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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

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THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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The Senate was called to order at 11:42 a.m., the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come to order. Members and guests please rise and direct your attention to Rabbi Lazowski, who will lead us in prayer.

Rabbi?

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN PHILIP LAZOWSKI:

Our thought for today is from the Book of Isaiah 32:17, quote, The work of righteousness shall be peace, end of quote.

Let us pray. As we come to the end of the sessions, we thank thee O God for those women and men who have been tactful in their professions.

As we look back at the year, it flew by so fast. What once was promised now, it is just past. The Senators good intentions were really sincere. Their accomplishments resulted every month of the year. In so many ways, you did better. You followed the law letter

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by letter. As they face the election year, guide them through without fear.

So I pray to God the success they need, so next year you will back here in thought and in deed. God send thy goodness and thy loving care to all the people of Connecticut they share. Keep them healthy, good and true. Everything they say or do.

I thank the Senators for the camaraderie, spirit and the generous mood, as this is the last session when you are about to celebrate and taste the sumptuous food. So God bless you. O God, we ask the blessing of our President, our Governor, and our Senators, our defenders of freedom throughout every day and night. So keep them safe throughout the year with your shining light.

You know I could go on and on and on, but I know you have devotedly prayed with me this day. May God fulfill your wishes and let all say, amen.

SENATORS:

Amen.

THE CHAIR:

Rabbi, thank you from the Senate for your spiritual enrichment throughout our session this year in the last two years. Thank you very much.

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I have a special guest -- I guess she's not special, she's been here before to sing for us. Maureen Urso. I'd like to have Maureen come up and do the Pledge and then also sing our National Anthem.

MAUREEN URSO:

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.

(Singing of the National Anthem.)

THE CHAIR:

That was -- that was pretty awesome.

Thank you, Maureen.

And -- and just as a reminder, Maureen is the sister of the former State Representative Mike Caron from the lower chamber.

So, Maureen, thanks again for coming here and giving that great rendition. Thank you.

MAUREEN URSO:

You're welcome. Thanks for having me.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. At this time, the Chair will entertain any points of personal privileges or announcement?

Senator Debicella.

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SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I am very proud today to have a friend here from Norwalk, Anthony Bill Harrick. And Bill will talk a little bit about the tremendous, tremendous life he's led. But the most interesting thing for us today, in this hall of democracy, is that Bill is the oldest poll worker, not only in the state of Connecticut, but in the United States of America. Bill is 99 years old -- if you can believe it from what I'm about to tell you -- and he's worked in virtually every position in elections and primaries for well over 60 years.

Bill was born May 8, 1911, and is a native Norwalker. He's lived in West Norwalk for almost his entire life. He's a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, a member of the Knights of Columbus, very active in the Norwalk and Darien senior centers.

And if you talk to him, he attributes his longevity to a great attitude, loves with to flirt with a pretty

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girl, and to sing his favorite song "God Bless America," which he sings at many community functions.

Bill keeps amazingly busy. He loves to dance the waltz. He started dancing at the Royal James Hotel on Wall Street and has been dancing ever since.

Bill is an example to all of us not just how to stay young at heart through your entire life but how a dedication to this country and a dedication to America, can carry you throughout -- from the time your 18 to the time your 99.

So, Bill, thank you for everything you've done. And I'd like to yield to Senator Bob Duff from Norwalk for purpose of a citation.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff, do you accept yield, sir?

SENATOR DUFF:

Yes, Mr. President, thank you. Good morning.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed. Good morning, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, it is great to have Bill Harrick here in the Chamber. He really is one who epitomizes democracy, and we are very, very fortunate to have him

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here today on the last day of session. I have heard of his singing voice -- actually he was on the radio one day on WCBS radio and millions of people were able to hear his voice and it always very comforting to see Mr. Harrick on Election Day and to know that somebody loves our country as much as he does and takes our democracy as seriously as he does, and he really is an example for all of us and, especially, those who are younger who may be just starting to vote and they see people who've been serving and serving and serving for so many years, so we are so grateful for him and his service and for him -- for him being up here today. So we have a citation for him, and I appreciate all the work that Senator DeBicella has done to bring forth the citation and bring him up here today, and we also have the Norwalk Republican Registrar of Voters, Karen Doyle Lyons here and her husband Dan here today as well, which we are appreciative of. But we have the citation, introduced by myself and Senator Dan DeBicella, Representative Cafero, Representative Perrone, Representative Wood, Representative Morris, and Representative Reeves so it is a truly from the Norwalk delegation as well.

And it says:

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"Be it hereby known to all that the Connecticut General Assembly hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to Anthony William Harrick, in recognition of more than sixty years of service as a poll worker in the state of Connecticut.

At the age of 99, Mr. Harrick is the oldest poll worker in the United States. A Norwalk native, he has served his community as a special police officer. He is a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, The Knights of Columbus and the Humboldt Lodge. This is a role model and a true leader of democracy and we thank him for his tireless service to the State.

The entire membership extends its very best wishes on this memorable occasion and expresses the hope for a continued success."

Given this 5th day of May, 2010, here at the State Capitol. Signed by our President Pro Temp Donald E. Williams, Jr.; our Speaker of the House Christopher Donovan, and our Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz.

And I'm sure the entire chamber would like to rise and give you a big congratulations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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Bill, thank you for your service. Thank you very much. Thank you, Bill.

Are there any other points of personal privileges or announcements at this time?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. President, members of the Senate, today is obviously the last day of our regular session, hopefully, the last day we'll be in session, special or otherwise. It's also the last day of a term to which all of us have been elected. And it is a day where we often have an opportunity to say -- unfortunately, to say goodbye to some of our colleagues. None of us knows what the future holds for any of us. Many of us are desperately trying to come back to this place. Others have realized that they've done their work and it is time to move on. And some, frighteningly enough, are trying to aspire to even a higher office.

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Could you imagine that, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Crazy, crazy.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

So it is with that, Mr. President, and there are many people, but for now I want to rise to talk about someone who's become an extremely important part of our Senate Republican Caucus and, more importantly, over the last four years has become a close personal friend of mine and that's Senator Dan DeBicella.

Mr. President, when Dan first arrived in this circle, I think many of us saw Dan get up and speak on a lot of issues in this body, perhaps in committees, perhaps in the Senate Circle. Dan had a lot to say. Coming from someone who always has a lot to say even after twelve years, I never really thought that was strange. But what we came to know and learn and, quite frankly, admire about Dan was that he just didn't come here to be another state senator. Many of us who've been here, try to work on bills, try to work on legislation, make things better.

Dan came here to try to think outside the box and offer ideas that weren't being offered in the past, trying to offer new ideas. And Dan's expertise, as many

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people know, is on issues related to finance and management and budgets. And in our caucus, when we propose -- propose ideas about how to make our government work more efficiently on how to get our economic development in this state moving forward, on how to help small business, medium business and large, Dan DeBicella is the first one at the table with new ideas. From business tax credits on emerging industries and the like, Dan has led our caucus in that regard.

He is a young man with an extraordinarily bright mind and a deep commitment and passion for public service. I think one of the things that I regret a little bit is that many of us in the circle haven't gotten to know Dan on a personal level. Dan is very bright. What you don't know is that his wife Alexandra, who's getting her PhD, is even smarter and a lot better looking and a lot nicer. Wait -- okay, I'll stop. I'll stop. But when you -- when you look at Dan's resume, you see someone who went to the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School. Very few people have the privilege of getting selected to go to the University of Pennsylvania in the Wharton School. You see someone who graduated from Harvard Business School in the top 5 percent of his class. But you don't see the humble beginnings and the

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average Main Street American roots that Dan was raised in and how nobody gave Dan Debicella anything that got him ahead of the line to get into those incredible institutions. Dan's father was a police officer in the city of Bridgeport. Dan's mother was a secretary, I believe, in the judicial department -- middle class, humble Americans, working hard, raising a family, nothing special, no privileges, just a wonderful mother and father role model with very humble beginnings, who laid a foundation for their son of hard work. And, although I don't know his parents, I know that that was the principal foundation upon which Dan has lived his life, nothing is given to you, you owe yourself the obligation to work hard and that's how you can get ahead in life.

As many of you know -- and this might be the only partisan comments I'll make about Dan -- Dan is now a candidate for Congress. I'm 46 years old. I can admit to this circle now that I only spent 45 years of my life thinking about running for that same Congressional seat. But the reality is that whether he wins or loses, this is the type of person we need aspiring to higher office. This is the type of person, whether you are a Democrat or Republican, who you want to run for higher office.

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I've often said that those in the Democrat party whom I admire most are those who, I think, are like the people in my party that I admire most, outspoken people who stand up for their principals, unafraid to stand up and fight on issues. When I disagree with someone, whether it's Senator Prague or Senator Harp or others in the circle, and I know that disagreement is one based on principal and philosophy and someone standing up and fighting for what they believe in that is somebody I admire.

So whether you're a Republican or Democrat, Dan DeBicella is that type of person. And I think we're very fortunate, as someone who lives in the 4th Congressional District, to have that type of passionate person running. And I, certainly -- although I know there's others, and this is a partisan comment, who may have a difference of opinion.

There -- other than Dan and his family, there is no one who wishes him better than I do. We will have a huge loss in our caucus without Dan's voice, and, more importantly, I will miss a friend up in here but I've already told him he's going to have to give me free tickets down to Washington DC when he's elected so I don't think I'll lose his friendship for that long.

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But, Mr. President, those will end my remarks.

I just want to say, Dan, to you, good luck in your future. Thank you for being a part of our caucus and of this circle. Your time frame was short but your contributions were enormous. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I also rise to pay tribute to Senator Dan DeBicella. You know, Dan is only in his second term as state senator. So it is tempting to say, "Danny, we hardly knew ye" because we've had to pry him out of his shell. He's been sort of a shy guy here in the circle. A lot of us have wondered, "I wonder if Dan will say anything on this particular issue or raise a particular question."

Well, we know, actually, that we've all heard the slogan "No Child Left Behind." When it comes to Dan DeBicella there's no question left behind. There's no comment left behind because he has taken his job as state senator very seriously. He has been here to learn, to contribute, yes, to comment.

When Senator McKinney said to stand up and fight for what he believes and to get those ideas across, not only

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to the people of Connecticut, but across the aisle here in this circle.

So, Dan, you in your two terms have made a significant contribution. Yes, we have listened carefully as you have led the debate on many times from the Republican side of the aisle, and have commented and put your ideas forward. And while we have not always agreed, I have always had tremendous respect for your ability -- your ability to articulate your ideas and for your collegiality. Because I think here in the legislature and, particularly in this circle, in this Senate, while we may disagree, we must always be committed to the fundamental principals of our representative democracy and, that is, to be here debating, respectfully, and in a way, where regardless of whether we disagree, contributes ultimately to moving this state forward.

So, Dan, thank you, because given your background, given your education and your talents, you could have picked from a number of fields in terms of your professional career. Today more than ever, we need dedicated and bright people in public service, fighting to lead and to move our state and our country forward.

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So if you promise not to use that in your Congressional brochures and your advertisements coming down the stretch here between now and November --

Just let me repeat to all of our colleagues, I have great respect for you, and I thank you for joining us and thank you for your career choice of public service.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I, too, want to thank Senator Debicella for the work that he did with us on the Appropriations Committee, and even though the Appropriations Committee is probably one of the most partisan committees in the General Assembly, I think over the past two years, we've worked together on really tough issues and Dan has brought his expertise to help us. When we were looking at personnel distribution, Dan brought to us the -- he brought to us the things -- the tools that they use in the private sector, and, frankly, it was very helpful. He worked with us on what we call the couch cushion exercise where we look at nonappropriated funds, and, you know, oftentimes when we are in debate in appropriations,

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things can get hot and heavy and actually very testy but the reality is that Dan never took it to that point. The debate was always reasoned and reasonable and the emotional pitch was always calm.

So we learned a lot from you, Dan. You shared all of your resources with us and all of your talents with us and for that we won't forget you. And we, I think, actually, have been improved as legislatures based upon having dealt with you. So congratulations on your new adventure, and I look forward to your success.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Just -- just briefly to -- to add to the comments as -- as Senator Williams and Senator Harp and others have said, Senator Debicella is somebody who while a young man has a very mature temperament that he could disagree without being disagreeable. And as we all know in the legislature, temperament and collegiality counts for a great deal. And with him that has always impressed all of us who work with him that no matter how partisan the issue, no matter how difficult the issue, no matter how hotly contested the issue. He always contested it in a

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way that did him and this chamber proud. So, again, I wanted to add my congratulations to him.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney.

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I, too, would like to say a few words -- never as many as he says -- but a few words about -- and I know I've been sitting next to him for four years, a few words about Dan. He really --

It has been truly an honor and a pleasure to be your neighbor here in the circle. I've been in the circle now for -- in the Senate for six years previously serving in the House, and when I was first elected, Doc Gunther sat next to me and your not Doc Gunther so. But -- and he was an absolute challenge to sit next to but a joy as well.

I just want to take a few minutes to wish you well in all your future endeavors and -- and I know that the experiences that we all share here in the legislature are ones that stay with us forever, and they really do become the fabric of our future. And I wanted to, again, wish you well and let you know that it truly has been a great

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time, sharing ideas with you, hearing the debates on the floor and knowing he had a few wins there, too, so -- which was -- which is great, but, again, all the best, and I look forward to working with you at some point in the future. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise because I think we've heard enough of positive comments about Dan DeBicella, and I want to share with you just another side of this very fine young senator.

I have to say that four years ago, when I did not know at that time it would be my last of my six terms in the House, I had a very important bill that was making its way through a committee that Senator DeBicella was on, and it was on JF deadline and it was a very noncontroversial. I was very happy to see it go and then I started to hear some rumors that something big was happening there that some new young upstart had decided to take over that committee on JF deadline because they were entertaining a very controversial bill.

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I was very annoyed because, in doing what he was doing and succeeding very well at it -- and now you all have learned just how long Senator DeBicella could go -- I think if I'm not mistaken, he was on his fourth hour, possibly. And I think we could match each other probably on the length, especially in the House side, as some have one in there as well. But I -- I'll tell you, I was really steamed about this because everything died on the calendar that day including the bill that Senator DeBicella was fighting about.

Good news is that, of course, I was able to find another vehicle and, finally, my bill did get through that session but what it did show was that either he was highly naïve at that moment or that he was really showing his first signs of real brilliance because -- as our Minority Leader has just stated that there are very few people -- although to the level of depth of commitment and passion for what they do -- although I must say that I've learned that in both houses of this Capitol that the public would be well served to know that most of the people who come up here are deeply committed to what they do. They feel very passionately about their issues, no matter what side of the issues they're on.

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I do certainly wish Dan Debicella well in his future. I know that our state would be well served if he were continue to do so. He is incredibly talented and I might note, started from very humble beginnings in Bridgeport with parents that were both a policeman and a nurse --

-- or teacher was it, Dan?

-- secretary in Bridgeport. And I'm sure they are incredibly proud, as we all are, of the fine achievements that my dear friend and colleague --

And keep up the great work, Dan. You shook things up when you first came into this Capitol, and I'm sure you're going to continue to shake things up as they need to be.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Boucher.

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you, very much, Mr. President. Great to see you here this afternoon --

THE CHAIR:

It's wonderful to be here, Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

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-- on our last day of the regular session.

Well, I want to associate myself with the remarks of my colleagues. Like Senator Stillman, I actually sit next to Senator Debicella in our caucus room and just a couple of points and observations that I've been able to make.

You know, I would be the first to admit that, you know, depending on the day and what I'm grappling with internally, I can be really cheerful or I can be like bummed out about stuff, saying that just constantly fighting, pushing that boulder up that hill. But Dan, I can't believe that in all the years that I've been lucky enough to serve with him, going on four now, I don't think I've ever seen him unhappy, ever. I mean here he is with these challenges and all these other things and never once has Senator Debicella been upset, at least not in some sort of verbal way. He handles each and every day with joy in his heart. And when you're battling for your constituents and you want to change the world, that's an amazing quality. And I don't have that quality but Senator Debicella does.

The other thing is we -- we know about his storied academic past and how he did it all on his own, but the other thing about Senator Debicella is he has not a

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single bit of arrogance, not a single bit of haughtiness, never takes himself too seriously ever. Here is a brilliant person, who has gone and achieved great things at Ivy League schools, competing with folks who are brilliant in our country, and, yet, if you want to chat with him about anything, ever, he'll stop at what he's doing immediately and talk to you. What an amazing quality.

I don't know where you're going to end up.

I don't know where any of us are going to end up. There's, you know, the old saying is you can't even get an insurance policy for tomorrow because we don't know what God's plan is for any of us. But certainly those two qualities, in and of themselves, I have to just praise because there's just not a lot of people -- they could be worldly wise and 95-years-old, and they haven't acquired all of that that sort of self-containment and just a soul that is happy within itself such that it is free to achieve things that some of us, perhaps, are held back from being able to do.

The other thing is I just want to harken back to the death penalty debate and the story that he -- you know, we saw that Senator DeBicella that, perhaps, we didn't see, we see the happy warrior, the very attained

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academic, the nice guy. But we saw a little bit into Dan's dad and some of those grizzly murder cases that he had to get his arms around and how he would share that information with Dan and how that informed his being and allowed him to have a certain world perspective. I mean, it wasn't just that, from my understanding, that Senator DeBicella's father was a police officer. I mean he was a homicide detective. And he had some really horrific cases that he had to deal with, and he brought that home and that informed Dan's world view such that that individual, Senator DeBicella that I've been so happy to serve with, and, boy, you know, those four years went by like that.

It's just too short a period of time.

I'm a little bummed about that, but it's better off for everybody else that you continue like a shooting star and moving and moving and moving. But the fact that you were able to bring that -- that sort of world view to the debate and bring it all home to us. And at the same time, I marveled at how you were able to prepare a PowerPoint presentation on very refined positions on death penalty issues.

And I asked him, when I saw him getting it ready on his computer, "How long have you been working on that?"

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And I think it was a couple of hours and it was something that you could probably present as a treatise in a course and get an A plus. And it was just something that, Oh, I knew we were going to do this issue so I went and I did all that -- so, what an incredible person to share public service with for a very brief period of time.

Senator Witkos did say as the -- one of the leadoff batters, you're going to put up more pressure on me to keep those debates going but you never just spoke just to be heard. You always spoke to inform us all, and I'm going to miss you, Dan. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, as I look at Senator DeBicella, you know, I can tell you I have seen tremendous growth and maturity since this young man first came to this chamber and what I'm looking at now.

I can honestly tell you that I have grown in my respect for him. I wish he were a member of our party and not running against a Democrat. He certainly has a lot to contribute to the political system. I'm really

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pleased he sat next to us, and I do wish him the best of luck.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Prague.

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Debicella, it's great, listen we had a great time. Believe it or not, working for two years together as a ranking member of the Commerce Committee, you were always a lot of fun, Dan. And I -- when you stand up and speak in the Senate I think the same thing. You're always a lot of fun.

You know, Dan, one thing I'll always remember about you is the way you get up to speak. You get up. You put your chin out and you have such a -- somebody said "happy warrior" earlier. I think that's kind of where you're at. And I believe we've always gotten along very well together, and you have my tremendous respect. Tremendous -- you're, obviously, a very keen intellect. And I know you'll do well, and I want to wish you well. But I don't want to wish you too well, at least -- at least in the short term.

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But I know in the long term, you're going to be around and we're going to hearing from you, and the people of the state of Connecticut will be hearing from you so I do wish you well:

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, briefly, I also want to wish Senator Debicella well, also, and wherever the future takes him obviously. Senator Debicella is one -- and I think to a certain extent is a -- hopefully, not a dying breed, but to a certain extent where people do argue the issues and never take things personally.

Senator Debicella and I served on the Commerce Committee. We served on the Appropriations Committee, and we've had our knockdown drag outs over the last few years on many different issues, obviously, but never once have I ever heard him say anything negative about a person or about somebody's motivations.

You never questioned anybody's motivations. You may not agree on the issue, but he never takes that out personally on anybody else. And sometimes in politics, I

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think the public at large tends to think that we do what they hear on TV about questioning other people's motives and questioning them personally. But, in this body, anyway, we've been very, very fortunate to have members who argue over issues and I think that's -- that's something that exemplifies Senator Debicella.

Though I will say, though, I know he's only been here four years, and it's a -- it's a quick in and out of the state senate, I think that maybe Senator Debicella has spoken quite a bit on a number of different issues and maybe he was looking to get his ten years in through sheer words, more than time, but we appreciate all that you've done, and I look forward to seeing you in the future at some point. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff.

Senator Handley.

SENATOR HANDLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to say thank you to Senator Debicella. We worked together. He was the ranking member in Higher Ed and brought to what is not often a contentious committee but occasionally a contentious committee -- brought to it a, you know, a kind of grace and willingness to talk that

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got us through some times that were -- could have --
could have been difficult but were not.

And I thank you for that. It's always -- for a
chair, it's always useful to have a good relationship
with -- with the ranking members. And that's not always
the case so I thank you for that, and I wish you all --
all kinds of luck but as -- as Senator LeBeau said, not
all luck in the years to come.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I, too, want to offer my best wishes to you, Dan. I
have only been here a short time, but I certainly
emulated toward you and respect and admire the work that
you've done and, especially, the help that you've given
me on the Appropriations Committee. And I know that you
go through that budget with a fine tooth comb and know it
line by line and the intricacies of the entire budget.

I do believe that you will make a fine
representative in our Congress, and I look forward to
working with you as we still will be able to share a town
in our district so the very best to you.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Guglielmo? Senator Guglielmo, are you present?

