. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Welcome to the Chamber. [Applause]

Representative Johnson of the 49th District, you have the floor.

REP. JOHNSON (49TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. And I rise for purposes of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. JOHNSON (49TH):

Thank you. Today I have with me, Nathan Espada, who is a constituent and he's also a second-year student at the University of Connecticut. But I have him here because he has done amazing work for people, for children who have parents who have passed away with cancer. He brought Camp Kesem to Connecticut. It's a national non-profit to give those students, those young people, who have been affected by cancer because they've lost their parents and now they have an opportunity for a free week of vacation at the camp.

So, I'd like everybody to give him a warm welcome and I thank him for his work. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Thank you for your work and thanks for accompanying Representative Johnson to the Chamber today.

The Dean of the House, a newly appointed Deputy Speaker, Representative Mushinsky of the 85th District, Madam, you have the floor.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Applause]

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking from the desk of my late colleague, Representative Linda Orange, I hope I can be as wonderfully bipartisan as she has been on the -- on the Dais. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a guest today, who's an activist in Wallingford, Fran LaFrance-Proscino. On the way up on the train, she was talking about all the causes she was working on for public safety and for public health. And it's an honor to have her here today.

[Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Welcome to our Chamber.

Representative Sanchez of the 25th District, sir, you now have the floor.

REP. SANCHEZ (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for a purpose of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SANCHEZ (25TH):

Mr. Speaker, here standing on my -- to my right is my son, Lawrence Robert Sanchez. I love him dearly and it's his first time in this Chamber. So, please give him a warm welcome. Thank you.

[Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Michelle of the 146th, sir, you now have the floor.

REP. MICHEL (146TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. MICHEL (146TH):

I'm here sitting with my -- the most important person in my life, my wife, Jenny, who's the most compassionate I know. And if you guys can help me and give her a round of applause that would be

amazing because she has to stand up -- she has to -- she has to live with me and -- you know. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative, we will give a round of applause for that. [Applause]

Representative Dubitsky of the 47th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we as elected officials get to talk and we get to stand in front of the cameras. But while we're here today, I just want to recognize the staff, partisan and non-partisan staff that works so hard to make this building work.

There's people that around the Dais, and especially the Capitol Police. And I was hoping that everybody could give them all a very big hand because they're the ones that really make this building work. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Well said, Representative, well said.

Representative Luxenberg of the 12th District,
sir, you now have the floor.

REP. LUXENBERG (12TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the
purposes of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. LUXENBERG (12TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am here with my good
friend, constituent and the first Latina ever
elected as Secretary of the Board of Directors in
our great town of Manchester. Please give a warm
welcome to my good friend, Yolanda Castillo.

[Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

And to my very good friend, Representative Joe
Serra of the 33rd District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. SERRA (33RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a point
of introduction. I have with me my wife, who's been
here for the last 14 opening days. So, with that as

a former retired schoolteacher, my wife, Marie.

Thank you. Give a -- [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Hughes of the 135th, Madam, you have the floor.

REP. HUGHES (135TH):

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a point of introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. HUGHES (135TH):

I would like to introduce my beloved husband, who is also a champion for living with me during late nights and upholding our democracy. And my good friend, Caroline, who is also a hero to democracy. So, I rise to give them all the gratitude on behalf of this body. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Hughes is a bundle of energy here at the Capitol. So, I only hope by the time she gets back home, she's a little more calm. If

not, just leave her here a little longer, it's okay.

Thank you. [Laughing]

Representative Yaccarino of the 87th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

With me is my First Selectman of the Town of North Haven and also the current President of the CCM, Michael Freda. So, I'd like to introduce Mike and give him a warm welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

We will return to announcements or introductions if given the opportunity later.

At this point in time, I will recognize Representative Ritter of the 1st District, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend our rules for the immediate consideration of SJR 1. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. The question before the Chamber is on suspension of our rules for immediate consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 1. Is there objection? Is there objection?

Seeing none, the rules are suspended for that order.

Will the Clerk please call Senate Joint Resolution No. 1?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, RESOLUTION CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN, PRINTING OF BILLS AND EXPENSES. Introduced by Senator Duff, Representative Ritter.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the resolution.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of the resolution. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it.

The resolution is adopted.

Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have interim communications from the Speaker of the House of Representatives concerning Committee assignments.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Ordered, printed in the journal.

CLERK:

Communications from General Assembly leaders.
Communication from the House Minority Leader,
Executive and Legislative nomination.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Have them referred to the Committee on
Executive Legislative Nom.

CLERK:

Communication from the Senate Majority Leader,
Executive and Legislative nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Also referred to the Executive Noms.

CLERK:

Joint communication from the House Minority
Leader and the Senate Minority Leader, Executive and
Legislative Nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Refer to the Executive Noms.

CLERK:

Communications from the Senate Minority Leader,
Executive and Legislative Nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Also refer to the Executive Nominations.

CLERK:

Communications from the Governor, list of
interim appointments.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Order those printed in the journal.

CLERK:

Communications from the Governor, Executive and
Legislative Nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Also refer to Executive Noms.

CLERK:

Communications from the Governor, Judicial
Nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those will be referred to the Committee on
Judiciary.

CLERK:

Communications from the Secretary of State,
interim communications concerning return of votes
cast at special elections held in the 130th, 48th,
132nd and 151st Assembly Districts.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

I order they be printed in the journal.

CLERK:

Communications and reports.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter of the 1st District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Without objection, so ordered.

CLERK:

Introduction of bills, list No. 1.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move that we waive the reading of the bills and the bills be referred to the committees indicated. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

So ordered.

Before we recess, I will ask the Committee to inform the Senate to advise them that we are ready to meet in joint convention.