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I, too, rise to just say a very few words. As people have mentioned Dan is a very smart, highly educated young man and, you know, it's a great story really, you know, son of a police officer, of a secretary, and being able to be educated at the highest levels. I didn't know until today that he was in the top 5 percent of his class at Harvard Business School, very impressive.

And, you know, I'm not -- I grew up in an Italian neighborhood, but I'm not somebody who really spends a lot of time thinking about the ethnic background, and my father was never like that. My father was a mailman so he delivered in all different neighborhoods around our hometown of Stamford. And he knew there was the good, bad and the ugly in all groups. And -- but I got to say that Dan does give me a sense of pride as an Italian American, really. That he's done so well, that he's been able to, on his own, move up to this elite area that he's in. And, you know, I tell people about Dan, and people

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will say, well, what is he doing up there? You know, what they really mean is what is a guy with his background doing in politics? And we all know around this circle, and I tell -- I give the same answer to people. We got lots of good people up there, lots of them, both parties, liberals and conservatives up there for the right thing and the right reason and Dan is one of those.

And, you know, I'm old enough to remember those Italian jokes, and the Sopranos, and all that stuff. I never took it too seriously, but there was always a grain of truth in some of that, which is what makes them funny and scary.

But I just wanted to say I have great pride in Dan. I think that he's done a great job for us here in the circle. I've got three kids older than Dan. I'm not quite old enough to be his grandfather, but if I was, I'd be very proud.

Thanks for being with us, Dan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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Very good. Would you like to take out the next bill?

SENATOR FRANTZ:

I've been working two years now trying to perfect that because the first time I saw him stand up, there were a couple of people --

THE CHAIR:

You have to button your jacket, though, first when you -- chin out.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

How is that?

Inevitably, especially late at night, there are a few people, sort of, getting close to dozing off and, boy, when he stands up he wakes every single person in the circle up who may be close to dozing off.

Dan was the first guy to call me after I was successfully elected to this public office, and he said, "Hello, it's Dan calling."

I said, "Dan?"

"Dan Debicella."

I said, "Oh, you mean Senator Debicella?"

He says, "No, Dan Debicella."

And this started a conversation that completely outlined to me what this person's personality was all

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about. There's absolutely no attitude about Dan DeBicella whatsoever, except for his positive attitude.

And if any of you -- you know, we've talked about how smart he is. He really is very smart. He's also got a memory like Fort Knox. And you can -- you know, you remember the old Shell Oil advertising campaign, the Shell Answer Man. He is genuinely the Shell Answer Man today. I could call him up in the last year and a half and say, Dan, what was the fourth iteration of the funding proposal for the Sailors' and Soldiers' Fund? or something like that, and without hesitation he'd say, you know, \$350,000. Or, Dan, how fast would the economy of Connecticut have to grow over the next seven years to pay for this particular program growing at 3.5 percent per year. And within seconds, he'd have an answer. It's just absolutely -- or Dan, you know, two trains left at the same time, one from Chicago, one from New York, Hartford -- when do they -- and he'd have -- he would have the answer.

No need, fellow Senators, for the hankies today because we've gotten to know him. We will know him in a very different light very soon and there is no question in my mind that we will be seeing him on the nightly news every single night for many, many years to come.

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Thank you for your public service. Thank you for being a joy to work with and thank you for your service to the people of the State of Connecticut.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Franz.

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I really do appreciate everything good that's been said about Dan, but I've got to sit next to this guy for the next 11 hours so you know under normal circumstances I think that would be a problem. But I agree with Senator Kissel, there is just no attitude at all. There is -- there is no swelled head about Senator Dan DeBicella.

He's been my neighbor now for the last two years during my first term. We've become relatively close. He laughs at my stupid jokes. I learned from him a great deal in listening to his debate.

And I do wish him the best of luck in the future, no matter what happens next year, he will not be my neighbor, not in this seat anymore, and I'm going to miss him.

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And in all seriousness, I know wherever he goes, that he'll do well, but I also know wherever he goes that he will do good because that is the kind of person he is. He's going to work hard. He's going to do what he thinks is best. We may not always agree with what is best, certainly, we haven't always, but whatever it is, he believes it's best and he's going to follow his heart and he will do good in this world.

So thanks for sitting next to me all this time. I really appreciate it. I could have not had a better -- anyone over here on my -- what turns out to be my left, ironically.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark?

Senator Caligiuri.

SENATOR CALIGIURI:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Very briefly, on my good friend and classmate in the Senate, Dan Debicella, you know, it's hard to add to what's been said here today, but when I think of Dan Debicella, I think of a lot of things but, most especially, I think of Dan representing the best that our

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democracy has to offer. By virtue of his background, his training, his intellect, his ability, Dan can be doing anything he wants, probably literally. But he chooses to serve, and he chooses to commit himself to serving his community and our state and our nation, and I think that's says more about Dan DeBicella's character by virtue of those actions than anything else that I could ever possibly put into words.

And with that, let me just close by saying that it is something I will always be proud of to have been able to come into the State Senate with Dan, to be able to leave with him at midnight tonight. Having come in together and leaving together, and, hopefully, to be sharing some small one-room efficiency in some basement in Washington DC come next January.

Dan, all the best to you and thank you for your service to your district and to the state of Connecticut.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

It's indeed an honor to rise and wish Senator Dan DeBicella well. I met Dan a long time ago. Dan was a still a young college student, as I recall, probably a

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freshman in college, if I'm not mistaken, when I was managing a congressional campaign. And I remember distinctly having a lunch meeting with him and others and listening very carefully to this young guy who had some really good ideas way back when. And I've watched his career since and when I arrived in the State Senate and had to find a chair in the Republican Caucus room, by fate, I ended up sitting right next to Dan and that's been a gift because I've been able to watch carefully how he composes himself here in this legislature.

This is a gentleman who is very prepared, always doing his homework well in advance of a debate, being prepared for an agenda when we walk in in the morning. It's amazing to me how much preparation goes into being a good effective state senator, and I've learned from him and I appreciate that.

I wish him very well.

I want to say that -- a tough act to follow and I've enjoyed your debate here in the circle. I think that you've brought to this circle serious ideas though, on many occasions, the Majority Party has not agreed with you. I'm sure that if they disagreed when they voted, you gave them pause. And that's because you've done your

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homework, and it's always difficult to disagree with someone who's done their homework.

I wish you well, you're going to be a fine member of Congress. God Bless.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

It appears there's history being set right now. I think I've counted 17 people standing up and Dan DeBicella wasn't one of them to get up and speak on the microphone.

Dan served on the Appropriations, Commerce, Public Health, and Higher Ed, and probably some other ones. That's just what I know off the top of my head. And those committees impact everybody on their daily lives, so imagine somebody that are one such difficult committees, but being able to keep it all together. He knows the material inside and out for every single one of those committees that he serves on. And that's very, very difficult.

I've always known Dan to be determined, focused, very passionate. Except for the one morning he showed up in the caucus room, and he --

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"Well, what's going on?"

He goes, "You're not going to believe this."

And I said, "Well, what?"

He said, "My wife pulled out a picture of Matt
Damon."

She goes, "You should look like this."

And he said, "What am I going to do? Go get a
haircut?"

And we had a little chuckle to that. And -- but
that just shows that -- that Dan is passionate and
focused when he's in the circle. He's the type of
regular guy that can go out and have a good time with
friends, have a sincere conversation, and he will go to
bat for you. And I wish him well in all of your future
endeavors.

Good luck, Dan.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

As all of us know, because each of us was once a
first-term legislator or a first-term senator, there is a
memo that goes out to the newly-elected senator that

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says, "In your first term, you are to be seen and not heard." At first, I was disappointed that Senator Debicella didn't get that memo. But now that he leaves us after only four years in this chamber, I'm grateful that he didn't.

Mr. President, ideas are the fuel of democracy, and Senator Debicella has been a bottomless pit of great novel, creative ideas about how we solve the public policy issues of the day. But, most importantly, Mr. President, Senator Debicella has given voice to the best principals of his party. He's no country club Republican. He's a real world guy who understands the principles which guide him and why he thinks from the bottom of his heart that what's best for our state, and now our nation, are those principles of individual responsibility, freedom, hard work, and limited government.

Mr. President, I wish him well in the future and thank him for his contributions to this institution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Dan, as we affectionately call you, Debi, we're going to miss you around the circle. You have the innate ability of reading through a lot of these bills and succinctly getting the point of the bill and you do it very quickly.

Had you gone to Yale, I would suggest you would have even done it more quickly -- if I could put a plug in.

You have the ability to bring a sense of humor to the table. And when we have discussions in our caucus, wrap up, really how we have to get back into focus and talk about the true issue. And that's a unique talent, a talent that I think you brought to the circle, as well as to our caucus. But it's going to be a talent that you're going to have with you the rest of your life.

What's really kind of cool is you've had this experience here in the Senate. And you'll go on to bigger and better things, whatever they are in your future. But you're young enough, you're going to be around the state of Connecticut for a long time. And I think that's good for the state of Connecticut because I don't think your input's ever going to end. You're too bright a guy. You're too quick in the mind, in terms of being pragmatic, and you've got the energy inside.

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You're the real package that will put Connecticut back to where it belongs. And as a true leader, I look upon you to do that. We are going to miss you in this circle.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

And, Senator Debicella, I'd just like to add my comments.

Actually I met Dan, my first term as Lt. Governor four years ago. In fact, when I first saw Dan pull up in the car, I asked the Capitol Police to check his license to make sure he was old enough to drive, let alone to be a state senator here. But -- you know, it's -- you've heard all the great things about Dan, and I think it's true, you know, having served down the House where we do a lot of chattering and notice that that's -- a lot of that goes on up here, that --

Dan, even though you did do a lot of chattering and at times you were very close to being ruled out of order by me, it was meaningful. You didn't just speak to kind of fill the words that you said, and I think that's very important.

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And I think the other important thing, I think the thing that and as you know, Dan, I've -- I had left this profession and have just recently returned this last four years. I think one of the most important things is not what you do here, it's what you're remembered for doing back in your district in returning.

And I always tell young folks when I get the opportunity to speak to them, it's -- you must always remember where you came from because if you lose that way, you will not know the way to go forward.

And, clearly, you have not lost your way, and you did not forget where you came from and so you -- Dan, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. I know that your measurement of success, which is very unique for many people in this profession, will not be measured by the offices that you win and the office that you hold, but by the people that you serve. So I wanted to add my best wishes to you. I'm definitely voting in the 4th Congressional District so you got to do a little bit more sucking up to me on this so but all the best to you, Dan.

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Governor, thank you.

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I was looking for that endorsement there I came so close.

No --

THE CHAIR: vls

Almost.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Almost, almost.

There's only two words that come to mind and that's thank you. I am just so grateful for having the opportunity to serve here. And I want to thank some people in particular. First, she couldn't be here today, but my wife Alex, who, as Senator McKinney said, is more charming, intelligent and beautiful than I deserve. She has just been tremendous to me in supporting my public career.

I want to thank my aide, Katie Kenneally, who's been with me these four years. She has been a rock on which I've been able to serve the people of Connecticut, and I thank her for all her help.

I want to thank the people of Shelton, Stratford, Monroe and Seymour for giving me this opportunity. It's the area where I grew up. It's the area where I've chosen to live, and I couldn't be prouder to have served them.

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Replacing a legend like Doc Gunther has been difficult, but I'm actually thankful for everything that we've been able to accomplish in these short four years. You know, we've been able to do things that have affected our people in my district, like passing the toxic waste disposal bill in 2008 that stopped toxic consolidation in Stratford and actually helped us stop toxic dumping in the Housatonic River; the Jobs Creation Tax Credit, which we passed originally in 2007, we expanded this year; removing the cap on ECS, something that benefited Stratford tremendously, and I have been proud to stand up for smaller government, to fight against tax increases and to come up with real solutions for how we can shrink the size of government.

But I also want to thank all of you, my colleagues, just personally, for helping me along my journey. You've really helped me grow as a person. And I think several people have noted -- I looked back to my first year here and if there was a clock running over my head in terms of the amount of time that I actually spoke, it would probably go into many, many hours. I have learned not just the value of brevity, but I've actually learned from my colleagues on both side of the aisle the fine art of political leadership, which is standing up for what you

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believe in but still being able to reach out to those you disagree with to get something done. And that's a very fine line that I think all of us struggle with everyday, but I've seen so many tremendous people in his circle do that.

I want to thank all the chairs and ranking members who I've served with on committees, many of whom were speaking here today: Toni Harp, Jonathan Harris, Mary Ann Handley, Gary LeBeau, and so many others in the House.

No matter what the future holds, I will hold the institution of the Senate in my heart. I thank you all for everything that you have done, not only for the State of Connecticut, but for helping me on personal journey. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President, if there are no other introductions or points of personal privilege at this time, we would need to take a -- what we hope will be a relatively brief recess to allow the Finance Committee to meet to adopt budget revenue estimates.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at recess subject to the call of the Chair.

On motion of Senator Looney of the 11th, the Senate at 12:43 p.m., recessed.

The Senate reconvened at 1:36 p.m., Senator Duff of the 25th in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order.

Are there any points of personal privilege or announcement? Any points of personal privilege or announcements?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, earlier we got to honor and say goodbye to Senator Debicella, and now it is an honor, although a sad one, to say goodbye and pay tribute to our good friend, Senator Sam Caligiuri.

And my remarks were mostly going to be about Sam, the husband; Sam, the father. And I guess I don't have

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to say that now because, as you can see, Sam holds his two children, Grace and Owen, in his lap.

I think that the last time I saw Owen up here he might have had a broken arm. Didn't he? Or something like that.

Did you, Owen? No?

But that's really who Sam Caligiuri is right there, a dad, a husband to a wonderful wife Lori, a partner in his life both personally in faith and in public service.

And you know when Sam entered our caucus, he became a State senator unlike many. Sure some might come up from the House as state reps to the circle but very few come to the Senate with the public notoriety and accomplishments that Sam had. And he may be one of the few, if not the only person in the state -- maybe the country -- who can say he went to the hospital for an operation, woke up the mayor of his city.

And he didn't just wake up as the mayor of his city, he woke up as the single person that everyone in Waterbury was looking to -- to save them. At a time when the mayor of the city of Waterbury, on the heels of prior mayors of that city, was alleged to have engaged in, not only corrupt activities, but some of the most disgusting activities that a man could do, Waterbury found someone

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of intelligence, someone of principal, someone of integrity, and a son of Waterbury who loved his city so much he was going to do what was right.

And, as mayor, Sam engaged in reforming the ethics and the way of doing business in Waterbury and righted the ship of that great city.

So it was almost as if coming to the State Senate was a step below what he had already accomplished. What I've learned about Sam is that I almost don't know how he gets it done. As someone who, when I was first elected, worked for a very large law firm demanding billable hours, over 2000, with a wife and young kids, it was -- it was, quite frankly, impossible to be a husband, a parent, a fulltime lawyer and a legislator.

And Sam, you have balanced those tremendous demands extraordinarily well, far better than I did. And you have not lost a step here in the circle.

I think the one defining moment that we've had is that when you and I had a number of very long discussions about a very difficult vote on our state budget and our discussions were some of the better discussions I've had with an individual member about philosophy, not just of budgeting and fiscal responsibility and policy for

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driving the state, but philosophy for why you're here.

Philosophy for why we do what we do.

And from day one to your last day, you have only been about helping the people of Waterbury, helping the people of the 16th District and doing what you believed was right for the State of Connecticut. And I can say that during your time here, you have never wavered off of that position.

So as I said to Dan and I should let the members of the Democratic Caucus know that I've pledged and promised and vowed that the word "congressman" will never come out of my mouth to either Senator DeBicella or Sam Caligiuri. They will be DB and Sam. You're still going to have to invite me to Washington. In our caucus, we joke about the small one bedroom apartment that Dan and Sam are going to have to share down in DC as they're going back and forth becoming better friends than anybody would ever want to imagine.

But as I said with Dan, it is right that you are running for higher office. Not for your own personal gratification but so that you can take those principles and fight on a grander scale, on a bigger level. And I believe whether successful or not, in this one election, there are many steps down the road where you will have

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your impact on public policy either on a state or a national level.

, It's been an honor to serve with you. I'm glad your family is here to hear this great tribute and thank you for running for the State Senate, Sam.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator McKinney.

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise also to pay tribute to State Senator Sam Caligiuri. I want to echo what Senator McKinney said in terms of the challenges that you had already faced in terms of being mayor of Waterbury before you came to the State Senate. You have taken on a lot in your young career and, by joining us here in the State Senate, you were able to move issues forward, be part of the debate.

But I also want to just say something about Sam Caligiuri, personally. This is a man who is a thoughtful man. He is a respectful man. He is a spiritual man. And I think he gets a lot of that from his family who is with him here today. It grounds him and it allows him to be part of this process in a way that is very effective because we can disagree about issues, but we can always

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talk man to man.. We may not vote the same way, but we can have a lot of respect for each other.

And I think Sam Caligiuri in his career in public service, here and elsewhere, has been able to understand that it's often the personal relationships with colleagues that gets things done. I mean after all, that's the way it is pretty much in business but it's certainly the way it is in government. And by being so thoughtful, by bringing the intelligence that he brings to issues in the circles and also by being respectful of those personal relationships, he's been able to get things done and move us all forward here in the State of Connecticut.

So, Sam, thank you for joining us in the State Senate. I appreciate everything you have done. I appreciate your manner and best wishes in the future. Thank you, Sam.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Good afternoon, Mr. President.

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Good afternoon, madam.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

And -- it's good to see you there.

And today is kind of a very special day to my seatmate Senator Caligiuri. This is not goodbye or farewell, this is just another page. I have enjoyed sitting next to you this short time, it seems. But most of all, I have enjoyed working with you on a local level where you came to be the chief CEO in the city of Waterbury at a very dark moment in our city's history and how you carried on with dignity and -- Senator Williams, our president, talked about how respectful -- it's just your trademark, quite frankly, that you have always treated everyone with respect.

And I guess one thing about Sam that we could clearly say without a doubt is, for him, not matter how thin you slice it he always recognizes that there are two sides. And he always wants to know what that other side is despite the fact that he may have already had an opinion. And I have seen him sometimes change his opinion after his thoughtful, careful research and consideration of all of the viewpoints.

He truly has always, either on a local level or a state level, been the representative of the people and

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always considered their perspective and how things actually would roll out and affect them personally.

And, Sam, you know, without being too mushy, you clearly are the quintessential gentleman. And you and your family have so much to be proud of. All of your comments on the floor are very thoughtful and your erudite presentations. So we have learned much from you and I know that we will continue to.

But aside from all of our political talks and our policy talks, what I have really enjoyed most is, quite frankly, our kid talks. So I know --

Yes, Grace -- about all the things you are doing and where you are and what summer camp you're going to go to.

And, Owen, I know all about you because I have a camp counselor who knows about you, who reports back to me all the time about the Caligiuri kids. But, clearly, what a beautiful family.

Lori, you're always such a part of our conversations.

And, Sam, I wish you all the best, and I know that I will have the opportunity to continue to work with you and I will be honored to do that.

And to Grace and Owen, we'll see you at summer camp.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator.

SENATOR KANE:

Mr. President, before I came here in 2008, I didn't know very many people, but I certainly knew Sam Caligiuri and considered him a good friend.

Sam is one of the good guys, certainly, among this chamber and in among the pol -- political circles and just a -- in a matter of life. With the way you took on the mayoral seat in a time of crisis, to this day people in greater Waterbury still talk about it and how well respected you are for what you did those years ago.

And then when I got here, I do remember we had a special session on the Three Strikes initiative, and it was you, Sam, that led that charge. And I thank you for it because it certainly was very important in how we structure our laws and the protection of our citizens and

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putting criminals in jail for the terrible crimes that they commit and -- and that was all because of you.

And, most importantly, I will always think of your demeanor and your debate and how you were able to carry yourself on the floor. And I look forward to working with you when you're the congressman come next year.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kane.

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, let me add my comments. Senator Caligiuri has achieved a lot serving in the circle in the Senate. And one of the most influential things that -- that really affected his style was Senator Hartley on his left and Senator Crisco on his right. We were so pleased to have Sam as the ranking member on the Insurance Committee. We went from one particular personality, who I respect, to another personality. In fact, Senator Prague was very anxious to come back to the Insurance Committee because of that change.

But when you look at Sam, he has this talent where even if he disagrees with you and opposes you, you still feel good about it. That's one of his great attributes.

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And, as you see, you know, his wife, his beautiful wife and his two beautiful children. It tells us what it's all about, you know. We don't do this for fame or fortune. We do it to make, you know, life better for people. And there's a couple of lines from -- from Emerson that states that, you know, if you help one person's life be a little easier, you've been a success. And Sam Caligiuri has been a great success.

And he also has that ability -- there's a statement that says there's a -- he has to leave the chamber now, sorry. There's a time to stay and a time to go and a time to laugh and a time to cry. And Sam has seem to capture this -- this spirit and he's doing what he feels is right and we wish him all the best of success because he's a true friend.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I admire Sam for the way he lives his life. It is exemplary. He's got a wonderful family. He brings that attitude of respect and dignity into this

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chamber. I remember when Sam was fighting for equal pay for equal work. That is a tough issue but Sam was determined. That's not a particularly Republican issue, but it's a great issue and Sam hung in there and fought as hard as he could. So I admire Sam.

And I'm -- you know, it's a tough race that he's running in, and I'm a Chris Murphy supporter. I wish Sam would do something else but whatever -- whatever he does, I wish him the best. He's a credit to himself and that's very important.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I -- I rise to praise my friend and classmate coming in here the Class of 2006 when we were first elected. I -- I think everybody has said it. The one word that summarizes Sam Caligiuri is "integrity," is the amazing poise and dignity he held, not only as mayor of Waterbury, but if you look at his actions up here in the State Senate, you know, people have talked about various things. One memory I had is when we first go here in

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2007, you know, it was a much better budget situation then than now. And Sam was the only one of us to vote "no" on a budget that actually led us to where we are today. Sam not only had the foresight to see where that was going, but he had the bravery and the integrity to stand up to be the only one in the circle to vote no. That's the type of guy Sam Caligiuri is. Is if he knows something's right in his heart he is going to go and fight for it no matter what anybody else says.

He is the type of public servant that the people, not only of Waterbury, but the people of Connecticut are lucky to have.

And Mr. President, I just do want to put it on the record right now that I get the top bunk.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And best of luck, Sam, this fall and in everything you do.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator DeBicella.

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

It's great to see you up there, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

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SENATOR KISSEL:

I thought Senator Handley were sort of like hiding me back here.

I rise to associate myself with the remarks of my colleagues in respect to Senator Sam Caligiuri. And what a nice -- I mean a wonderful family man. Grace and Owen are just the epitome of just beautiful, cheerful great kids.

Lori, you know, my wife has sort of slogged it through for many years with me on State Senate campaigns. What you've sort of jumped through in the last several months, if you don't have great people by your side, you can't do any of this. And Sam's been through so many different areas of public service -- I just know you've got to be one heck of a wonderful wife and always cheerful and always there.

It's interesting with Senator Caligiuri it's like if you remember your geometry or your mathematics, there's those Venn diagrams where you have two circles and in some areas they overlap and, certainly, I've gotten to know Sam here in the circle but in another world where we both practice law, I can state without hesitation that Sam is a highly respected attorney. He works for a very prestigious firm, and he is doggedly hard working. I

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mean there have been times where we have been here late into the evening fulfilling our Senate obligations and I knew that he had to get up at probably 5 o'clock -- 4:30 in the morning to catch a train to go down to New York City because there was something important that he had to do for his law firm.

I have been here with Senator Caligiuri arguing and debating on bills into the wee hours, and as we walked outside the Capitol to our cars -- and I'm telling you it was super late at night when you know like 2:00, 2:30 in the morning, one of those evenings -- I was heading home and I was happy to be heading home and I said, Sam, where are you going?

And he goes, I've got to go back to the office because I've got a brief I have got to do.

And it just amazed me that he was that professional and that intent on fulfilling what he had to do. And he goes, You have to do what you have to do.

Well, we all know that you have to do what you have to do, but it is so hard to do that. But Sam does that it and he does it without hesitation and he does it without complaint. Like Senator DeBicella, I don't think I've ever seen Sam flustered about anything. He's a man

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of vast accomplishments, and, certainly, it's never swelled his head. He's not full of himself.

I'll credit Lori with that a little bit. She's got in back there whispering, Hey, you're a regular guy, you're a regular guy. Don't let all this go to your head.

But, I mean, think of the challenge that he's undertaken to turn a city around, the city of Waterbury. I think in many respects Waterbury is similar to Enfield in its sort of hard scrabble look at the world and you know feet firmly planted on the ground and no nonsense and, you know, Reagan Democrats and just trying to solve problems. And Sam did a fabulous job in that respect and then to come to the Senate and take on responsibilities. And insurance is not a, you know, what I would consider to be an easy kind of row to hoe, difficult sometimes complex issues sometimes very dry and, yet, handling with all that with great aplomb. Having the time -- granted while running for statewide office once upon a time -- but having the time to come up to my neck of the woods and meet with my wife and not rush into something and rush out but to sit down and roll up his sleeves and just chat with everybody and enjoy himself and allow people to get to know who he really is.

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And I can state unequivocally that my wife Cindy loves Sam, my in-laws love Sam, and they only wish he was running for something statewide right now so they could see more of him, but he's charted another course.

Sam, I'm going to miss you, too. You know, I'm -- I'm -- other than Tony Guglielmo, I'm -- I'm the longest serving Republican State senator. He beat me by about six weeks because won a regular election, got sworn in the first week of January and mine was February 23rd because I had to win a winter special election -- by the way nobody ever wants to run in a special election in the middle of winter in Connecticut. It's very, very hard. But in that period of time, I've been able to serve with some really, really wonderful people. And I appreciate aspiration and drive and a desire to serve a higher cause.

But I'm a little sad today because there's some people that have only shared a handful of years with us and now they're off to other challenges. And I've really, really enjoyed serving with them.

So, Sam, once again as I said to Dan, I'm going to miss serving with you. I wish you the very best. I know you're just going to hit it out of the park because that's -- that's who you are. You've got a great family

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-- fo -- but at the end of the day, you've got everything that counts sitting there right behind you and so best wishes.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Gaffey,

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

For a point of personal privilege, please sir.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Mr. President, I rise, also, to bid my friend and colleague and ranking member on the Education Committee a fond adieu and Godspeed for what undoubtedly will be a bright future. And Senator Kissel just said it all.

You have it all right behind you with your lovely family.

Sam and I first met when he was counsel to the Governor. And I was always impressed with how intelligent Sam is, how very calm his demeanor is, how he can probe into an issue, get it right away and articulate it as well as anyone I think that has ever served in this chamber. So I'm going to miss Sam. We -- we had a

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great bipartisan effort in the Education Committee, and education should be a bipartisan effort at all times. We worked well together. I appreciated his assistance, his able assistance. ~~and~~

And the Senate will miss you, Sam. But we wish you well. Like Senator Prague said, unfortunately, we can't wish you as well as we want to wish you but -- you know what? You're a great guy and Godspeed.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to say farewell to Sam Caligiuri, a friend -- he has been a mentor to me and very helpful to me in my freshman year -- freshman term here in the State Senate.

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I must say that I've followed Sam's political career for a number of years, but it's not really -- didn't start that way following his political career because of Sam. It was because of the company he keeps. And Sam married a Danbury girl. And Lori is one of Danbury's favorites, one of my favorites. And so because Sam found such a great partner, I began to pay closer attention. And Lori, as I suspected, had made a good choice, and I'm very happy for both of you.

I wish you the very best.

You are a terrific public servant, and you have the support of your family and, as Senator Prague stated, that genuine public service really shows through when you have a family behind you that supports you in such a great way so God bless and good luck.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Boucher.

SENATOAR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm going to add to the chorus of accolades to members of this circle that are examples of the great wealth of riches, of enormous talent that the State of

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Connecticut is fortunate to have. Although we've only were together a short time these last two years, it's very apparent that we -- we have someone in Sam that is actually just a wonderful, a good and decent person, decent human being, in addition to all of the talent that you bring and energy. And it's particularly notable that individuals here that have very young families, growing families, have a particular sacrifice that they are making that shouldn't -- should be recognized. And we do appreciate that and we also appreciate and commend your families for allowing you to do this. It shows how much they love you that they would allow that. And we're all fortunate that have people in our lives that are supportive of us -- of us.

But, Sam, I just want you to know that it's been an honor and a privilege to serve with you, as well as some of the others that are leaving this session. And that I hope that our poths -- our paths will cross often, particularly, as this interesting and exciting year unfolds.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Coleman.

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SENATOR COLEMAN:

A point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Mr. President, I'd like to take advantage of the opportunity to express my appreciation for the service that Senator Caligiuri has contributed to this body.

He's always been very thoughtful and thorough on the issues, and I've found, oftentimes, even when reached different conclusions, it was interesting listening to his analysis and his analysis was always compelling and very intriguing. He's always been very warm and engaging. And I don't think during the time that he's been a member of the legislature, I was able to pass Sam either in the Capitol Building or the LOB without him inquiring concerning how I'm doing, what's up with me.

And I remember a time not too long ago when I happen to be at his law firm on business with another attorney there and happen to pass Sam almost inadvertently in the hallway whereupon he invited me into his office and sat and conversed with me for it had to be at least a half hour or 45 minutes. It wasn't a client, just a

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legislative colleague, and we had a very interesting encounter as is always the case with Senator Caligiuri.

It's been my honor to serve with you, sir. I wish you and your family the very best.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I rise also to pay my respects to Senator Caligiuri and his family. One -- one of the things you learn in the State Senate is that all of us put our best selves forward when we're out here in the circle. It's a rare day when someone breaches protocol in the circle, someone isn't behaving well. We -- we're at our Sunday best in the circle. But sometimes, Mr. President, on rare occasions, behind the caucus room doors, some of us are not at our best behavior. Tempers flare, expletives fly back and forth across the table, but if there's one individual in our caucus who has never -- who has the same Sunday best in the caucus room that he does in the chamber, that's Sam Caligiuri. He is so even-tempered, such a good listener. You know, they say the medium is

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the message. And the message that you get from Senator Caligiuri is, I'm not going to jump ugly ever because I'm thinking too hard about how to get this right.

Mr. President, the State Senate has been the beneficiaries of that personage at our caucus in particular. And I'm saddened -- we're going to be missing something in our caucus room but our loss will be the nation's gain.

Lori, thank you for giving Sam to us.

Owen and Grace, thanks for letting your dad spends so much time here. We've enjoyed seeing him here, and we look forward to seeing him often in the days and months ahead as he continues his career in public service.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

No work? Okay, there we go.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Also rise for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

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It's always kind of a bittersweet time the last day of the session for those of us who have been here a long time. I think all of us around this circle have a great deal of respect for this circle, for the State Senate.

It is a privilege to be here. And, you know, we work in close quarters with everybody here, and I think that's one of the privileges for somebody, like me, to work with Sam. He's an extremely clear thinker. I always enjoy in the caucus when things are floating around the room, and he reminds me of Bob Genuario in that way that he could stop and dissect the problem and make it make some sense in a clear and concise way.

And I know -- when he first came up here, I first met him when he -- when I was listening -- I believe it was the Finance Committee. Sam came up as the mayor of Waterbury, talking about the problems of Waterbury. I remember how impressed I was at how -- how lucky I thought Waterbury was to have somebody, like him, at the time. You know they were in crisis. They needed somebody who had a steady hand at the helm, and Sam stepped into the breach. It was perfect. I told my wife I had met a real sharp young guy today, listened to him speak, and I was thinking how fortunate it is that for

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the people of Waterbury that he was available to them at that time.

And, you know, it's a sad day in a way because we're going to lose three really good people here, Dan and Sam and Mary Ann. And we all know we're just passing through. People have sat in these seats before. People will sit in these seats after we're gone. But I do think that in losing Sam and Dan and Mary Ann, it is a bittersweet day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And good luck, Sam.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

For a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President, thank you.

Like -- like all of our colleagues wanted to congratulate our good friend, Senator Sam Caligiuri, on his extraordinary service here. He represents a -- a

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tradition of urban Republicans in the General Assembly which is -- or at least in the Senate -- which is a somewhat rare tradition, except for Waterbury, because we've had such distinguished senators as Senator Steve Somma and Tim Upson from -- Republican Senators from Waterbury prior to -- prior to Sam. And he has continued, I think, in that same tradition of being a -- a consensus builder, of -- of not being unnecessarily partisan, recognizing that urban concerns are -- are pressing without regard to party affiliation, and he has always been a thoughtful and reflective legislator. And I think as -- as was spoken earlier, I think that -- that's why he has such an outstanding reputation also as an attorney. Someone who works hard, understands issues and applies a -- a very strong and compelling intelligence to the -- to the solving of those -- of those problems.

So that unlike his classmate, Senator DeBicella, Senator Sam Caligiuri was somewhat more sparing on the number of issues on which he chose to weigh in -- on the floor, at least, during his tenure here. But it was always well received, always thoughtful.

And, as Senator McKinney reflected, I think his mettle was certainly tested in the very -- in the

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difficult circumstances in which he served as the mayor of Waterbury. Clearly, no one could have come into office under more painful and trying circumstances following a period of just shocking disgrace and to handle that as he did certainly inspired confidence and restored trust before joining us here in the -- in the State Senate.

So, again, as a -- a valued friend and colleague who has contributed greatly here, we wish him well in most of his upcoming endeavors -- all except perhaps one.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I have so many nice things to say about Senator Sam Caligiuri. I did have to check the Senate rules and the filibuster rules do apply for this kind of point for personal privilege when you have nice things to say.

And don't worry I don't think I'm going to be able to outclass you, Senator Kissel, in terms of being able to run down the clock.

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Sam is also one of the great people in this circle. And he was one of the first people I met when I first came up to Hartford after being sworn in. And anybody who knows Sam or who has spent more than 35 seconds with him knows that he's one of the most magnetic, wonderful, gentle and interesting people to be around. And I instant -- instantaneously knew that he and I were going to become terrific friends and that happened literally overnight. And I liked the guy so much that I made numerous offers to Senator Joan Hartley to trade seats. I was going to give her my new laptop, a five-pound bag of peanut M&Ms and a whole bunch of other -- and she wasn't going to give that up for anything in the world.

I didn't try you, Senator Crisco. I don't know what it would have taken -- but they weren't going to give up their seats. That's for sure.

You know you can always tell a lot about a person by their family members, and you can certainly tell from Grace and Owen and Lori's smile today, which is there 100 percent of the time, as far as I know and as far as I've seen you. You can tell what kind of a family life they have and what a major factor you are in making this one of the ideal perfect American families, one that I think we all seek to emulate. I certainly do.

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The wonderful characteristic about you that I think is your defining trait is you are the voice of reason. As people have pointed out before in the circle, you've never raised your voice. No one, I don't think, has ever raised their voice at you. That is not only a talent, that's a characteristic that will allow you to go to very, very high levels in not only government but in the private sector and in just the real world out there, which is something that I think we also all aspire to.

You take this place very, very seriously. In fact, it's -- it's kind of rare to see you smiling as much as most other people because you really are very concerned about the issues and very concerned about the citizens of the state of Connecticut. And so if any of you think that Sam is more serious than the average person in this circle, I want you to go and tell him a good joke. He has one of the very best laughs of anybody that I've ever come across. It goes on nonstop and it guttural and, boy, is it uplifting in terms of raising your spirits up when you do get to hear that.

Sam, Godspeed to you from all of us in the circle. We know you've got a great, great future ahead of you and a lot to be excited about and the most wonderful family.

Thank you so much.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Frantz.

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, it is indeed an honor to work with the circle, with Sam Caligiuri, and speak very highly of him today. What Sam obviously brings to the circle, at least on our side of the caucus, is an unique perspective of local municipalities and how they work and how the state can somehow interfere all too much in the process of local government.

Sam's compassion for politics and Sam's compassion for constituents is paramount in everything that he does. His public service to Waterbury and his public service to the state is something we all in the circle admire, and we all wish that we could rise to the high bar that Sam places every single day that he works in this building.

He has a terrific family, a supportive wife and that is the keystone and the foundation for good lives and many happy returns to others.

Sam has touched a lot of us. He's meant an awful lot to the circle. We're going to miss him. And much like DD, as he proceed through the rest of his career,

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we're going to hear an awful lot about Sam Caligiuri and
we're going to hear an awful lot about Dan DeBicella.
And, at least, I, for one, will be very proud to say --
although be it for a very short period of time, I was
honored to serve in the circle with these two very fine
gentlemen.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

A little out of breath, I was just down doing my
taping as we all do for our local area cablevision shows,
and I wanted to get up here and say farewell and
congratulations to Sam before we moved on.

Two years ago as a member of the House, I got to
serve with Sam as the ranking House member on the
Insurance Committee. And, at that time, Sam was a leader
on the Republican side and took the time, through his
experience as an attorney dealing with insurance issues,
to educate all of us on the intricacies of insurance

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laws. He made it so the simple man could understand, and I appreciate and applaud him for that.

I've had the opportunity to sit next to Sam in the Senate chamber and have had long conversations mostly~~at~~ about him extending all of his stuff on my side of the line so I just kind of push it back a little bit. He was always prepared. Sam's was the guy that had folders of information, data, and he was ready to go no matter if you said, Sam, it's your turn, talk on the bill. The folder would come out, he'd open it up and he'd only have it there as a safety net. He knew the information at the -- from the top of his head to the tip of his tongue.

And as Sam's going around now to the same towns that I represent, he's beloved by everybody that he meets. They see the gentleman and the statesman that we get to see here daily in the Senate chamber.

What I have come to know and appreciate about Sam was the story that he tells that was alluded to earlier about waking up in the hospital and finding out he's the mayor of Waterbury. When he was urged to continue and run for office as the mayor he said that wasn't the office that I ran for. I won't -- if I run, I can't do the things that I need to do to accomplish the good for the betterment for the citizens of Waterbury. So I will

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decline that offer. And now with that beyond me, I can -
- I have the ability to set the ship straight for the
residents and citizens of Waterbury.

And he did just that. Waterbury is a better place
because of Sam Caligiuri.

And then when Sam came to the Senate, he took charge
and did any task that was asked of him. Never was there
a no, never was there a doubt. He stepped up to the
plate, and he held his convictions high whether it be
voting on a justice, on a budget or on increasing the
minimum wage. Sam did what he thought was right, and he
would listen. And if you could convince him and show him
evidence and proof that maybe he's wrong, he'd change his
mind because the evidence is there. He's not one to dig
his heels in and refuse to change and that's the type of
person that I like to associate myself with.

And, Sam, it's been a pleasure serving with you, and
I wish you best of luck in the future and I look forward
to serving with you in the towns that we'll represent
together. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Remark further?

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SENATOR CALIGIURI:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

It's hard for me to put into words how much I have loved, appreciated and valued the four years that I have spend here in the State Senate. It is an experience that I will never forget and always cherish.

Let me start by thanking the people of the 16th Senatorial District, the people of Waterbury, Wolcott, Cheshire and Southington for giving me the high honor and the privilege of being able to represent them for four years here in the Connecticut State Senate.

I would be remiss if I didn't tell the world -- but you all know this already -- how much I value and appreciate and will never be able to fully thank my wife Lori and our children Grace and Owen for the tremendous support and collective sacrifice that they've made to make this possible. And I know that today I speak to a group of individuals who all understand that because none of us would be able to do what we do without that kind of love and support.

And I often say to my friends and to others that I consider myself the luckiest guy I know because I've got great friends, the privilege to have had served a wonderful institution like this, the ability to go out

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and pursue a dream, but, if nothing else, the love of a family who could not possible be better in my eyes.

I'd like to thank my aide, Allison Godfrey, who came here from Massachusetts knowing nothing about the state of Connecticut and, in short order, mastered our process, the key individuals that we have to work with day in and day out and who very quickly made it possible for me to look better than I really am.

Allison, thank you for that.

I'd like to that the staff, frankly, on both sides of the aisle. Our Chief of Staff, Paul Pimentel, and everyone who works for the Senate Republican Caucus; the Senate Democratic staff with whom I've had a lot of interaction whether it's Vinnie Morrow or Joe Quinn or so many of the other staffers on both sides of the aisle. They really serve as the fabric of this very special and wonderful place.

And, frankly, I also want to thank the advocates and the lobbyists who I -- for every day that I've been here have always treated me with respect and have been professional in every way in which they have dealt with me. And that has made me a better senator.

You know, as I look around -- time doesn't permit me to say something about each and every one of you but each

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and every one of you has left an indelible impression on me whether it's the joy that I get every time Senator Coleman steps in the Chair -- and I've told him this before and how well he does when he presides over the Senate, or the great fun I had telling Senator Kissel how blue his eyes look and how handsome he looked when I was trying to get his endorsement when I was running for United States Senate and always making him blush, or trying to get Senator Harp to crack a smile every once in a while, or Senator Roraback who became a hero in the eyes of my children because the first time he met them he showed them where we store the ice cream and since that time became known as Senator Ice Cream and, clearly, their favorite well above me.

To Senator Hartley, who has been such a terrific teacher to me and a partner in trying to serve a community I love so much in the city of Waterbury.

Senator Gaffey who, this year, made my time on the Education Committee such a joy because of the bipartisan way in which we were able to conduct the work. Senator Crisco who made me feel like a truly equal partner as a ranking member, which is not always true, but as a truly equal partner in the work we did on the Insurance Committee.

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Each and every one of you is someone who has made this a phenomenal experience for me.

To the leaders of the Senate on both sides of the aisle, I thank you. One of the first and I think smartest things I ever did was go to Senator Looney and Senator Williams to ask for private meetings when I first arrived to ask for advice on how a junior senator in the minority can actually get something done here, and I was able to be a part of getting something done. And -- and it was the good advice and counsel that both Senator Looney and Senator Williams gave me that helped me on my way to try to do the best that I could to add value here in this great institution.

And to my own leaders, who to me, could not possibly any finer than what we have in Senator Fasano and Senator McKinney. I couldn't imagine anyone running the process of our calendar and running the mechanics of our caucus as well as Senator Fasano does. And I think we are a better institution for the work that he and his team do in helping to manage this process that we go through day in and day out.

And to Senator McKinney who -- and Senator McKinney alluded to it -- for me, earned my undying loyalty and respect forever for the way that at the end of the day

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when we had a very tough discussion on the budget and I told him how I felt about it in 2007, against his interest, as the new leader as the Senate Republican Caucus, encouraged me to vote my conscience. That says something about John McKinney as a person that I can't find words to adequately replace otherwise, but I think it says a lot about the kind of person you are, Senator McKinney.

I've been so thrilled to be a part of some very exciting debates and to have been a part of trying to make a positive difference and as I end my time here in the State Senate, I'm especially proud of two bills that I had the privilege of working on and getting passed. The first was legislation that we enacted in my first year here that created a new innovative program for allowing municipalities to eliminate their unfunded pension liabilities, not a particularly sexy topic but one that will help over half of Connecticut's cities and municipalities.

There's work there that remains to be done because we still need to fund that program, but when we do, we're going to be able to help a lot of cities and towns deal with a staggering problem.

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And the second is the legislation to which Senator Prague referred which was the legislation to strengthen our equal pay laws for women. I was so proud to be a part of that effort.