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Again, Mr. Speaker, there will be an immediate House Democratic Caucus. And I move that we stand in recess.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. The motion is recess, subject to the Call of the Chair. Is there objection? Is there objection?

Hearing none, so ordered. [Gavel]

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st District, the House recessed at 10:40 o'clock a.m. to meet again at the Call of the Chair.)

(The House reconvened at 10:47 o'clock a.m., Speaker Aresimowicz in the Chair.)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

[Gavel] The House come back to order for a moment. I know some members have gone to caucus already. But I wanted to -- we have a group of special guests coming into the Well of

the House that I would like to introduce real quick.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm gonna take liberties from the Dais real quick on an introduction.

Here in the Well of the House, we are joined by some incredible student athletes. In the Well of the House here, we have the National Championship Sacred Heart Cheerleaders. And they were recognized in the Senate. I want them to come down to the House. They're joined by Senator Hwang.

We wanted to recognize their outstanding achievement. My daughter as a middle school cheerleader will tell you, and those that don't know, it is very, very hard work, requires dedication, hour of practice. And truly, as a football coach, I can say this, truly one of the most intense team sports that all members of the team have to be doing their job at the given moment to score as well as they do.

I want to congratulate them in the Well of the House on their outstanding achievement. The National Champions, Sacred Heart Cheerleaders. [Applause]

Representative Turco of the 27th, sir, you --

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. As an alum of Sacred Heart University, I want to extend my congratulations as well to the University's Cheerleading Team becoming National Champions.

I am very proud of you. You make our whole state very proud. Keep up the great work.

And if it's okay, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to hand the microphone to my colleague to say congratulations as well.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, you now have the floor, Madam.

REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY (133RD):

Thank you, so much, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fairfield's allegation, Representative Farnen and Representative Devlin, myself, we also would like to extend our sincere congratulations. And as the Speaker said, what you do and accomplish is amazing and we're so proud to have you here in the Chamber with us today.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much. Again, one last round of applause for our National Champions.

[Applause]

Representative Currey of the 11th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to recess, subject to the Call of the Chair.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Yes, Representative, I'm gonna hold that in abeyance for one moment. It is my understanding that our National Champion Cheerleaders did a -- did a cheer upstairs. I

was wondering if they'd be willing to replicate that feat down here?

You're on the spot now. I don't know if you could say no. It's a little unfair. I apologize.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we can give them our attention, please. I hear this is Connecticut specific. [Applause]

Thank you very much, ladies. Seeing no objection, we are recessed, subject to the Call of the Chair. [Gavel]

(On motion of Representative Currey of the 11th District, the House recessed at 10:51 o'clock a.m. to meet again at the Call of the Chair.)

(The House reconvened at 11:59 o'clock a.m., Speaker Aresimowicz in the Chair.)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives will reconvene immediately. Members to the Chamber.

The House of Representatives will reconvene immediately. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

[Gavel] Will the House please come to order. Members, please take your seats.

Representative Ryan of the 139th District.

REP. RYAN (139TH):

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report that the Committee to inform this Senate has met and called upon the Lieutenant Governor and informed the Senate that we are ready to receive its members in joint sessions.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, we're all very appreciative of the hard work of Deputy Speaker Ryan. I know he spent two hours trying to figure this one out.

I move that we recess, subject to the Call of the Chair, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. The question is, recess, subject to the Call of the Chair. Is there objection? Is there objection?

Hearing none, the House stands in recess.

[Gavel]

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st District, the House recessed at 12:00 o'clock p.m., to reconvene at the Call of the Chair.)

(The House reconvened at 12:58 o'clock p.m., Speaker Aresimowicz in the Chair.)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

[Gavel] The House will come back to order. Are there any announcements or introductions? Announcements or introductions? Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

The Children's Committee will have a meeting tomorrow at 1 o'clock in Room 1A to raise concepts and there will be a vote. So, I hope to see everyone there.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam.

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you Mr. -- thank you, Mr. Speaker. the Public Health Committee will be holding a meeting on Friday to review bills and vote them in public hearing. Please be there.

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Demicco of the 21st.

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Environment Committee will be meeting this Friday at 10:30 a.m. in Room 2B.

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Friday, 10:30 a.m. Thank you, Representative.

Representative Candelaria of the 95th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The BPRC will be meeting in the first floor for our annual picture.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

BPRC meeting when, sir?

REP. CANDELARIA (95TH):

Today at 1 o'clock.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Today at 1 o'clock. Thank you, sir.

Representative Vargas of the 6th.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

[Gavel]

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

I rise for the purpose of an introduction. We have with us one of our legendary former colleagues here in the House, the -- and also our great educator in the City of Bridgeport and hopefully a future Congressman in the Republic of Peru, our good friend, Felipe Reynoso.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Felipe, good to see you, my friend.

[Applause]

Representative Steinberg of the 136th, are you good?

Representative Sanchez of the 25th.

REP. SANCHEZ (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of an announcement, the Education Committee will be meeting at 11 o'clock on Friday, this Friday for concepts.

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

11 o'clock Friday for concepts. Thank you, sir.

Representative Abercrombie of the 83rd.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Human Services will not be meeting tomorrow. Human Services will not be meeting tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Stafstrom of the 129th.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Judiciary Committee kicks things off Monday. We will have a vote first thing in the morning at 10 a.m. to raise concepts. We will then have a public hearing beginning at 10:30, with votes to follow the public hearing on judicial re-nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Judiciary Committee getting up and running. Thank you, Representative.

The esteemed Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Representative Ritter of the 1st District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn, subject to the Call of the Chair.

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Without objection, we are adjourned, subject to the Call of the Chair. [Gavel]

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st District, the House adjourned at 1:01 o'clock p.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 50 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on February 5th, 2020.

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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