And, in that respect, I have to tell you that neither of those two pieces of legislation would be possible if it hadn't been for the partnership and collaboration and the very special relationship that I've developed with Senator Prague. She is a great friend to have, and she is the sort of person you want to have on your side when you are in the trenches.

And these two pieces of legislation, each of you helped -- to help get passed into law. But, Senator Prague, your leadership on both of them really made them possible. And I thank you for that because these two pieces of legislation allow me to leave here feeling like I was really able to contribute something positive to the well-being of our state.

Let me close by saying that in a time of great cynicism in politics, perhaps at a level that we've never seen before, one of the things that I'm always eager to tell my constituents and to tell people that I deal with in every corner of this state is to not believe what you see on television when you see us fighting and bickering

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and disagreeing as though that's all we ever do here. In fact, I'm quick to tell people that while we have good faith and strong disagreements on key issues and it's entirely appropriate for the public to be informed about those disagreements because ultimately that goes to the heart of what our democracy is about, what makes me so proud to have been part of this institution is the way that over 90 percent of the time -- I dare say 98 percent of the time, we're able to find common ground and agreement and consensus on getting a lot of very good and important legislation passed. And so whenever I encounter someone who's angry or cynical about the process, I can empathize with how they feel, but I'm quick to tell them that the Connecticut General Assembly and, in particular, the Connecticut State Senate is an example of how the process works when it works well even if it doesn't work perfectly.

And so with that let me thank each and every one of you, staff and colleagues alike, for having made this four of the most rewarding, fulfilling and enjoyable years in my life to date. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CALIGIURI:

Thank you.

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Thank you, Senator. Thank you for your service. We wish you all the best --

SENATOR CALIGIURI:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

-- in the future. Thank you for all that you've done for us here in this chamber.

Are there other --

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to honor another friend, and another colleague in this circle, someone who joined us on the Democratic side in the State Senate. And it's my pleasure to recall the memories of when Senator Jonathan Harris announced that he was running for State Senate.

Senator Harris is a young man with a long list of accomplishments, and I remember the day that he announced outside of City Hall in West Hartford, where he had served as mayor of West Hartford. And for all of us who go to West Hartford either often or on occasion and enjoy that vibrant city here in the state of Connecticut, as we look around to all the progress that has occurred there with its thriving shops and restaurants, retail and

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residential community, and we think about how that could be a model for all of our communities across the state of Connecticut, it's worthwhile to remember that so much of that progress in West Hartford has the stamp of Jonathan Harris and his work there and his dedication to moving that city forward and helping the people and the business owners who live there.

When Jonathan joined us in the State Senate, he brought that mindset of accomplishment and working together to get things done to the legislature and the State Senate. As chairman of the Public Health Committee, he has championed so many measures that improve the quality of healthcare for everyone in the State of Connecticut. But he's also been very sensitive to the needs of improved healthcare for women, lessening the disparities of healthcare access and delivery for minorities. And he's also been sensitive to the issue of religious freedom.

Senator Harris, you've accomplished much in your public life in West Hartford, here in the State Senate with the legislation that you have moved forward.

Not everyone knows what you have done behind the scenes. Your manner and your ability in interacting with colleagues in the caucus room, in this circle, in the

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Legislative Office Building to get things done. You understand how important it is to reach out to folks, work with people on both sides of the aisle, listen to the advocates, sort out the wheat from the chaff in terms of the good ideas and those things that we ought to put off to the side, all with the knowledge that we need to get something accomplished. And you've been able to do that.

We have tremendous respect for you, Jonathan, in our caucus, and all you've been able to accomplish. And when you speak, folks listen because they understand that you have carefully considered issues and you bring your experience to whatever the issue of the day is.

Now you have a new challenge ahead of you, running for secretary of state. And with your wife, Lucy -- and she is so understanding and supportive. I know you are devoting a good portion of your energies to that great goal for the future. But, at the same time, you're here with us, and you are also fulfilling your obligations to this chamber and to the State of Connecticut in the same way that you have always moved the ball forward for the folks of Connecticut.

So I was proud to stand with you on the steps of the City Hall in West Hartford, have been proud to work with

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you here in the circle. You have been such a tremendous state senator and member of our caucus. And Jonathan, I just want to thank you for everything that you've been able to do here and all the help you've been able to give us, as a caucus, as the state senate, and as representatives of the people of Connecticut.

Thank you, Jonathan.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I think as the leader of the Minority Caucus, I've often said, on this day, that I would encourage anyone from the Majority Caucus to be honored as such and it'd be great if we could honor a lot but, obviously, when you lose a lot of votes over 12 years you can joke.

But I honestly don't want to see Jonathan Harris leave this circle. Clearly, in our caucus, anyone who is going to fill the shoes of Kevin Sullivan was welcome. I say that as a joke, as well, because I do think fondly of Kevin.

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But in all the times that we've worked here in the Senate, as much, if not more than any member I've served with, Senator Harris, you have been about public policy. And all of us from time to time engage in partisanship, and partisanship is not a bad word. It could be standing up for your principles. But you have always tried to focus on how you can get the best public policy and how you can work with even those who disagree with you to try to understand their views, their position and craft legislation to get the best possible result. Even last night -- I don't know if members of your caucus know this, but you were working until midnight or beyond with Senator Fasano and groups from two different sides on a issues trying to find an improvement for the public health of the people of the state of Connecticut.

I've watched you work on some extraordinarily controversial issues. Senator Williams alluded to some of those, as well, whether it was helping advance the rights of women to get contraceptives at all hospitals in the state of Con -- Connecticut or others.

You have led without partisanship with a quiet and honorable demeanor to try to get what you think is the best result. You've never made it about you. You've

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always made it about us. You always made it about the people you work with, and I think that's remarkable.

I will say -- and I don't know if I'll get you in trouble with your colleagues in your caucus but -- when I became the Republican leader you were elected, and we first met you called me, "Mr. Leader," and you've called me "Mr. Leader" since, a title with which I've always felt uncomfortable. But you've shown me, as a fellow state senator and as a Republican leader, tremendous amount of respect, and I want to thank you for that.

You've -- I've seen you as a single man fall in love and get married, and I think that has been a tremendous complement in your life. And I will say this, although it will cause some trouble, I would be proud to have you as our secretary of state of Connecticut because I think you are about the good of the people, and you are a true and honorable public servant.

Thank you for the respect you've shown me and joining us here in the circle.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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I don't know why it is, but Senator Harris and I from the very beginning hit it off. Actually, I think I do know. You know, I've been up here, as I indicated for lo these 18 years, and to be honest all of us sort of plow our fields and plant our seeds, and I think sometimes we wonder if Anybody's watching. And apparently Senator Harris' mom and dad were watching or were aware of this because when he was first elected to this august chamber, his parents came up to me and they were like, Hi, Senator Kissel. We've been following your career, and all this other stuff. And it was like, why - - why would Senator Harris' mom and dad be watching what's going on? And it turns out that ever since I was a little boy, my dad went out and had insurance purchased from Senator Harris' dad's insurance agency, and I remember it as a little kid seeing that envelope come in and so. Who knew in that giant sort of maelstrom of time that my dad went out there and went -- and we grew up -- I grew up in Windsor and he went to West Hartford and knew Senator Harris' dad.

But above and beyond that -- and I often wondered because I got along pretty darn well with Kevin Sullivan, Senator Sullivan, whether he had mentioned anything about serving with me but apparently not. For whatever reason

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-- and I don't really know why -- I would say that Senator Harris has been like a brother to me in this circle. We both served on the Select Committee on Aging together that was one of his first assignments. And he was the embodiment of bipartisanship. There were bills that we pushed through and he came to Enfield to our brand new senior center and we talked about important legislation together to all of the seniors in Enfield and north central Connecticut.

There was an important bill signing ceremony that Governor Rell did regarding an initiative that we had, and it was in the West Hartford Town Hall, and Senator Harris and I were there together for that. Working together and brainstorming some of the complexities on an idea that germinated up from the mayor of West Hartford. The Independent Transportation Network was given birth through the hard work and determination of Senator Harris. He has been an unfailing advocate for seniors throughout the state of Connecticut. And he was willing to work with me not only in bipartisan fashion but as a friend, and we would talk all the time.

What had been stated by Senator Williams and Senator McKinney is the -- absolutely true. His focus is always on the bill. And it's not how we can craft a compromise

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to get it through the building. It's what is the best thing that we can do for the people of the State of Connecticut. And his advocacy extended from seniors to social services where we served on the Human Services Committee together. And on that committee, we worked well in trying to address some of the crying needs of those who are disadvantaged in our state. And we know that some of those programs are cost drivers, and we are confronting the bitter reality that we are not going to be able to afford it but never once did Senator Harris turn away from an issue where someone was in need and say we don't have the money or we can't do anything about it even if we didn't have the money.

Even if we had to cut back on a program, Senator Harris would sit down and try to figure out how can we reconfigure how this is done so that we can do more for more people. Money Follows the Person is the perfect example. And we're still trying to make sure that that program works to its utmost efficiency. But, again, a good creative approach to government that Senator Harris championed.

The whole idea of falling in love with his -- his wife, Lucy, who we were pleased to be introduced to not that long ago and taking on the responsibilities of being

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a husband. That's no easy trick. And taking on all the other responsibilities with Democrats and running for higher office, that's all difficult as well. And to this day serving on the Public Health Committee and taking that same compassion for human beings to another committee where he would reach out and talk to any one of us on any given bill.

I mean, if you just close your eyes for a minute you can probably see in your mind's eye Senator Harris coming up to you, holding a piece of paper and saying what do you think about this? I was working on this last night or after everybody la -- left last night, I sat down for an hour and I was trying to put this together. I've talked to the advocates. They're okay with it. Do you -- do you -- are you okay with it?

And, also, most importantly, especially from a minority member, do you want to sign on? The show of respect, Do you want to sign on? Not, we're going to take all the credit to ourselves and leave you out in the cold or we're going to take your ideas, put our name on it and leave you out in the cold. No. Do you want to sign on? He's my friend.

I'm going to miss you, Senator Harris. And I wish you the very best of luck. You've got it all

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together with this wonder family that you have. But keep reaching for the stars because if anybody can get there, I know you can.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Sen -- Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

You know if -- if you read up on old English, you'll find that the greatest compliment you could give somebody is calling them a gentleman. People strove to be called "gentleman."

Senator Harris is a gentleman. The reason why I say that is not only for his hard work and not only for his constituent service because the essence of who Senator Harris is. In this building your word is your word. Your word is your bond. If you don't have that, you can't do anything in this building.

Senator Harris, when you talked to him about an issue and you say I have an idea, what do you think? And he starts to run with the idea and he tells you he's going to run with it, he sticks with it, thick or thin. If he thinks it's a bad idea, he comes to you and says I

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looked at that issue, it's not good and here's why. No outside prejudice, no political shenanigans in the background, it's what he feels. And if it is a good issue, it is a good issue. And to have somebody -- and there's many of us in this chamber do the same thing -- but have somebody who gives you his word and you can take it to the bank and rely upon it, turn your back and never have to worry is a gentleman -- is a gentleman. And I think that's the highest accolade someone can achieve.

And, in politics, it's tough. Sometimes when you give your word, an outside forces descend upon you but as a gentleman, who rises to the top, puts that aside and sticks to who he is on the inside. Senator -- Senator Harris is the epitome of that very essence for which we all should look and strive towards.

So, Mr. President, like the other fellow Senators who are leaving here today, we lose a very, very important part of the circle. We lose a very talented individual who at his young age -- and it seems as I get older there are more and more younger people of his young age, but at his young age has much, much more to offer to the state of Connecticut, and I support all his efforts.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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Thank you, Senator.

Senator Harp, Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I rise to also comment on my association with
Senator Harris.

Senator Harris is on the Appropriation Committee and has been on the Appropriations Committee for, I guess, for all of his time in the Senate. And you -- early on he didn't get the assignments that he wanted but the assignments that he did get, he worked very hard on. And the areas that he had expertise, even if he didn't have the assignment, he basically helped with. And I want to thank you. I have found you to be a committed public servant. Your skills and collaboration are -- go -- are not excelled by anyone in the circle.

Whenever you have an idea you are willing to share it and to let someone know. And it's meant everything. You are, perhaps, one of the most articulate spokesperson for an idea around the circle. You not only are intelligent, but you have, as well, charisma. And I'm sure it's going to serve you well as you move forward in your career. You are a great communicator and a lovely human being and it has been a pleasure to serve with you.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Handley.

SENATOR HANDLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to say thank you to Jonathan Harris for the work he's done.

Jonathan, when he came here, took over twice from committees that I've chaired, Human Services and then Public Health so I have a pretty good idea of -- of the kind of job that he was required to do. And I stand, frankly, in awe of the accomplishments that he made. I struggle hard for some a -- some accomplishments which he was able to accomp -- to achieve in relatively short time.

So I stand in awe, Jonathan. I also admire very much your negotiating skills, your ability to work with folks and bring together a successful solution. It's one of your great -- it's one of your great abilities, your great talents, and I know it's going to serve you well throughout your life.

On a more personal level, I do want to talk about the fact that having you sit there to my right has also been a pleasure. There were many, many days, many months when your predecessor and I were not on speaking terms.

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Sometimes I wasn't speaking to him and sometimes he wasn't speaking to me but it made for a very tense situation here. So it's been a joy on a very personal level to -- to have you sitting to my right.

And I do want to congratulate your family as well because I know they're very proud of you, as proud as we all are of you, and good luck in the future.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Okay, now we got it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I did -- actually, I got to know Jonathan through his radio commercial. I told -- I don't think him this. It was probably the -- listening to the WTIC radio coming in one morning during the campaign, and he had the single best radio commercial I think I've ever heard. He had a elderly woman from West Hartford and she talked about this young mayor of West Hartford and how she was too frail to take her recycling out to the curb because age had gotten to her and was at a point where she was physically was unable to do it. And she was pretty upset. She called the recycle company and they said, No,

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you've got to take it to the curb. Not our problem. So then she called the mayor's office in West Hartford and she got through to the young mayor. And he said, Well, I'll -- I'll try to straighten that out for you.

She said, well, what do I do in the meantime?

And then in the commercial she explained that he came to her house and he took her recycling to the curb for three weeks until he got it straightened out with the recycling company.

So I said now that's the kind of guy that I want to meet. Somebody who will do what it takes to get it done. And he certainly was true with the radio commercial said.

He's a real pleasant, fine young man. It's one of the real pleasures that I have and some -- some of us have had that have been here for a while that get a chance to serve with Dan, Sam, Mary Ann, Jonathan. And it kind -- it is a bittersweet day for the Senate. We're losing four really exceptional individuals, and I wish you nothing but the best.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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You know there's so much to learn from the members of the circle who are retiring. I think of the consistent advocacy of Dan DeBicella. I think of the remarkable, wise understanding of the human condition of Sam Caligiuri.

And, Jonathan, I've got so much to learn from you. You are sensitive -- remarkably sensitive to other people. You -- you are politic in the best sense of that word. You're a team player. You remember last night we finally passed by consent the mass gathering bill and I brought that bill to you in the Public Health Committee a few weeks ago. And you had a person in your committee who had problems with the bill. You were a team player, you stuck in, you amended it you brought it through. I saw team playing at the best.

And you're also extremely respectful of the minority party even to the point of accepting filibusters. I have a lot to learn from you.

So I just want to say that what a -- what a pleasure. I -- I, like others, hope that you'll be elected our secretary of state. You'll -- you'll make a remarkable secretary of state, as a leader, continuing leader for Connecticut. Thanks.

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Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I, too, rise and want to wish my best of luck to Jon Harris.

Jon, you know I think I've made friends with a great number of people around this circle, but you certainly are one of them. That's for certain. I had the distinct pleasure of being on your Public Health Committee this session and truly enjoyed it. It was something different than what I've been use to, and you're one of the people who, as others have already stated, will take issues, will take criticisms, will take debates, arguments whatever and -- and consider it and then give your point of view back and take it all under consideration and then make a final judgment based on what you feel is right and what you feel is best. So I know we certainly didn't agree on many issues, you know, the social worker issue and so many others but you were willing to listen and talk it out and talk it through, and I respect that very much. And I don't know if -- you know that's something that you learned here -- or probably you took with you from being mayor and just in your own personal life.

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So I, too, want to wish you good luck, and I appreciate having the time that we did have to serve together and wish you all the best.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, I think one of the most remarkable things about Jonathan Harris is the fact that he could totally disagree with you, but he will still listen to what you have to say and try and work out some sort of a compromise where you're not turned out in the cold. I respect Jonathan. He deals fairly with other people. He never ever says, geez, that's ridiculous or that's stupid or we can't do that. He will always listen and I could learn from him some of the qualities that he has in dealing with issues and dealing with people.

I respect you, Jonathan.

And I love his wife.

Anyhow, I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

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SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Point of personal privilege?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you.

There are two favorite Jonathans of mine, Jonathan, the Husky, who I owe an awful lot to and Jonathan Harris. It took me -- I didn't realize for a while that Merle was his mother. And for the many years I spent in higher education as a trustee and a member of the Board of Higher Education, I had the honor and the pleasure of working with her. And it proves that old proverb that an acorn doesn't fall far from the tree. And Jonathan has exemplified so many of his mother's great qualities plus his own qualities.

The Insurance and Health -- Health Committee have a great nexus. We work an awful lot together. And we've had many opportunities to make life better for people. This is kind of a bittersweet situation. I always considered Jonathan as the future of this Senate. But now, obviously, he is -- with the endorsement of Senator McKinney, is set for the secretary of state. But he's an

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outstanding young man, and I greatly appreciate -- we have a friendly joke together. His new Caesar haircut -- which I wish I had -- but we address each other with a certain salute.

But he has done so much in such a short time for the people of Connecticut and the well-being, you know, of many people who are insured on the healthcare policies. And we'll miss you. And we wish you the best.

And if I had to pick a brother, it would be you, Jonathan.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I've had the privilege of serving with Jonathan Harris as his ranking member on the Public Health Committee. And I can tell you that the scope of issues that Jonathan wades into, not just dabbles his toe, but jumps in full force -- thorny issues where there is no clear answer. I've -- I've seen him wrestle with scope of practice issues where you have two sides who it seems will never come to an agreement, but he's able to find

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the common ground and find common sense solutions that make sense.

The way he's run the Public Health Committee has been one of a consistent focus on making lives better for patients throughout the state of Connecticut. I've been proud to serve with him and especially proud of the balanced view he brings. He very often sees all sides of an issue and can actually argue either side before making a decision and then sticking with it.

I've been proud to serve with him, and I will not endorse him for secretary of state because he will lose the primary with my endorsement. But I -- I am proud to call him my friend, and I'm proud to have served with him.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you.

For a point of personal privilege as well.

THE CHAIR:

Please -- please proceed, madam.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you very much.

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Jonathan and I have a little longer career in the legislature because when I was serving in the House. He was one of the House counsels, and that's how I got to know Jonathan. And he was very helpful to me in helping put some last minute legislation -- we all know about that -- and needing some legal advice and legal wording to go along with it.

And I was always very taken with his ability to jump from subject matter to subject matter in his responsibilities there. And now I've had the honor of serving with him as a member of the Senate and it has been a pleasure. And just as -- as everyone has said around the circle -- and I think this is starting to make him a little uncomfortable. He's adjusting his tie -- but has been said around the circle, he really has represented the people of his district very, very well and has done a remarkable job balancing the needs of his district.

I've had the honor of serving with him as my chairman on the Public Health Committee these last couple of years and his work on that committee has been remarkable. He jumped right in and had a -- a full handle of the issues.

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So -- I'm delighted that he is running for secretary of state. He has my endorsement. And I wish him well in those endeavors and look forward to continuing to work with him.

And, Jonathan, you -- your public service truly fits you. You are the epitome of someone who should be serving the public because you do it so well. All the best.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, madam.

Will you remark further?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon.

For a point of order?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Jon, I'm going to miss you. Had a lot of fun sitting here. Over the last couple of years, it has not always been fun. There's been some six o'clock in the morning debates.

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It's interesting. You know, as we -- as we do this and we -- we praise our fellows, some of the same themes come up over and over again. And it really -- it speaks well of the Senate that so many have been mentioned as intelligent and compassionate -- caring for people, representing our districts.

And you certainly represent -- do all those things, Jon. And Tony's story -- I thought it was great. And I -- and I heard it before. I heard it again in terms of the lady with her -- with her -- her waste and taking care of that. And it does show your practical side, the practical side to get things done.

The thing that really impresses me about you, Jon, is -- and it going back to everybody in the Senate said -- just how intelligent you are. How you can grasp these intricate issues and so soon, and so quickly. To -- to be on the committees you're on and to -- to have the -- those issues are all so intricate and it takes such balance to do the right thing and that is so impressive to me that you can do that and, as others have said, with compassion and caring.

And I know that your folks and your wife, Lucy, they're -- you know, they're all proud of you. I'm proud -- I'm proud to know you. And -- I think Joe said you're

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going to be -- he thought you were going to be the future of the Senate. And I -- I think he's the future of the Democratic party is what I think. And I think you're ~~going~~ going to be. And I wish you the best.

As kind of an older man -- although I don't look it - as kind of an older man, you know, I may be 20 years your senior, I look forward to -- to watching your career. I -- I know it's going to be an exciting one, and I -- and I know that you are going to continue to rise both within the party and within the state of Connecticut. Whatever the short term brings, the cream rises to the top, and you are the cream.

Good luck.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Gomes.

SENATOR GOMES:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Jonathan Harris. When I first came up here, you was one of the first friends I made. Jonathan, I used to go to him for advice, and he'd al -- always gave me good advice. I had a particular problem down in Bridgeport one time, he had to clear it up for me. And me and

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Jonathan like to trade jokes. Oh, yeah, we have a good friend with' (inaudible).

Jonathan, I think that the time that the time that I've served up here with you and the times that I have known you and the things that we've talked about, I've really enjoyed your company. I think that you'll make a hell of a re -- secretary of state. And some people have said that you -- they have your endorsement -- their endorsement and you have mine. You have my friendship forever. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Maynard.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Jonathan, I've got to say everybody here has already commented on your extraordinary qualities as a legislator but for me what I'm going to miss most is you -- you made it fun to be here. I'm going to get choked up now. This is my office mate and who else, you know, bestows the name "maniac" on their -- on their colleague. Maniac -- he -- he -- and then if it was a late session, he'd come in and says, He's a maniac, maniac. He got -- I

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got songs. I got nicknames out of it. I loved how he'd

--

Mr. President, you know how he bestowed the nickname "Duffles" on you, for all of you who didn't know that. That's mister -- it's Mr. -- Senator Duffles to you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you for sharing.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

But that's the kind of person Jonathan is, and he's made it an awful lot of fun to be here. He was the first person who came to me, invited me out to lunch my first week here at the Senate. Always wanted to make me feel comfortable, helping me understand the workings of this institution and this building, and I will be forever grateful.

Also I just -- you were a good role model. All the cheerfulness and your positive attitude as people have said. You made it fun. Natty dresser, even when you had to resort to Garanimals when the waist got a little tight and it had to be mix and match. But you're looking sharp today.

I'm delighted we're going to continue to serve together when you're in the secretary of state's office. And I just want to say that one of the things, too, in

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closing that really struck me. I wan -- wandered into
Jonathan's office after he moved in --

Have you finished hanging anything on the wall?

He's been there for a year and a half, he still
hasn't got the stuff on the wall yet. But there's a
beautiful little inscription on a plaque from one of
Hartford's own, Mark Twain. I think it epitomizes what
Jonathan is about. It says, "Always do right. This will
gratify some people and astonish the rest."

And I think, Jonathan, you've astonished all of us.
But -- I think there's a lot more to come. I'm
going to miss you. Love you. And we'll see you around
the halls here I'm sure.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

It's a -- I rise for point of personal privilege and

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THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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It amazes me that Jonathan could receive so many tributes from members of this circle and no one has yet remarked on his near miss. He almost got sucked into the other chamber, Mr. President. He actually sought to be a member of the other chamber. And I can't remember what year that was. It was probably 2002 or 2004, something like that. Mr. President, Jonathan Harris was declared the winner to be State Representative for West Hartford and for a brief shining moment, Jonathan tasted the nectar of victory. Then someone did the numbers again, and it was all taken away from Jonathan. And in that moment of adversity, the class act that Jonathan Harris is revealed itself. He never had an unkind word to say, never a sour note. He was all smiles in the face of an incredible disappointment. It's bad enough to lose, but to be declared the winner and then to have that taken away from you. But Jonathan never skipped a beat. He remained the person that he is, and I think that speaks volumes about the quality of his character.

But, Mr. President, they say that the true measure of a person is how they treat those that can do nothing for them. And I know as a minority member of the State Senate, there's nothing I can do for Jonathan Harris. But that never stopped him from asking what he could do

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to help me, not just me, but every senator. Every representative from both sides of the aisle have always known that Jonathan Harris takes the -- he extends himself to us. We don't have to go to him. He extends himself to us and that's what's made him a wonderful public servant.

You know it all starts -- our job at the end of the day is all about getting the recycling from that woman's garage out to the curb. And, Jonathan, you did that with her. You've done that with each and every one of us, and for that I am very thankful. And I wish you nothing but the very best. And I hope you and Lucy get out to Litchfield and use your gift certificate to the West Street Grill very soon.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator McDonald.

SENATOR MCDONALD:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Just briefly I wanted to say something to Jonathan. It's not going to be a long speech because I know I'm going to have a lifetime of more opportunities to share my memories of my time with Jonathan in this circle.

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I've got to say, Jonathan, I've never heard so many nice things said about somebody while they're still alive but all of them are well deserved for you. You are a tremendously honorable and dignified human being. I've had the pleasure of knowing you 15 years now, I think, and I knew you long before either you or I held public office. I knew you as a lawyer, as a young lawyer, when I was a young lawyer, and we were on the opposite sides of a pretty contentious case as you will recall. And though our clients might not have been reasonable, you and I knew how to fix that situation. And you've always conducted yourself, then in your private life and professional life, and here in your public life with tremendous grace, with a tremendous amount of honor and a lot of dignity. And you have shown each and every one of us a tremendous amount of love and friendship. And I hope we can return it to you in full measure.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

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SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, sir.

I remember Jonathan -- the first time we met was in the ubiquitous Screening Committee in the House. And those were long, long sessions and sometimes contentious. And, of course, there was this new lawyer there who was so incredibly prepared, so deeply versed and just able -- distinguished himself from really the first day.

I soon found out who that industrious screening lawyer was. He was none other the son of Dr. Merle Harris who some years later I had the incredible honor of working with on the Higher Education Committee. And it all became very clear to me where Jonathan's work ethic came from. Merle had -- Dr. Harris had created an incredible institution that lives on here in the State of Connecticut which has meant the difference in higher education to so many people in this state who had credits from numbers of colleges and knew not what to do with them and how to finish -- or have the financial wherewithal to finish. And it was through the crafting of Dr. Harris that she put together this incredible institution, distinguished ourselves on the state level in higher education, and it lives on now to have an incredible legacy and to really help to continue to

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distinguish this State of Connecticut as the skilled work force that it is because of that.

So Jonathan being the true child of Dr. Harris went about in an incredible manner almost like a whirling dervish. And it wasn't surprising that he then ran for the House, which we were all expecting him to be there, as Senator Roraback explains. And we were very disappointed because Jonathan certainly was going to hit the job running. And he went on to be the CEO of the City of West Hartford. And if you've not been to West Hartford lately, you are missing a grand opportunity. Jonathan headed that city not just as its chief executive but as a developer, as an entrepreneur, as a person of great vision. And he has clearly left his indelible mark on that community which, I think, it's now a great model for many of us throughout this state.

And so it was a great welcome to have Jonathan join us here in the circle, and I had the opportunity to work with him in many respects. And as we've all recounted, he has been the crafter and the author of much landmark legislation during his relatively short time in the circle. And so I was very happy to have the chance to work with him on the Money Follows the Person. And, in fact, it was my -- a constituent from the greater

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Waterbury area who had been working this, researching it, investigating the opportunities from Washington and that was Joe Stango. And, once again it wasn't Jonathan's ~~was~~ constituent. It wasn't anything that was -- he was being asked to do from his constituent base, and he spent an inordinate amount of time with Mr. Stango researching it, studying it. And, today, we have the program and it is now beginning to bear fruit, and it is because of the incredible work of Senator Harris.

But, Jonathan, as many have recounted, you have a great wit. You have incredible timing. You know exactly when in the caucus to kind of cut the tempo and give us all a little levity. We've been grateful to you for that. And I know that you are a person of many talents. I think -- I seem to recall an incredible cover magazine where you were there being identified as "Best Dressed Man in Hartford" at least so I think you could kind of dredge some of those things up in this campaign because -- well -- and that was well deserved by the way. And -- and I probably have to credit it to Lucy who probably helps you to coordinate your wardrobe now -- and then I seem to remember some community theater that you were doing and, clearly, a man for all seasons, many talents.

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We know we're going to continue to work with you on the state level now constitutional office. And I am so delighted to have had a chance to work with you and look forward to working with you now in the office of secretary of state.

And to Lucy and to Dr. Harris and to your dad, we're grateful for sharing him with us.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

For a point of personal privilege?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you.

Mr. President, I just want to take a moment to express my great admiration and tremendous respect and genuine affection for my colleague Senator Harris.

Senator Harris and I have shared a number of experiences together during our time in the State Senate. And those include when I was chairman of the Planning and

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Development Committee, he was vice chair to that committee. When he was chairman of the Human Services Committee, I was vice chair to him. And I can only but hope that I was a good ~~one~~ as good a vice chair to him as he was to me. We also represent the Town of Bloomfield together. And I think, at least, some in the circle know that from time to time our relationship with certain individuals in the Town of Bloomfield has been rocky, and I can thank Senator Harris for clearing and smoothing the way with some of my antagonists in Bloomfield. And he's also shared his sense of humor with me on a number of occasions. And he's probably one of the few people, in this circle and beyond, that know that I also have a sense of humor.

But these shared experiences, in addition to creating an opportunity for Senator Harris and I to bond, have also afforded me the vantage point of knowing that Jonathan Harris is a fine example of a public servant. And he's been an asset not only to the State Senate and his district but to the entire state of Connecticut.

He's been a champion to needy people in the state, and young people, the frail and the elderly. He's used all of his background in local government, as well as his experiences here, in order to further the cause of

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intermunicipal cooperation in the State of Connecticut.

And -- I certainly wish him well. I will miss him in the circle, but I know that we will have further opportunities, he and I, to cross paths and to work together. I hope I'll always be "E" to him, and he can be assured he'll always be "Senator Belushi" to me.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, I'd like to ask Senator Harris if he's available Friday morning to help with my recycling as well. It's been stacking up over the session here.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Through you, Mr. President, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

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Through you, Mr. President. I'll see you Friday morning and thank you.

We've heard a lot of wonderful things about you and they are all very, very well deserved.

Let me just tell you one quick story about what kind of a person Senator Jonathan Harris is. When he first arrived here a freshman, you don't really know which way is up or down. And one of the first things that takes place is that you all head down to the -- the chamber on the second floor, the House of Representatives, and you listen to the State of the State Address. And we were walking in there and I didn't quite put the name to the face and I asked Senator Harris where his seat was in the House. He didn't for a second bat an eye or anything like that. He just kind of said, It's over there, kind of pointing up this way. It didn't set off -- set off an alarm or anything like that.

Most people when there in caucus -- in their caucus rooms and someone from the other party comes in, it's a little bit of a discomfoting feeling for a couple of seconds until you figure out why they're there or what's going on. I made that mistake also during my first few of days here of walking in there thinking I could just go in and grab one of the senators from that particular

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caucus and received the -- that wonderful cold, chilly
fisheye look from the senators there. So I learned very,
very quickly.

But I will say this, whenever Senator Harris walks
into the Republican Caucus, it's as if he's a family
member, no red flags go up. It's just a natural course
of events.

We know you have a very bright future. And we're
hopeful that you do very, very well in everything that
you decide to do. And we look forward to working with
you in the years to come in whatever capacity you're
serving in. You've done a super job serving the people
of Connecticut, and you -- there's no one who knows your
particular subject areas better than you. Once again,
you -- you've had answers for every single que -- and
good answers, at that, for every single question that
anybody has asked around the circle when I've been
present.

Congratulations to you and good luck.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey.

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Point of personal pr -- privilege please, sir.

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THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR GAFFEY:

It's my honor to get up and salute my good friend,
Senator Jonathan Harris.

Senator Coleman made reference to it before. All
the comments have been very accurate describing Jonathan.
He's bright. He's articulate. He's a great guy, but he
is very funny. He's got one of the best sense of humors
of anybody I've ever served with. And you -- you just
have to see him imitate John Belushi in Animal House
coming down the steps to get an appreciation for Senator
Harris' humor.

He was the right man for the job in that committee,
and I remember a contentious issue a year ago that
Jonathan got right into it. He spoke to both sides. He
gave everybody equal amount of time, listened to their
arguments very dispassionately and then made up his mind,
like he always does, and went out and did the right
thing.

I'll miss you my friend. It was great to have you
in Meriden a couple of weeks ago with Lucy. And I will
look forward to voting for your nomination to secretary
of state in a couple of weeks. And you'll do a great job

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in that -- in that role. And I wanted to say hello to your parents, Dr. Harris, and I wish you all, Godspeed.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR: ~~THE~~

Thank you.

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise for a point of personal privilege as well?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, madam.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

I am so happy to see that President Harris is in the circle with us today because I had met Senator Harris' mother much before the good Senator himself and know her to be an amazing leader who is respected, greatly respected, and worked extremely hard. So it was pretty delightful when I found out shortly thereafter that her son had joined us here in the legislature. And what I remember instantly was his personality.

Everyone's talked about his qualifications and his talented skills and experience but it's the person that really impresses me more than anything else.

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Particularly, his distinguishing feature is that irrepressible smile that he carries around with him and disarms everybody that he meets.

But I think people -- and I just want underscore a couple of themes that have come out in the fact that he extends himself to both sides of the aisle. That humor does get you a very long way. And in this business, I think the most successful people are the ones that truly are people persons that they truly like people because that comes through all the way through.

And it was said many times and I absolutely agree with this that -- that, Senator Harris, you are an asset to your party. You're an asset to this state, but you're an asset to your party. And strong parties with good talented people not just benefit their own party, but I think benefit the state of Connecticut and the country that we live in as well.

So I think, as I said, we all benefit from that, and I wish you great success in the future. It's been just a joy to work with you and -- as well as on a lot on contentious committees that we're engaged in. Much, much luck to you.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

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Thank you, Senator.

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

For a point of personal privilege?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you.

Many kind things have been said about Jonathan Harris today. And coming to the tail end, I really can't add much but -- to that to concur with the many kind comments about Jonathan.

I do have a longer history than -- I'm not certain all but -- most people in the chamber here. I go back with Jonathan years ago when was a resident of Newington. He was a young buck at the time, a young Democratic activist. I got to know him from the neighboring town of Wethersfield. I happened to be working on a campaign at that point so I got to know Jonathan and a few of this other friends. And from go -- going way back to that was probably around the mid eighties, I got to know Jonathan there. Since then, we kind of -- we came along to be friends.

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The next time I ran into him when I was a member of the House and he was our legal counsel. I got to know him assisting me on bills and legislation and got to know him better there.

But I really was struck in representative -- I'm sorry -- Senator Roraback stole some of my fire because one of the points I really wanted to make about Jonathan was in -- in times of adversity really determines the principle character of a person. I -- I remember speaking to Jonathan right after that very difficult election where he had won, then he basically had lost by a handful of votes. And at that point, he was in a decision point whether he contests it, whether he moves forward to challenge it. I remember we had a conversation and he -- he, of course, did the perf -- the correct decision. It's a very difficult decision to say, you know what? the voters spoke, I'm going to move on. Because I think it was the right decision for Jonathan. It showed what type of person and man he is but also, I think, in the future his -- success after that really was attributable to that showing what -- what type of person he was.

After that, I was -- pleasure to get to know him even more here in the four years I served with him here

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in the State Senate. We worked together on a lot of issues. He's -- he's a fine man. I also was a beneficiary of receiving his office as Human Services chair. People would come in and say, Boy, look at this, Paul. It's great, it's got multicolored painting on the wall. I'd just smile. Jonathan did all the work the year before but she's got the old pizzazz but --

Again, I just want to congratulate Jonathan on his hard work in the Senate and throughout his career. I will, of course, today, I'll personally endorse his candidacy. I'll look forward to supporting Jonathan all the way through the primary and through the general election for secretary of state. Then I'm hopeful we'll both be here next January, both get sworn in. Jonathan (inaudible) it will be downstairs. I hope, at that point, but I do look forward to continued friendship in the future.

And best of wishes, Jonathan.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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For a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

As has been said by -- by many Senator Jonathan Harris, I believe, is actually one of the truly most gifted and constructive problem solvers that I've ever worked with in 30 years in the General Assembly and that is a great gift that he has. You know we often hear from time to time about task forces being appointed, that some group is being -- a group of people are coming to work together to work on a problem. And sometimes when you hear the personalities involved you say, well, that task force is as likely to resolve in throwing chairs and recriminations as it is in actually coming up with a product that will be supported and broadly endorsed. And that was certainly never the case with Jonathan Harris. When you knew that Jonathan was working on a problem, you were going to -- you were safe to bet that that was problem that was likely to be solved. Everyone involved in it was going to come back feeling good about the resolution, feeling they'd been fairly treated and feeling that they had a significant part of it and would

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become advocates for pressing forward with the resolution of that -- of that task force. That is a -- is a true personal and human gift that Jonathan Harris has.

And Senator DeBicella mentioned earlier some of the thorny scope of practice issues that -- that he's worked on in the Public Health Committee. And those are issues that we should never underestimate the difficulty of resolving because they involve people's livelihoods, their sense of their professional status and, yet, he was able to disarm those potential time bombs in so many ways and come out with a resolution where everyone felt that they had been fairly treated in that process.

Going back to his earlier career, we speak about what a thriving community West Hartford is and Blue Back Square that wonderful successful development. People should not forget that it was Jonathan Harris' leadership in West Hartford that helped make sure that was going to come about to be when he was the leader of the City Council and as mayor of West Hartford dealt with the controversy surrounding that, recognized with vision that it was good for his community, convinced others of it, brought people together to help solve problems and bridge gaps just as he's done in his career here.

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And the negotiating skills that we spoke about and that strength comes from the fact that he is universally perceived truly as the honest broker, that is, someone who wants to make the best public policy, is not using a discussion group or a task force as cover for doing something that he's already predetermined that he wants to do. He wants to find the best solution so other people buy into that in working -- in working with him.

So -- he actually has the -- has the great, great diplomatic skills. As someone said once that the essence of a diplomat and someone with great skills is that you can tell someone to go to hell in a way that they look forward to the trip and that is something that we can say that -- that Jonathan Harris is also able to do when he's dealing with thorny issues.

So he has been a great, great friend, a great state senator. We are certainly going to miss him here but he will fortunately still be around. He is a young man with a great, great career ahead of him just because of his wonderful personal gifts and the sense of -- of warmth with which people are drawn to him at every level.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney.

Senator McLachlan.

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SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for a point of personal privilege?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to wish Senator Harris the very best.

As a freshman who arrived here, I must say that Senator Harris was the very first person, staff or senator, to come up to me and ask me out to lunch. I somehow didn't manage to do that, and I don't know why that didn't happen, but I -- it was the -- the reaching out and just showing, as Senator Fasano says, how much he is a gentleman. That goes far in my book. That goes far in the business here at the State Capitol and it will go far in Jonathan's future.

Good luck.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So many things have been said about Jonathan I don't think there's an original thing left to say.

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Personally, you can say what a great friend he is, what a wonderful person he is. But talking about his sense of humor is more than funny. He does do a great imitation. But the work he's done here has been extraordinary. And he has reached out to so many people, as Senator McLachlan said, on both sides of the aisle and works very, very hard to build consensus and build friendship. And he has succeeded and we'll miss you -- a lot.

Thanks, Jonathan.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

I will take the Chair's prerogative for a second.

And just say that Senator Harris and I first met in the House when you were still a staffer and I was just there. And then we came up together in the Senate with Senator Stillman, as well. And we have the opportunity of working together very well and sitting next to each other in the caucus room also. Though I will have to say that now some secrets have been revealed and the chamber is now the knowing of my nickname that you have bestowed upon me. So Senator Maynard is now on double secret probation whether he knows it or not. And -- but you are someone, I guess as everybody has mentioned, who is

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thoughtful, pragmatic and we know that if there is a thorny issue out there, I'm always comforted in knowing that you will figure a way to get everybody together and to get a bill across this chamber that will pass in a bipartisan way.

You're a great friend, a wonderful colleague and someone who I have immense respect for. So I look forward to seeing you in the secretary of the state's office next year. And I thank you for all your service here in the state of Connecticut.

Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

For a point of personal humility and embarrassment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I really don't know what to say.

Like Sam -- Shmooie as I call him -- Shmool said that words can't really say what I want to say, and I hope that I don't have a Muskie moment here.

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I guess the greatest tribute you can give me, Mr. Leader, another Leader, and President Williams and Mr. President is do my bills today please.

As a matter of fact in the House we used to say, Can you hear the sound of bills dying?

So I'll try to make it brief. My -- I can't single out everybody because each of you has impacted me and made me, not only a better senator, a better public servant, but a better person. And I guess I do have to thank Senator Kissel's dad, really, for my father David here because if he hadn't sold that insurance policy, I might not have been educated and been able to be here so thank you very much on that. That's trickle down economics for you.

This is a remarkable place. And I was thinking about it in the last 24 hours what has happened to me here shows how amazing it is to be able to serve the people of Connecticut of the 5th District of being have - - being able to have the privilege. We got in may in the morning and we did some big bills, we did some small bills, we stood at ease, we ate several times in between then, antipasto came in later at night. That was the Captain's Buffet that my retirement colleagues and Senator Handley credit decided to give and we have to

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finish that tonight. We were at ease for a little while, we came back we passed a big bill. There was debate, people were on their feet. We got out at around 11:19 the Journal said. Senator Fasano and I went to negotiate. We had already been negotiating for three hours. We went between one room on the Republican side and another room on the Democratic side. There were people on one side saying one thing and on the other side saying the other -- opposite way. The answer is somewhere probably in the middle. Leave that negotiation and in between, by the way, I stopped by Senator McKinney's office. There's some camaraderie. I think a glass of wine, perhaps, too, if I'm allowed to say that in the circle -- go back to the negotiation, wrap it up, go in downstairs.

Finally, 2:30 in the morning I can go home and see my wife Lucy. Someone says someone has a problem with the CON bill on the back of the budget. Oh, no, I had just promised President Williams that no one would have a problem with it. Bring everyone together, can't find a room. There's a bat flying around in the House so there's chaos down there. People are sleeping in the various rooms because it's now 3:30 in the morning.

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Go upstairs to 410, the Executive Branch, lay everything out, get that resolved. Go back downstairs and someone says you sure that bill's going to work? Oh, no, we can't take that bill and this bill and put in the big bill. We'll send it down to the House tonight we'll -- I finally get home at 6:30 in the morning and, of course, I have to take our son Spencer to school so I stay up, get back.

I'm about to go to sleep and my mother says to me, you know, you got to get back there soon. Maybe you should make some calls for the campaign.

So I did actually take a little rest, get in here, driving here, of course, I'm a little bit late, as I often am on legislative time. And all of a sudden I'm pulling around the arch and the police stop me from getting here. What's going on? I go around Bushnell Park and all of a sudden I see elephants marching up the street, and I'm thinking -- well, it is -- I'm thinking what a great picture of the last day that I have elephants blocking my way to the goal line. And the elephants were marching by the Secretary of the State's office, too, so I don't know how to take that.

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But that's what this place is. Every day, every minute is something new, something fresh, something special. Even when it's bad, it is good.

~~And~~ And I have to thank my parents for that, for giving me life and for showing me what public service is -- for showing me what it is to serve. As a matter of fact, in 1968, my father was campaign manager for Howard Klebanoff when they challenged John Bailey and won a seat downstairs -- -- I don't know if it was the 8th or 9th District then -- won the seat downstairs -- Howard Klebanoff. Two years later, Howard was reelected. I remember the campaign in 1970 very well. My mother became clerk of the Education Committee. And in this building as a seven- or eight-year-old, I use to come and hang out, remembering vividly my can of Dr. Pepper in my hand, walking around, seeing the genius of Connecticut which was then just plaster but in its position in the rotunda. Walking around and seeing all the people working, going by -- President Charles Alfano, the president of this body. Speaker William Ratchford, Lewis Rome, Bill O'Neill, Joe Fauliso, Governor Meskill. As a kid I got to hang around with these people.

And this building -- the beauty of the structure. I just remember being in awe every time I'd come in here,

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every time you'd hear the echoing, that murmur, that chaos but, oh, so sweet, that music that we experience every single day.

But the thing I think I learned the most then, was not just the beauty of the bricks and mortar, it was the beauty of the people here and what they did, cooperatively, to get things done.

So I had the privilege of serving six years as counsel and besides learning a lot about the legislative process, the rules, meeting people, I did have one really important lesson that I'll give to you now. I had much more power as counsel to the House Democrats than I do sitting in this circle now. You wanted to know what was happening or how to kill a bill, I was much better at it then than I am now. But it was a good experience, the knowledge.

First of all, I got here and I had the easy thing of knowing where the bathrooms were. That was a -- that a little bit of less pressure on me the first couple days.

And I have to thank so many people. But, first and foremost, the people of the 5th District for giving me the honor and privilege -- people of West Hartford, Bloomfield, Farmington and Burlington of giving me the honor of serving here. And I got to come back to this

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body where when I was growing up, I got to, literally, worship through the television set through roaming here people like John Larson, Dell Eads, Kevin Sullivan. I got to be a part of that.

It's too often now in this society that people look at their role in life as their 15 minutes of fame and don't remember that the honor of the past was being a part of history, being a part of something larger than any of us individually. That's what this Senate has given to me.

And while policy is, of course, important and near and dear to my heart and so I can rattle off things like Plan B, MFP, ITN, SNAP E&T, all these policies helping kids, helping the elderly people with disabilities trying to do it in a way that's cost effective. Do the right thing but do it in a way that also doesn't overburden the taxpayers of Connecticut. Again, it comes down to people.

And I love each and every one of you. I want to thank each and every one of you. My graduating class, actually, says a lot about all of us here because each and every one of you Mary Ann, Dan or DB, Sam -- Shmool, each and every one of you has the work ethic, the basic value of public service. You are people people. You all

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have that and, yet, each of you brings your own perspective. Mary Ann who not only do I get to sit next to and talk about things a lot, Mary Ann has never ever - and I admire this so much -- let go of that idealism, that activism that she's had throughout her life. She brings that to all of us every day here in the circle.

Sam, your intellect, your ability to articulate an issue, your ability to go and explain an issue to someone, that's something that you bring to all of us and make us all better for that.

Dan, as my partner on Public Health, a person who I know I could sit down on a pooling bill and actually talk for a half hour about the actuarial implications of putting more people in a bigger pool and what happens and will it be cost effective and will we get care to them and things that I would think my eyes would be glazing over from but you could have that conversation with me and then be able to go out -- mostly agree -- but even when we disagreed, have that kind of conversation that moved things forward. I want to thank you for that. And you each brings things like that.

To the leadership, Senator Williams; our Majority Leader; Marty Looney, thank you for allowing me to be all that I could be, for throwing me off the dock and seeing

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if I could swim, for letting me go down uncharted courses, sometimes scary but to be able to try to make myself better and get things done for the people.

And to Mr. Leader, McKinney -- John McKinney for being able with John and with Len Fasano to go the other side of the aisle, at times, and make sure that bills were called, get a different perspective, show up in their caucus room and to be able to listen and be able to be welcomed in the same way that I was welcomed so much on a daily basis in my caucus.

This building does not run on us. This building runs on staff. This building runs on the partisan staff, the nonpartisan staff. You name it both sides of the aisle. I meant it about that power issue, but that's where the rubber meets the road. Each and every one of the staff members here plays a unique role. I can't tell you how many times I was better in the afternoon because I got to joke around with Dorothy when I was in the cafeteria. Everybody has a place.

To the Executive Branch with whom we at times butt heads, if we did not have the information flow, the communication, we would not be able to do what we do.

I have to have a special thanks to Lucy and Spencer. It's difficult doing what we do. We don't get paid a

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lot. There's a lot of pressure, takes a lot of time. And we don't do it for the money. We do it to do the right thing. But we still have all those pressures that everybody else has in life of paying mortgages, paying your bills, getting your garbage out yourself not only for other people, doing the everyday life chores and Lucy enables me to do that.

So let's remember, all of us, that what brings us together is much, much more and much, much stronger than what divides us apart. Let's show this state to be not only on the vanguard of policy but on the vanguard of civility and cooperation to get the job done. And while I might not be occupying this seat here, I hopefully will have a cool office for you to hang out down on the first floor. And, hopefully, you'll see me roaming the halls with a Dr. Pepper, although it'll have to be diet right now and maybe a water would probably be better although not bottled water because Beth Bye would not be happy with that.

And thank you again for your kind words but the greatest tribute you could give me is to my bills. Let's hear the consent calendar rolling.

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Senator Harris, some of your nicknames have been revealed and some have not. I think for the sense of mutually sheer destruction we're going to have you go around the circle and name everybody's nicknames.

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Mr. President, I want to yield for just a second to Senator Roraback.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

For purposes of an introduction.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Mr. President, this is a special day in the State Senate, and I've had the privilege of having a very special young man serve as my intern for the past several months. With us in the chamber is Brandon Moran. He's been serving the Connecticut State Senate. He's been serving me but, most importantly, Mr. President, I'm so proud that Brandon is going to be enrolling -- I don't

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know if enrolling is the right word but -- Brandon's heading off to West Point on June 16 to serve our nation.

Mr. President, I want to take a minute to thank Brandon for all of his help to me. He's been a very capable and cheerful participant in our process.

He's at it a lot but, most importantly, I want to thank him on behalf of all of us for the service he's about to give to our nation. He's a fine young man. He's a credit to himself and his family. Brandon, thank you. And I'd like the chamber to join me in thanking him.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

There's another legislator who will not be rejoining us in the next term in the State Senate. And Mr. President, I'm talking about State Senator Mary Ann Handley.

When I think of Mary Ann, two words come to mind -- "true blue" because she is true blue in terms of dedication to country, true blue, as well, in her

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master's degree from the University of Connecticut and her dedication to the state of Connecticut. But true blue as a Democrat, and I mean a Democrat, someone who grew up with the ideals of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy. And she's brought those ideals to her life in public service not only as a state senator but for 30 years as a professor at the Manchester Community College, for her municipal service for the Town of Manchester on their board of directors and as deputy mayor and, yes, for many years as a treasured colleague here in the State Senate.

You know, Mary Ann a number of years ago you gave me a multi CD set of folk music in the American folk tradition. And, you know, for those in the circle who are not familiar with folk music -- I think most people are -- it's authentic American music that speaks to us directly and also tells a story.

In the days before newspapers and the Internet, folks would receive the news through song and through folk songs. So it meant a lot to me to listen to the music that I also enjoy but I know that much of that music speaks to Mary Ann's ideals. She grew up in the time of great concern about civil rights, about war and peace, about justice, about meeting the needs for those

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in the greatest need. Those were her ideals. She lived those in the 1960s and the 1970s to the present.

As a state senator, she's never forgotten those ideals. She has fought for those truly in need. She has fought for opportunity for all in terms of public education and public health, and she has never forgotten those who seek justice in our society.

So, Mary Ann, you're a great and treasured friend. I wish we could just go on and on with you in this circle, but I know you wanted to have some time to have a slightly less stressful occupation than that of state senator and you richly deserve it for all that you have given to your colleagues here, to your state, and to your country. So, Mary Ann, thank you so much. We will miss you terribly, although we do want you to come back and see us. And I wish you all the best and great relaxation and wonderful times ahead seeing your two sons, your six grandchildren and consider us as part of the family as well. Thank you, Mary Ann Handley.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. -- Senator.

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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The three colleagues of whom we've already tributed are all leaving this circle for higher -- seeking higher office to bring their passion and love of public service to a -- to a new playing field.

Senator Handley is one who I imagine reached the conclusion that her good work in the state senate is done and it's time to move on to bigger and better things with her personal life.

And I will say that whenever I've come across a former legislator who made the decision not to seek reelection for the legislature or election to any other office, I've always seen someone with a grand smile on their face.

And I look forward, Senator Handley, to seeing you in the years to come with that smile on your face. We have not spent a lot of time in my 12 years on committees together. But in this circle I have seen a legislator with a quiet resolve, a quiet compassion about you even just -- I believe it was yesterday when we debated the passage of the UConn Health Center bill something which you have fought for, worked for, and been so passionate about, something I was not happy with. You answered all of my questions with that quiet compassion, that quietness, that patience, which from where I sit, is

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anything but a sign of weakness. It is indeed a sign of strength.

As a woman in a leadership role, I look at you and see someone who can be a role model for my two daughters. We still -- you know, Connecticut has made a lot of progress in terms of women in leadership in our government. But there's still a need for more women candidates for office, for more women in positions of power and leadership in our government and beyond. And the role that you've played as a role model, as a woman in leadership in government is one that I think you should be very proud of.

Senator Williams mentioned that you fight for those in need. I guess I would say the same thing with a different -- different words. In many ways on issues in this Senate circle, you've been a voice for those who are voiceless. And I think that is a tremendous honor.

I will be sad. The circle will be sad to see you go but your time here has been well-served. And good luck in the future.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

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I came up here in January 2005. I didn't know any of you. And it seemed like a lonely place in some ways, wasn't sure exactly how it was going to work here. I had beaten a colleague or a friend of many of you and that didn't make me the most welcome person in the world.

Right, Jon?

And the first week I get a luncheon invitation. And this luncheon invitation wasn't just an invitation to go down to the cafeteria or to go to a restaurant this was to go to Mary Ann's home. And we drove out to her home that first week in January 2005 and, all of a sudden, I felt I was a member of the circle, a member of the circle.

Mary Ann, thank you for that.

In fact the relationship became so good that when my wife Patty Ann couldn't go to a concert at the Bushnell one night last winter, Mary Ann Handley was my date. I -
- I hope you understand from those experience how much I think of her, how much I'll miss her and how much I love her.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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For a -- a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Fourteen years ago -- fourteen years ago, Mary Ann and I were both running for the Senate back in 1996. And this Senate was controlled by the other party. And in the 3rd and the 4th Senate seats, we had -- we had two dog fights -- not referring to either of us as dogs, Mary Ann. But we had two really close battles and Mary Ann and I prevailed. And since then, although we may not look it, I've always felt we've been sort of like twins that we've been joined at the hip through that electoral victory. And we have had much in common. We have a lot in common both coming from an education background.

And I've learned a lot from Mary Ann as these years of sitting next to her and truly I have, and truly I -- she's changed by position on things over time. Yeah, once she even voted for me. Things like the death penalty, Mary Ann had an impact over the years. My position on that she chipped away at me. Immigration education -- education for immigrants changed by point of view on that. Sometimes I tend to see and a lot of us

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tend to see things simplistically and Mary Ann was an antidote for that. Getting me to understand things in a deeper way and in a more complex world, the real world that we live in.

And it's been said -- and Don said -- our Senate President said that you she's here to make a difference. That's what she's all about. She's here to make a difference. And I believe you began your political career working on Joe Duffy's campaign to try to turn the war in Vietnam around in 1970 to make a statement about getting us out of Vietnam. And Mary Ann has been doing it ever since. Not getting out of the war in Vietnam but making a statement, making a statement and doing the right thing. And she is always -- we can say it differently, but we all see it, the voiceless, the downtrodden, those most in need -- those -- those who really need a helping hand. Mary Ann is there for them and Mary Ann that's -- Mary Ann sees that as an important role for us in the chamber and for the government to step in.

One of those people who needs a helping hand is me. And she's been my friend. She's been my friend for -- for all these years. I am really going to miss, both, Jonathan and Mary Ann.

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You know last year there was picture of people playing solitaire on the computer. That was a cheap shot, one of the cheapest shots of all time. You know we can chew gum and walk at the same time. And we can -- we can listen to debate and at the same time have conversations. You know, we're -- we're constantly making wisecracks over here, and we have a -- we have fun while we're here and while we're actually dealing with the real issues of -- of the state. And -- and it's those things. It's the fun we're having and the -- and at the same time the real -- dealing with these issues. It makes this place and Jon -- Jon did a great job in talking about how special the Senate is. But a very, very important special person for me is leaving, and I -- you know, it's -- it's gratifying to think that we're going to see each other and that we're going to be friends. You've had us up to your cottage, my wife and myself. And one other thing I've got to say you -- you know, Mary Ann is very Irish and it just -- has had a couple of trips this year so far to Ireland.

When I came home the last time and told my wife Joanne Sullivan LeBeau that we -- that you had been back from Ireland the second time this year. She said, That's it. We're going next year. And she started to make

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plans. We're going to bring the family. Next year, we're going to Ireland. There's no -- there's no -- this is it. My wife has decided. And, folks, if my wife has decided; it's done. We've decided we're going next year.

So I thank you for everything, Mary Ann. I thank you for everything that you've -- the friendship that you've had, the wisdom that you've given to me and just being a great seatmate. And I've got to turn to Eric and say -- I just said to turn to Eric -- Eric, don't you dare leave. Eric and Jon -- because I couldn't -- I couldn't stand to have this whole -- this whole crew wiped out.

Thank you again. God bless you. And I wish you the very, very best.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I just -- I've known Mary Ann for a long time. She's a Manchester girl. My wife's a Manchester girl. My wife was in high school with her sister, and so I actually knew her before she came up here. And my wife considered Manchester the city of village charm which was

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on the sign as you entered and left the town. And, you know, when we got married we moved to Birch Street and then to Florence Street. And Mary Ann has represented Manchester extremely well for a lot of years.

I think that she's one of the sweetest, nicest people I've met in my time up here. And she's never lost -- as others have said, she's never lost her passion for what she believes in. And I think that's what's the great part about being in a circle and in a -- a, basically, in a mature democracy, like we have here in the United States. Where you know we don't agree but I -- we have sincere affection for each other. People watching this might not believe that, but we have a lot more in common than we have different as somebody said earlier. We all -- because you -- because you don't come up here to make a lot of money, and you don't come up here to get a lot of prestige and compliments -- that doesn't come with the job. You come here, like Mary Ann comes here with an idea, like Jonathan and Sam and like Dan with -- with a real desire to serve people to give back because we've all been blessed, and we're in a position to give back and Mary Ann's certainly done that in a big way.

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I enjoyed serving with you, Mary Ann. I hope you
stop up and see us. It's not a long ride. Okay?

(The President in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I, too, rise to say a fond farewell to my friend
Mary Ann Handley.

You know when I think of Mary Ann, I do think that
she is an educator but she's an educator in the best
sense of the word. She teaches by the way that she lives
her life. And so if you want to know how to treat your
fellow colleagues, you watch the way that Mary Ann treats
all of us. You know she is a historian, too. And a lot
of times we forget the great history of this country.
And I know when we talked about difficult and thorny
immigration issues, Mary Ann was the first to remind us,
in our caucus, of the same kinds of problems that the
Irish immigrants had when they came to this country. And
what it helped us do is to recognize that some of these
things go on and that there are links to the way in which
America has evolved over time that have affected all of

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the different cultures. And she taught us that in our caucus.

Mary Ann is a kind, compassionate person. She is the epitome of the word "friend." And I think she has befriended each and every one of us and has said, I only live 10 minutes away and if you need a place to stay my house is always open.

She has what I would consider to be a strong sense of character because if she believes something whether or not anyone else in our caucus, in our circle, in any of the committees believes that Mary Ann will stand firm to what she believes. And she will explain to you her reasoning and it makes it easy for you to understand. And oftentimes as you've heard, she changes minds.

When she said that she was leaving, I was beyond disappointed. But I know that she's earned the right to spend time with her family and to do the things that she wishes to do.

So I respect that but I've got to tell you that I'm going to miss you, that the way in which you touched my life has been meaningful, and I will hold it dear in my heart forever.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

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SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, Mr. President to Mary Ann, you know, Mary Ann, I can hardly stand it thinking about looking over there and not seeing you sitting in that seat.

Mary Ann has been such a plus to this circle. I respect her so for her principles, for her commitment, for her caring and for -- for her wanting things to be better in this state for the people who live here.

I have to tell you a little secret about Mary Ann. Mary Ann comes to Columbia Lake every summer. Columbia Lake is where I live. When it gets very dark and there's nobody around and the lights are all out, Mary Ann is in Columbia Lake skinny dipping.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague, I think I have to have to rule you out of order on that or at least let's look at the video on the big screen behind me there.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Senator Maynard, Mary Ann, wants to know if that's the naked truth.

But I tell you the time that she has spent here in this Senate has been a big plus for all of us around the circle and for the people in this state.

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I hate the thought that you're not going to be here next year, but I will see you in spite of that.

Mary Ann, thank you for being you.

THE CHAIR:

Make sure you don't have Senator Prague as your neighbor wherever you go.

Senator Boucher.

Don't give that woman a camera.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, ma'am.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you.

Senator Mary Ann Handley and I share a very special relationship that many in this circle may not know. She was a freshman Senator and I was in my very second term when they -- our respective caucuses asked us for a very special service on the Human Services Committee. The committee was having some very rough times, from the standpoint of leadership and good governance and functioning and they asked us to serve in our respective positions, Mary Ann Handley as Chairman and myself as a

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ranking member. And we were given offices very close by together. And so we spent many hours getting to know each other, personally, and over the course of that time, although many of us had very different views on how to deal with the vast human services issues of the state and the Department of Social Services, very different, but what we did have in common was our style and our desire to make sure that we had a very well functioning committee where everyone's views were well respected and regarded. Those that came to testify were well respected and regarded, and it actually turned out to be a really fine experience, certainly for me. And every time we pass each other now, there is a certain bond and a closeness that we might share that, as I said, was very special.

Everyone has said how absolutely lovely, what a wonderful lady Mary Ann Handley is -- her warm and compassionate side. But they also mask a steely side to Senator Handley because she can also be pretty tough and pretty firm when necessary.

So we are all very much blessed, Senator Handley, by the time that you have spent here, the service that you've given. And I am particularly privileged to have your friendship through these last few years.

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Congratulations to you on a job well done and much success in the second half in stage. You never know where that might lead you as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

For a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, sir.

Mary Ann, I will miss you as well, though we have not served together as long in the Senate as you have with some of the other Senators around the circle. I know when I was serving in the House, I would just pass you in the hall but all these years we've never actually -- I've never had the privilege of serving with you on a committee. But as a member of the Senate Caucus, I've had that opportunity to interact with you and I will treasure those memories. You are a steady voice of reason and optimism in the Senate. And I think that's

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displayed by not just the words that you share with all of us but, certainly, your demeanor and that's great smile.

It has been an extraordinary honor to work with someone who is so rooted in their values and the importance of doing the right thing and understanding everyone's viewpoint on an issue or everyone's hardship that we need to address. That I will -- as I said, I will remember those discussions in caucus and the ones outside as well and keep them very close to me as I make decisions as I go through whatever is ahead for all of us.

But I wish you well. I look forward to seeing you on a social basis and, who knows, maybe we will -- our paths will cross on -- a professional basis in the future. But -- I know you have things you want to do and places you want to go and I wish you well. And I look forward to hearing all those stories. Thank you so much.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for a point of personal privilege, sir.

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Please proceed, ma'am.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you.

I rise today to tip my hat to Mary -- Senator Mary Ann Handley.

Mary Ann, we've never sat near each other and, very briefly, we served on a committee together. But, lately, we probably done some bonding in the hallway -- the hallway bonding, yes. But I have to say that I have always admired, you, as a person, as a legislator, and as an advocate. You have always exhibited a steady hand in your approach as a legislator and an advocate. You have had, without a doubt, a certainty of purpose that was unwavering and very professional and certainly very passionate.

And you have been an incredible advocate for your constituents and all -- on all of those issues that you have worked so diligently on always going about them in a very deliberate manner but unpretentious, unassuming but always getting an outcome and a positive one at that.

My -- hat is off to you and -- and I am always impressed by all of the work that you've done.

And I want to say that I was most impressed when in my travels around visiting community colleges, I had the

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occasion, of course, to visit Manchester Community College an incredible institute that has done remarkable work, as the whole system has. However, Manchester clearly is the jewel in the crown of the community college system and in large measure because of the advocacy, quite frankly, of Senator Handley. And when I visited there, I wasn't in the door but for a very short time when I was reminded this was the home of "the" Mary Ann Handley who had taught there and who had advocated so -- so strongly for the Manchester Community College. And the incredible accomplishments and legacy you leave there in many respects -- and in other places as well -- but, in particular, there with the middle college having started that, seeded it and really serves as a poddle -- a pilot and a model throughout the rest of the system in the state of Connecticut.

So I am sure there's going to be a statue or a plaque or something somewhere, Mary Ann, besides at the lake but clearly at Manchester Community College because it -- truly you are due that.

And I just have to bid you safe travels because I know you've got lots of wonderful travel plans. And -- and I'm sure that we are going to see you in a lot of

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different ways on other issues. So Godspeed to you, Mary Ann.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I want to try and recognize all four individuals in one shot. It'll be a little economical if I -- if I can.

I first want to acknowledge Senator -- Senator DeBicella and Caligiuri and Harris and Handley. These are four extraordinary individuals. Three leaving to pursue higher office. One leaving for retirement. They have all made us better legislators. They've made us think. They've held us accountable. They've just made us better legislators with the contributions they have made.

And I want to thank you for your contributions to the Senate and to the State of Connecticut and wish you all very good luck in the future.

With respect to Mary Ann, though, you know she is a very thoughtful, compassionate and soft spoken

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individual. But she has demonstrated in her career in the State Senate a strength, a courage always in defense of personal liberty and human rights. And she has left a legacy in this body and in the legislation this body has passed that is really remarkable.

And I just want to thank you for that, Mary Ann. I think you've done a wonderful job. I know it's been your ambition in your life to do those things to protect human liberty, human rights, and you've certainly done a remarkable job here in the State Senate so we thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Well, I, you know -- this whole circle, I consider a circle of my friends. And -- but this sort of area up in our neck of the woods is sort of my neighborhood in the circle. And in honoring Senator Handley, I can state without a doubt that I have observed a woman who knows

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what she believes in and she's thought it through, she's tested it with her life experiences and she's done the academic research to have expertise in many fields. She is not a tough person by any stretch of the imagination but a very kind and loving individual, but she knows her mind and unless you can persuade her otherwise, she's going to stick to her guns. And no one is ever going to pull the wool over her eyes.

She's got a storied past as a good professor, an academician. She knows her history. She knows her life experiences. She knows this country and countries around the world. She has a personal fondness for Ireland. She has a warm and abiding love for her family.

There are some funny stories out there, but I will say that, from my perspective, not only has she been extraordinarily kind, and genteel and courteous and friendly over in our section of the circle but in those time where I was lucky enough to serve with her and, in particular, on the Human Services Committee. And on that committee my caucus knew me as a bit of a softie when it comes to some of those issues because it's very difficult when you see people who really need our safety net in place to say I'm sorry, go away, come back another day.

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And I've served for many years as Senator Handley as the vice chair on the Judiciary Committee. And, certainly, I am not bashful about offering my two cents. And while I have been honored to be able to practice law for the last 26 years, Senator Handley is not bashful about chiming in on any bill before the Judiciary Committee and starting off her eloquent presentation with, "Well, while I am not an attorney," and then proceeding into a meticulous analysis of the bill before us.

She's been a friend. She asks about my family. Manchester's not that far away from Enfield in North Central Connecticut. And she has been a tireless advocate for her constituents in her district. We've worked well together over the years and, as with Senator DeBicella, Senator Caligiuri, Senator Harris, I'm going to miss you, Mary Ann.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel.

Senator Gomes.

SENATOR GOMES:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for personal privilege?

THE CHAIR:

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Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR GOMES:

Mary Ann Handley. First time I heard that name is before I got up here and I was told by a certain organization that when I got up here, the first person I was to seek out was Mary Ann Handley. And when I met her and when I looked at her and I says, This little -- this little lady here is the person that they told me to seek out. Once I got to talking to her and I found out that she was very knowledgeable and a strong advocate for the things that she was knowledgeable about and a lot of people benefit from.

Every time I got a little confused about something, I'd slip over and talk to Mary Ann and she'd tell me. And very even tempered, never loud, never boisterous, never berating anybody just telling what you what you should do and this sounds good, and so on and so forth. And I don't regret ever having her being the first person that I sought out in this con -- in this circle here. And I want to thank her, and I tell her both of us have something in common. We -- we retired for the first time. You're retiring for the second time. And I hope you ret -- enjoy your retirement, and I hope we see you again time and time again. Thank you.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

There's lots of trivia in the State Senate and secrets that members hold not necessarily secrets because we don't want them be known but secrets that are not widely known. And Senator Handley and I, since the very first day I met her have had in common -- I can say in a very liberated way, Senator Handley is old enough to be my mother and I'm not a spring chicken. And the reason I can say that is because Senator Handley and my mother were classmates at Connecticut College, Class of 1958.

Mr. President, my mother has made many contributions to the world but when I look at the path of my mother's life and I look at the path of Senator Handley's life, it reminds me how extraordinary it is or it was at a certain time for women to rise to high levels in political office to even entertain the thought of running for office. And

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Senator Handley represents something that today is taken for granted. Of course, a woman has equal footing with a man in seeking public office and there's no reason to differentiate but, in Senator Handley's generation, I don't think that that was necessarily a given. And she's giving me the signal that it wasn't a given. So she's been a trailblazer.

And I -- I certainly have enjoyed my professional relationship with her when I was the ranking member of the Public Health Committee and she was the chairman. She always had an open door, always interested in finding common sense bipartisan solutions to the problems that we faced. But, most importantly, Senator Handley has always moved about this building with grace, with a calm presence. Everyone knows you don't want to cross her but that's because we know the stuff she's made of.

And, Senator Handley, I, for one, want to thank you for being made of what you're made of because if you -- if you weren't made of what you're made of you wouldn't have made the difference, both, in this building and in the lives of the people you represent. So thank you for your service and I'll miss you but hopefully your mother -- my mother and you can catch up at reunion.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Roraback.

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Point of personal privilege?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I just want to associate myself with all the remarks that have been spoken by my colleagues.

I was going to talk about the lady of the lake but that already has been done. I wasn't aware of that until a few years ago when I was at Senator Prague's home.

But more -- Senator Handley has -- has left a trail in her career in higher education and, particular, as a state senator. And she really has been the conscience of the caucus and also the conscience of the Senate. And I greatly respect her for that and I wish her, you know, the best of everything and great health and happiness in the years to come.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

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Will you remark?

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I'd just like to add my voice to the circle in thanking Mary Ann Handley for all of her tremendous service.

You know, I haven't known her as long as Senator LeBeau or Senator Roraback, but I have gotten to know her well on the Higher Education Committee where I've been proud to serve as a ranking member. And I can tell you that there are few champions for higher education who are more persuasive or effective than Mary Ann Handley. And that comes not only from her own personal experience of 30 years as a professor but, quite honestly, from a deep core conviction that education is the way for betterment for our young people.

And, equally important, Mr. President, is I've gotten to know Mary Ann Handley is a kind soul. She is someone who wants to genuinely help people, not just in the abstract, not just through some piece of legislation, but who genuinely cares about helping individuals in her district or individuals that have come before our committee. We will miss her, but I am so proud to have

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been able to work with her and wish her well in her retirement.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Debicella.

Will you remark further?

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

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

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I just wanted to add some remarks to this tribute to our colleague, Mary Ann Hal -- Handley. All of the people who have spoken previous to me have commented on Senator Handley's work here, as a member of the Senate, and I want to acknowledge that and state unequivocally that I agree with that. But I also wanted to take a different tack and say how much this corner of the circle will miss Mary Ann Handley's presence here.

I don't know how I'm going to manage Senator LeBeau and Senator Fonfara without Senator Handley's assistance.

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She has managed over the course of the time that we've occupied this corner of the circle to keep us all in line. And I just, you, Mr. President, should be a little concerned, as well as all the members of the Senate-- should be a little concerned about some of the antics that will take place over in this corner of the circle without Mary Ann to be here to manage it.

Some people have big feet, physical characteristics, some people have big hands, some have a big nose, some have big eyes. Although I can't see it, I'm pretty certain that Mary Ann Handley has a tremendously huge heart because she is one of the sweetest, kindest, most generous and passionate people that I know. She also has, probably, a big brain, because she's very cerebral and professorial and a person of great integrity.

Like the rest of you, I will miss her tremendously. One of the things that I'll miss about Mary Ann is her versatility. Because Senator LeBeau will tell you that in this corner of the circle, there's oftentimes some very mindless silly guy talk that goes on, and Mary Ann has tolerated that but, perhaps, surprisingly, she's also participated in it. And that's one of the things that I not only appreciate about Mary Ann but I will also miss.

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She's been a tremendous presence in the Senate. She's just an asset to everything that she becomes a part of. I just feel so honored to have had the opportunity to serve with her. And I wish her well in her retirement.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Coleman. I wasn't a math major, but I'm trying to figure out how a circle has a corner.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Geometry.

THE CHAIR:

Geometry.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

It is a -- a great, great honor to pay tribute to our wonderful colleague, Senator Mary Ann Handley. And we are still hoping to lobby together to change her mind

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and stay with us longer for another term. But -- but I think there are -- I think four primary adjectives come to mind for me, at least, in thinking of Mary Ann, principle, gracious, scholarly and persuasive. I think each of those equally describes what she is, who she is and how she has influenced all of us in her years here in the Senate.

As Senator LeBeau mentioned Senator Handley's Irish heritage and also her -- her -- her deep and profound knowledge of Irish history, culture and literature. As someone who shares with her both Irish background and being a Red Sox fan, I always enjoyed our conversations on -- on analogies between the Irish experience and the American experience in so many ways. And some of them I think are -- are illustrative and help us to place things in -- in perspective.

As was mentioned earlier, Mary Ann Handley is also a person with a passionate commitment to justice and a passionate sense of being a champion for the underdog of somebody who -- a spokesman for those who need an advocate, for those who were downtrodden, for those who have gotten a bad break in society, for those who are being oppressed by the powerful. She has an innate instinct, I think, out of a sense of courage and

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protectiveness to be an advocate for those who society has not treated fairly and may have been ignored.

I think that as an accident of history, if she had been born 40 or ~~or~~ 50 years earlier than she was and was growing up in Dublin, Ireland, rather than in Manchester, Connecticut, she would have been on the barricades in Easter 1916 at that rebellion. And she is a person of just that kind of courage. And I think in many ways she has inspired us in this circle with her courage to go forward with bills that might be controversial or difficult, to take on something that might create a backlash, just because it is right to do, because it is the principle thing to do, and because there are people without voices who are counting on us to do it. That's what we will miss here of Mary Ann in this circle, in addition to her wonderful kindness, her gift of friendship.

One of the great things I most enjoyed when I first became majority leader, she invited me to her lovely home in Manchester for lunch. We had a delightful lunch to talk about issues related to the Senate and the session. And I think that anyone who has ever experienced that gracious kindness, as we all have, will always treasure that in our memories. And that's why we hope, although

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she's retiring, she won't be that far away from us here
and will come back often.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

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Thank you, Senator Looney.

Senator Handley.

Is there anyone else?

Senator Handley.

Oh, I'm sorry. Senator Maynard.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Sorry, Mr. President, I was slow to my feet.

I -- it would be impossible for me to let Mary Ann leave the circle without telling her how grateful I am to have served here with her, to have learned from you, to have been inspired by the work that you've done here and to tell you that I look forward to spending some of your days outside of this Senate in Ireland, and we have plans for a little bit of travel.

Mary Ann has, as the poet said, the Irish heart, deep in its conviction, quick and sure in its affection, sound to the core.

It's been a pleasure, Mary Ann. Cheers.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

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Senator Handley.

SENATOR HANDLEY:

Thank you. Thank you all. I sort of feel like I've -- except for Edith's comments -- I -- although, it might be -- I sort of feel like I've been at my own wake. Although that story would be appropriate at a wake.

But, Edith, we'll -- I'll -- we'll deal with that situation another time. I -- as -- as probably many of you know or would -- could guess, one of my favorite novels is "The Last Hurrah." And -- and in "The Last Hurrah," the Skeffington fig -- figure when one of his -- one of his henchmen dies, gives a speech at the wake and he says, How do you thank a person for a life that they have given you? And that's what I have to say here to all of you.

I came here 14 -- well, almost 14 years ago, maybe going to stay four, maybe six years and it's been 14 years. And how do I thank you all for that wonderful 14 years? I can't. I can't thank anybody as much as I would like to. But I do want to say thank you. I see some folks here whom I particularly want to thank. I want to thank Greg, and Rod, and Milly, all of whom have served as my aide at one time or another and gone on to much better things. But they and the other folks who

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have worked in the office and have worked in the -- in the nonpartisan office, worked in the cafeteria, worked at the door saying hello in the morning. All of those folks have made up the fabric of the life that we have lived here which make it possible for us to do the work that we -- that we want to do. So it's with great pleasure that I say thank you for these -- for these wonderful years.

It's with a bit of sadness that I say goodbye, but not -- not -- not more than what is -- what should be appropriate at this time. And I'm sorry senator McKinney isn't here because I was going to say, I think the best thing I could do is, perhaps, encourage his daughters to be Democrats. And we'll talk -- I'll talk to him about that a little bit later.

Anyway, thank you all for your kind words here and thank you all for all the work that we do to make -- to make this state the place that we know it should be.

THE CHAIR:

And I would also -- I was out of the chamber when the accolades were given to Senator Caligiuri and Senator Harris and also Senator Handley.

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And I'd also like to express my best wishes on your future endeavors, Senator Caligiuri and Senator Harris. I'll welcome you to the second floor later on next year.

And, Senator Handley, all the best to you and your retirement. Thank you.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agendas Numbers 1 and 2 for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agendas Numbered 1 and 2, dated Wednesday, May 5, 2010. And as a particular note on Senate Agenda Number 2, it's Emergency Certified Bill 494, not 434 that shows on the top of your copy of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I move all items on Senate Agendas Numbers 1 and 2, dated Wednesday, May 5, 2010, to be

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acted upon as indicated that the agendas be incorporated by reference into the Senate journal and the Senate transcript.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion of the floor to move all items on Senate Agenda Number 1 and 2. Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

Before we proceed just for a point of personal privilege for an introduction.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, we have today in the chamber with us my intern from -- from Trinity College, Archie Vamathevan who was a wonderful intern from Trinity, was here for the entire session. She continued in the -- the great tradition of -- of Trinity interns helping with every

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phase of our office from constituent work to session work here and also monitoring public hearings and committees and all the rest. She was busy every single day that she was here and also did it all with great -- great cheerfulness and good humor for the long days and, certainly, wish her every -- every great success as she goes forward as a young woman of great gifts and great promise.

And I hope the Senate will all -- all the colleagues will -- will recognize and acknowledge the wonderful work she's done this session. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President, I believe now the Senate is -- is now in possession of Senate Agenda Number 3, I believe is on the Clerk's desk.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 3, dated Wednesday, May 5, 2010. Copies have been distributed.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. ~~Mr. President~~ Mr. President, I move all items on Senate Agenda Number 3, dated Wednesday, May 5, 2010, to be acted upon as indicated that the agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate journal and the Senate transcript.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor to move all items on Senate Agenda Number 3. Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President, would move to place all items on all of the agendas adopted on our calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion to move all items on the agendas onto the calendar. Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if we might move now to an item appearing on Senate Agenda Number 2, under Emergency Certified Bill. It is Emergency Certified Senate Bill

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Number 494. Would move for suspension to take up that item at this time.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor to suspend rules to take up Emergency Certified Bill 434.

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If the Clerk might call that item.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calling from Senate Agenda Number 2, Emergency Certified Bill 494, AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011. The bill is accompanied by Emergency Certification signed Donald E. Williams, Jr., President Pro Tempore of the Senate; Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I move the Emergency Certified Bill.

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THE CHAIR:

Acting on acceptance and adoption, ma'am. Would you like to remark further?

SENATOR HARP:

Yes, I would. Thank --

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR HARP:

-- you so much, sir.

First of all, I want to thank my co-chair, Representative Geragosian and the 12 subcommittees that work on substantive parts of the budget. I'd also like to thank the staff of the Appropriations Committee, which is lead by Susan Keane, our administrator. And I want to thank the Office of Fiscal Analysis, which is lead by Alan Calandro; and our very special and hard working lead LCO, Joelle Roberts. And I want to thank her, one, because she has worked through the night and through the day to complete this bill.

As you know, we are faced with a severe deficit in both of the years, Fiscal Year '10 and '11. And yet, we've all worked together to provide for a balanced budget on behalf of our state. This session started with the Office of Policy and Management projecting a \$503.9

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million deficit in Fiscal Year '10, the current budget year, and a deficit of more than \$700 million for Fiscal Year '11. The deficit mitigation package that passed on April 13th, in combination with an unexpected increase in state revenues, has turned the projected deficit of more than 500 million in Fiscal Year '10 into a projected surplus of \$140 million. Despite increased revenue projections of \$499.1 million, a deficit of \$371.7 million remains in Fiscal Year '11.

The proposed biennial budget before you today eliminates the projected Fiscal Year '11 budget deficits through a mix of spending cuts, fund transfers, new federal revenue sources and a carry forward surplus from Fiscal Year '10.

The proposed budget adjustments include reduced appropriations by \$171.6 million, reduced amount of the re -- originally proposed securitization by over \$301 million, a carry forward of \$140 million in Fiscal Year '10 surplus, and a sweep of various funds that we'll hear from the Finance chair about and it will result, oddly enough, in a projected small surplus in Fiscal Year '11.

The bill's revised appropriation level is under the spending cap by \$336.4 million on an all-fund basis. And the bill's growth rate for all appropriated funds is less

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than 1 percent at .9 percent in Fiscal Year '11. But for the General Fund, it is a growth rate of .6 percent, so that it's almost a half of a percent growth, just a little more.

Basically, what the bill does, even though there were many cuts, the bill protects state aid to cities and towns. It rejects cuts to health care for children and families, and it increases funding to the home care program for elders and reduces the burdensome 15 percent co-pays to 6 percent.

I want to thank Senator Prague for her advocacy on this issue.

We've also had an agreement from the Governor, and she's done it already, thankfully, to reopen the Alzheimer's Respite Program. And they're funds in the budget to keep it open in the next fiscal year.

This budget, as well, has a criminal justice initiative that was worked on with the Judicial Committee on a bipartisan basis.

With that, I will, with your permission, sir, yield for the finance portion of this budget to the Finance chair, Senator Daily.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily, do you accept the yield, ma'am.

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SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DAILY:

Yes, I will accept the yield.

In this, we will -- it will allow for the inappropriate surplus in FY 10 to be credited to the resources of '11. So, we'll move that over into the next year. We will issue, then, revenue bonds to cover the deficit. This is the amount that was previously securitized in the budget that we adopted. That was securitized at 1.3 billion, and we've been able to reduce that to under a billion.

With this new plan of borrowing, we'll be able to achieve, we estimate, a rate of 3 percent on the bonds. And we issue a guarantee of payment, and that guarantee is a mixture of the CTA charges, those are the stranded costs on your electric bills and raiding the Energy Conservation and Efficiency Fund of \$28.7 million.

We're very hopeful as the economy improves and as our revenues continue to improve that we will be able to further reduce the amount that we're borrowing. That

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borrowing won't occur until later in the year, so we're -
- we're hopeful for that.

Altogether this is a very, very, very good piece of
legislation. I thank all the staff on both the
Appropriations and Finance Committee that have worked so
very, very hard, and, in particular, of course, I thank
Toni Harp.

Thank you, Senator.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

Will you remark?

Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I'm going to have a series of
questions and comments on this rather large piece of
legislation.

In looking at this, there seems to be four different
pieces to this legislation. There's the FY 11 budget.
There's the securitization package. There are other
bills that have gone through this process that are
wrapped in here. And then just for fun, a couple of --
in the colloquial term, "rats" that are in here. And I
think I'd like to talk about each one of those in order.

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And, Mr. President, starting first on the budget itself, through you, a few questions to Senator Harp.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Through you, Mr. President, from my understanding of the description of what Senator Harp just said, is there are essentially four things that have brought FY 11 into balance from where we stood almost a month ago when we had a \$700 million deficit. One was about \$400 million in increased revenue estimates; second, was about \$360 million of assumed increase federal revenue; third, is \$100 million of pension payments we're putting off; and, fourth, is some number that I didn't hear in total of funds that we are sweeping. Is that -- is that an accurate description of what we're -- the changes we are making to get from that \$700 million budget deficit down to zero. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

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SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So out of those four things, how many are one-time revenues or one-time sweeps versus ongoing things that will actually help us in FY 12, FY 13 and beyond?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm going to say that, perhaps, the majority of those things are -- are one time.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, Mr. President, I actually think in looking at this I -- I believe they're actually all one time. So it would possibly -- if the economy continues to recover, the exception of the increased revenue estimates, the additional federal revenue is coming from ARRA would be one time; putting off \$100 million in pension payments, one time; sweeps from various funds, one time. And so my worry, Mr. President, and a question, through you, is

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although this does close our FY 11 deficit, what does this do to actually help the much larger problem we have of an \$8 billion deficit over the course of the next biennium. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, basically, this -- this budget is pretty much as the biennial budget was that we passed. And it really doesn't address the deficit that we have -- that we're projecting for Fiscal Years '12 and '13. So that we're hoping that there'll be an immediate and abrupt turnaround in our economy that will actually begin to address that over the next year. And we've been -- I think we felt really good about the turnaround that we've seen so far, and we hope that it continues and rapidly.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I thank the Senator for the answer to that question. I believe she -- she's correct. There is very

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little, if anything, in this budget that actually addresses the structural deficit that we have for 2012 and 2013. And I also worry a little bit that I do think the strategy Senator Harp laid out is the strategy of this budget. It's one of hope, hope the economy turns around, hope that eliminates the deficit.

We actually here do not make any structural changes, at all, to how government operates. We actually are not making any of the fundamental reforms that we've been talking about to actually save money, shrink the size of government and make government smarter.

You know, one of the things that was created in the last year's budget was the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes. And the commission, which many of us serve on, has come out with a report with literally dozens of ideas of how to actually reinvent government, make government smarter and cheaper. This doesn't contain those. This doesn't contain those recommendations.

Again, Mr. President, my worry is that in football terms, we're punting. We are punting this problem of the deficit, the structural deficit we have, to the next governor. We are punting it to the next legislature. This is not a budget that actually addresses the problems we have. And the answers are there. And we have talked,

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from the Republican side of the aisle, ad nauseam with deficit mitigation package after deficit mitigation package presenting our own budget of ideas that would shrink the size of government, resetting programmatic spending to 2007 levels, actually shifting much of our social services to private providers, nonprofit institutions that do a phenomenal job for the state, agency consolidation, and actually eliminating overhead and bureaucracy, shrinking the number of layers in different areas of government, like DCF, and shrinking -- or increasing the span of control. The ideas are there. What's lacking, Mr. President, is the political will to implement them.

So, Mr. President, on the first part of this bill, the budget itself, I believe that this is not a good budget for the state of Connecticut because it -- although it cures our deficit for this year, it does it with one-time gimmicks and leaves us the problem of government.

Now, Mr. President, I'd like to just continue on to the three other sections of the bill if I may, and a question, through you, to Senator Daily on securitization. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Daily.

Please proceed, Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

through you, if the good senator could actually explain to us the -- in a little more detail the revenue sources for securitization that are used in this deficit mitigation package.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Through you, Mr. President.

Senator, we are not going to securitize. That was a plan in an earlier plan. We are now going to have Economic Re -- Recovery Revenue Bonds. The way we intend to pay for those bonds is by taking part of the stranded costs from utility bills and by taking Energy Conservation and Efficiency Fund money. It'll be 35 percent of the Energy Fund money which would be \$28.7 million being used for debt service. And it would be 33 percent of the stranded costs that amounts to \$77.2 million for CL&P, 28.1 for UI and 2.3 for the municipals.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

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SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And although this is not what one would technically call securitization, I think we've just put a different sweater on securitization or are calling it ERNs because we're still using dedicated future streams of revenue to actually pay back those notes. And so would my understanding, through you, Mr. President, then be that the streams of revenue that Senator Daily laid out, are those streams of revenue that were due otherwise to expire, specifically those for ratepayers? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

If I may, these are not ERNs. We have ERNs. These are ERRBs.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President. I thank --

SENATOR DAILY:

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As the question is still the same, I presume.
Through you, Mr. President.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Question is still the same. I thank you for
correcting my acronyms. Through you, Mr. President.

SENATOR DAILY:

These are stranded costs that were due to expire.
Ratepayers from CL&P have paid these for 10 years, and
they would -- they are due to expire in July. We propose
to take 33 percent of those and then the ratepayer is
guaranteed that the other 64 percent is shown in a
reduction of their bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And with those stranded costs, what is the average
monthly bill that a ratepayer currently sees? Through
you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Through you, Mr. President, the average is \$7.50.
And I will tell you that the reduction, the 66 percent

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reduction will be a \$5 -- \$5.03. And the part that we will be taking to pay for the ERRBs will be \$2.50.

THE CHAIR:

Senator ~~Debicella~~.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank Senator Daily for the answers to those questions. Mr. President, I think many of us had issues with securitization when it was in the original budget that passed last year. And I think the streams that we are taking now, Senator Daily has accurately laid out the numbers that we will be facing. And what the bill does is it says these stranded costs were going to expire but instead we're going to keep \$2.50 a month for the average consumer. The other \$5 is going away but all \$7.50 was supposed to go away.

So, essentially, what this bill does is it increases by about \$30 a year the electricity cost of people in the state of Connecticut then what we would otherwise have if we do not pass this bill. So, again, Mr. President, we've come back to taking more money. We've come back to instead of making the changes to government that we should be making, we are increasing electricity rates through taxes on the people of the state of Connecticut.

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Now, Mr. President, I -- I want to move on to the third kind of area in this bill and that is there are an awful lot of bills in here that aren't budget bills or securitization bills but are other bills that have -- that have been put in here. And, through you, Mr. President, I just want to ask a few questions on a couple of them, and I will address them to Senator Harp, although, I'm not sure as the proponent of the bill, I'm not sure if she's the proper person to address these to.

First, Mr. President, in sections 31 and 32 of the bill, actually, make changes to the way the Judicial Branch is funded. Through you, to Senator Harp, could she explain a little bit about what are in those sections and what the -- the impact will be? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

Through you, I'll give it my best shot. I'm just trying to see -- basically, my understanding is that the judicial department because it is actually another branch of government, in the case of a rescission or a holdback, if it disagrees with the rescission that the governor has

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made on the department, can appeal to the Appropriations Committee and then with a two-thirds vote, does not have to undergo that rescission.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So just to be clear, so right now sections 31 and 32 only deal with rescissions the governor may make, not with prospective budgeting but rather the governor coming in under her authority and saying we are going to reduce your spending amounts? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President, no.

As a matter of fact, the Judicial Branch will be treated as the Legislative Branch is today. And I think the State Department of Ethics and our State Election Enforcement Commission, the way their budgets are handled is that they send their budget recommendation to OPM. OPM, basically, may make some changes but those are reflected in lapses, but the budget that they submit is the budget that we, as a legislature, see, although, we

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understand the differences based upon the lapses that exist in those budgets. So that the Judicial Branch, prior to the implementation of this language should it pass, the Executive Branch could actually make changes to their budget. And so they will be handled in the same way that the Legislative Branch is now so that the Executive Branch will not be actually changing the budget recommendations of the Judicial Branch because it is a separate branch of government.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I thank the good senator for the answers and clarifications to those sections.

Mr. President, also through you, sections 34 of the bill creates a new performance-based payment system for the Department of Children and Families for child care services. Through you, Mr. President, if Senator Harp could just address, I wasn't familiar with this before seeing this today, what this is and what the intention is behind it. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

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SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President.

The language in this bill is permissive and the chairs of the -- at least one of the chairs of the Human Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee had a concern over time about the inability of residential treatment facilities in our state to treat certain types of children. For example, we send out of state children that have aggressive behaviors because our treatment facilities don't treat them here. We send out of state children who are sexually inappropriate and aggressive. We send out of state children who are fire starters. So we have over 320 children in facilities across this nation because our residential treatment facilities here in state do not treat those kinds of problems that -- that some children in our state have.

So, basically, what this provision does is provide the authority for the Department of Children and Families to come up with a performance-based payment system that will encourage our state regional -- residential treatment centers to develop capacity to address the needs of those children that we currently send out of state. It is permissive. It ultimately will, at least, provide the comfort for the parents and the support --

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the supports that these kids have to have treatments here in our state as opposed to having them out of state.

We have children out of state as far away as Texas, some in California. We have some that are closer, but there have been complaints among members of the General Assembly for all of the years that I've been here about the degree to which we send children out of the state and the lack of capacity that exists here in state. And this is an effort to begin to try to develop capacity in state to service these children. And it is permissive and will occur within the context of our current budgetary expenditures.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So just to make sure I understand so the commissioner may establish additional payments, if I'm reading this correctly, for salaries and program -- salary increases and program enhancements if -- because that's what I was wondering what "performance" meant. That performance means being able to treat some of these special cases that we are currently sending out of state; is that correct? Through you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President, that's correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, and I thank Senator Harp for the answer to that -- those questions.

Another section of this bill which was a stand-alone bill before -- moving back a little bit are sections 28 through 30, which have to do with homeless youth. And I believe this is a bill that we passed through the Appropriations Committee, but I wanted to see if this was the amended version or the original version. We amended this in Appropriations to actually take a million dollars away in discretionary funding from the commissioner to dedicate it to homeless youth. Is that still in these sections? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I believe that it is. It is the amended version.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Those sections I actually do stand and support, and that is good bill and a good idea to help a real problem we have in our society with homeless youth, so I'm glad to see the amended version is in there.

Mr. President, another stand-alone bill that's been wrapped into our 245-page bill here is in section 38, which are flexible spending accounts in the State Comptroller's Office. And, Mr. President, through you, to Senator Harp, these when we had talked about them, I know it is permissive, but my impression of this is we are essentially establishing a new program for state workers that is taking money from our Social Security Tax account. Through you, Mr. President, what's the fiscal impact of section 38 and how are we going to ensure that this doesn't become just another entitlement to our state employees? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

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Through you, Mr. President, I believe that this was a policy initiative that was passed over two years ago. Basically, what this bill does is set up a mechanism to actually come up with an account that can -- what I would call "hold the funds" so that people can use their employer's social security tax allocation. The reduction that would occur, it's available under federal law to pay for medical bills that would be deducted normally on our income tax, if you had enough, for certain kinds of things that are not provided by your health care plan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So when those funds are deducted and go to the worker's individual account, are -- is the State still on the hook to the federal government for those social security taxes? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

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Through you, Mr. President, I don't believe that they are because I think this is done under federal law, and it's common, particularly, in smaller companies.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank, Senator Harp for the answers to the questions in that section.

And, Mr. President, before I go on to some of the individual ones that seem to be -- "special items," we'll call them.

Just a quick question on the repealers at the end of the budget, sections 152 through 155. These are four repealers that are repealing something, but it's not evident in the bill. They just list the statute number. What four things are being repealed in those sections? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President, in section 152, the correctional ombudsman provisions in our statutes is

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repealed as we eliminated that contract through deficit mitigation bill that we passed.

Section 153 repeals the requirement the Department of Environmental Protection extend from 20 to 30 years the repayment period for the Clean Water Fund, Revenue Bond, borrowed by Ansonia for a sewage treatment plant.

And then, section 154 removes the various provisions related to HUSKY managed care since we are now moving into an ASO model instead of a managed-care model. Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President. I thank her for the answers to those questions. Those all seem like common sense things that are in line with the budget that we have before us.

So, Mr. President, now we've talked about the budget itself, securitization, some of the other bills we've wrapped in here. Now for some of the quirky things that stand out to me in this budget. One I would ask about, through you, to Senator Harp is section 85 of the bill which appears to give an additional \$3 million to

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Hartford and the Hispanic Health Council for renovation and repairs. Through you, Mr. President, if Senator Harp could just describe this section to us.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President, I believe that these are bonding sections. And I would yield to Senator Daily for response or Senator DeFronzo.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo, do you want to accept that yield? You're not sure, huh?

SENATOR DEFRONZO:

I guess -- I guess I don't have much of a choice.

THE CHAIR:

There you go.

SENATOR DEFRONZO:

Through you, Mr. President, as I understood the question, through you, Mr. President, you want to know what the purpose of those funds are for? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir. I believe that was the question from Senator DeBicella.

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SENATOR DEFRONZO:

There -- there is -- there is created in the existing bond act a -- a pool of funds, \$6 million pool of authorizations, I should say, for the support of health-related institutions or facilities, including community health centers. And there was a request from the Hartford delegation at some point during the session to include -- there are three -- I don't have the language in front of me but I re -- as I recall there are three -- three identified organizations. I think the Charter Oak Community Health Center, the Hispanic Health Council and there was one other. And each of them were being -- there was a request from the Hartford delegation for \$1 million for each of them. And I recall the authorization of those existing funds -- those are not new funds -- they are existing authorizations were requested and determination was made that the best place to include those authorizations are in this -- this act that's now before us. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Through you, Mr. President. It seems like the pool, which is \$6 million, if I'm looking at line 2433. So

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we're basically taking half of that pool of money that's a grant in aid and designating it for specific projects. Otherwise, without this, would it simply be up to DPH to determine what -- what is the best projects to actually spend this money on if this language were not here?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFRONZO:

Through you, Mr. President. Typically, there'd be an application process and community health cen -- well, let me -- that would be the typical process. There'd be an application process. Community health centers from around the state could apply for the money. You'll see if you -- if you actually went to the -- to the bond act, you would see that there's another authorization in that section, and we would -- I think we'd call it an "identified project." I believe the New London Community Health Center specified is an authorized project in that section, as well, although it may not be in this -- in this actual bill. But it was prior authorization. So monies can be authorized and, ultimately, allocated two ways: Either the specified projects which is not uncommon, or they can be applied for in the case of a

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determination being made that the department will take applications. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Oh, thank you, Mr. President. I thank Senator DeFronzo for the answer to those questions.

Mr. President, my issue with this is, I think Senator DeFronzo laid it out quite correctly. There's typically two ways to allocate these money. One is through a competitive grant process. The other is -- through lack of a better word, an "earmark." Something we normally don't talk about here. It's more of a federal term. But this is designating funds for a particular project that has not necessarily been through a competitive grant process. And I know very little about these, you know, not being from the Hartford area, these specific needs. But I can tell you there are very similar needs in Bridgeport, and Stamford and all around our state. And so my worry is by putting these earmarks here and not allowing the competitive grant process to go forward, we might be sub-optimizing health in the state for the sake of a couple of projects that may or may not be at the top of the priority list, but we put them in

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line 2432 of the bill so I have concerns about that section.

Mr. President, through you, again, I believe probably to Senator DeFronzo, sections 143 and 144, if he could explain those to *ours. It seems to have to do with the Hartford OPEB bonds. And I'm -- I was unfamiliar with those. So, through you, Mr. President, if he could just explain -- if the correct person to ask is Senator DeFronzo, what those sections are about.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeBicella, I believe Senator Daily would probably be in a better position to -- would you like to direct that question to --

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Please. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

First, I would like to tell you there's been agreement with OPM that that section will be removed. But to let you know the answer to your question, the City of Hartford had proposed to sell bonds to cover their OPEB obligations, which is now allowed by the federal

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government. And very basically, what they would do is be able to keep the arbitrage and then from that fund pay their annual payment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella,

SENATOR DAILY:

But we're not doing it.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President, thank you for the explanation to that -- those sections.

Mr. President, that -- that I'll do it with -- for my questions. I thank Senator Harp, Senator DeFronzo, and Senator Daily for indulging me. It is a large bill with much in it that I wanted to make sure the circle was aware of some of the details that were in it. But, Mr. President, today I stand opposed to this bill and to this budget deficit reduction package. And I think each of the four areas we've talked about have serious concerns with them. First, the budget itself relies on one-time gimmicks and revenue estimates from the last three days to balance the budget, fails to make any structural changes that we've talked about, fails to reduce spending, reduce the size of government, and leaves the state in a dangerous fiscal position with \$8 billion of

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deficits for the next two years with our only plan right now being hope. Hope the economy recovers.

We have the ideas of how to reinvent government. We just need the political will to implement them. They're not in this bill.

Second, on the securitization, I have serious concerns that this is going to continue to charge the citizens of the State of Connecticut artificially high amounts for our energy. We talked a lot just the other day about how do we reduce energy costs in Connecticut. Well, this bill increases it by \$30 for every family above and beyond what is going to happen with this charge going away in the next year or so.

Third, Mr. President, the other bills we have in here, I think are a mixed bag as they are when you put a lot of bills into one bill. I think the -- the youth homelessness section of the bill is a good bill. I worry a little bit about the judicial branch funding process change. I worry we are carving out different areas of government that are going to be more and more immune from spending cuts that we so desperately need to make. I think the flexible spending of the accounts seems like a decent idea. It seems like it's been thought through well.

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But my worry, Mr. President, is that we have so many bills in here some of which just for the sake of time I haven't addressed that are all in this one bill buried there.

And, finally, Mr. President, I'm concerned about some of the rats that are in here. I'm concerned about the earmarks that we've made for specific projects rather than letting the competitive process go through to allow the most important needs of the state to be met. It is always a bad idea, in my opinion, to do things for certain projects, especially, in the back of the budget where we could have, in the light of day, a better competitive grant process to ensure the money is used in its most effective.

So, Mr. President, I stand in opposition to this bill today. I thank the chamber for their indulgence, and I urge a no vote on this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thanks, Mr. President.

I heard when somebody once say that a good budget bill is like a good root canal. And I somehow -- humorous but somehow it seemed to -- to be right.

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The bill before us, I think, does some good things. It -- it's -- it has sensitivity in the spending cuts. It preserves aid to the schools. It preserves aid to our towns. It makes a very good use of federal stimulus. There's a lot of hard work been put into it, as we all know, by our leaders and our committee chairs. And what this bill also does and we have to be mindful of that is that it gives us relief from having to come into a special session this summer to try to get the budget done.

The problem I'm having with it -- and it's a serious problem -- is the raiding of the Energy Conservation and Efficiency Funds. And I -- the problem I have is that raiding that fund appears to be a reversal and contradiction of what we're trying to do in Connecticut in three ways, and let me outline those to you very briefly. The first is we've identified one of our major structural economic problems in Connecticut as our energy costs, and it's something that we have to deal with. From my reading of this bill and the raiding of the Energy Efficiency Fund, there is going to be an increase, a necessary increase in energy costs. And that's for this reason, currently our ratepayers are charged three-tenths of a cent on every kilowatt hour and that raises

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about \$82 million a year which goes into conservation measures. It leads to relighting. It leads to energy audits in our homes and businesses. It leads to rebates on appliances. It leads to motor upgrades. It leads to tax credits and other incentives, to insulation and really good weatherization projects.

Those are going to be cut, substantially cut, because we've hit the Energy Efficiency Fund. There's going to be cut by about 35 percent and the effect of that will obviously be to increase our energy costs. And when you combine that necessary increase in energy cost with a continuation of the surcharge on our ratepayers, it becomes a double whammy with respect to energy. And so I feel that that part of this -- of the bill is going directly against what we're trying to do for Connecticut -- in red -- reducing energy costs.

Secondly, jobs. Jobs are such a priority for us, and we're all working on it. We've done some good job legislation this session. But there's been a projection here as to what this bill will do in cutting the Energy Efficiency Fund on jobs. Jessie Stratton -- you know Jessie Stratton -- former state representative, chair of the Environment Committee when she was here, and now a person who runs Environment Northeast -- has

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projected that the raiding of the Energy Efficiency Fund will actually result in 1,120 Connecticut residents losing jobs, 1,120 loss of jobs in Connecticut from the raiding of this fund.

She has done a study that's very interesting I recommend to you. It's called -- the study's called "Energy Efficiency in Connecticut, The Engine of Economic Growth." And that study brings a conclusion that for every million dollars that's -- that's invested in the -- in the Energy Efficiency Fund that it creates -- it creates 40 jobs. For every million dollars invested, it creates 40 jobs. And we are reducing the Energy Efficiency Fund by this bill by about \$28 million a year for seven years. That's a substantial effect on jobs in Connecticut, very substantial effect and so we're raising energy costs, reducing jobs.

And then, third -- third factor after -- after energy costs and jobs, is the environment. We have been advocating -- all of us have been advocating and approving bills this year here in the chamber for green jobs and a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. We believed it. We've read the science on it. We're headed in that direction. We've been advocates of green jobs.

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Unfortunately, because of the programs that would be cut by raiding this fund, the programs, like weatherization, motor upgrades, home energy audits, ~~we~~ relighting, insulation, all those things will be cut. We're taking a major step back with respect to the environment. We're taking a major step back in promoting carbon dioxide emissions, not reductions but a -- but emissions.

So I -- I am discouraged by that part of this bill. The Energy Efficiency Fund represents something that is really working for Connecticut, really working well for Connecticut. It's -- it's creating jobs. It's cleaning up the environment. It's reducing energy costs. And my fear, as I've tried to express, is that the bill will actually reverse us in -- in those good directions.

I liked -- I like what Massachusetts has done. Massachusetts recently tripled, tripled -- this year, it tripled its Energy Efficiency Fund. That's the direction we should be taking. And I regret that we are not doing -- going in that direction this year through this bill.

Thanks, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

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Thank you, Mr. President.

I stand with great concern for the future of the State of Connecticut when I saw the final version of the bill before us today. It evoked a couple of different reactions on my part, and I'm sure there are many state citizens out there watching this deliberation today who would share the same concerns. And I hope that all of you whether you're going to vote for this or not share these concerns.

I'm -- I'm worried that government in Connecticut is beginning to price itself or has already started the process of pricing itself out of a job that is so important, which is the job of providing goods and services to the people of Connecticut. That's why we exist in the first place. We're here to set rules. We're here to set guidelines, but we're here to help other people. And when our cost structure gets to the size that it is today versus what our tax base, what our economy is able to pay for, that's when it becomes of great concern to me.

A couple of points as to what the backdrop looks like in the state of Connecticut today, there exists as of today, and this is a moving target that will inevitably grow rapidly over the course of time. We're

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looking at unfunded pension and other than pension fund liability, pension benefit liabilities of between 50 and 80 billion dollars, billion dollars. If we can't balance a budget in -- in an intelligent fashion and start to create surpluses, how are we ever going to start to chew away at 50 to 80 billion dollars in pension and nonpension liabilities, unfunded pension liabilities?

We're looking at a \$700-plus million deficit for Fiscal Year '11, that's the reason why we're here speaking about this today. And if we can't, in an intelligent fashion, without borrowing funds, without borrowing from a Budget Reserve Fund in the future, one that's dwindling here very, very quickly. If we can't balance that, how are we ever going to start to pay for those unfunded liabilities. How are we going to keep up with the ever-escalating costs of government, particularly, on the -- on the personal services side. The budget states, I believe towards the top, that the appropriations growth is .9 percent. Under ordinary circumstances, bravo, terrific, that's great. We shouldn't be spending more money than we have, and we shouldn't be spending much more money than we had last year. The only problem is that everybody else has recognized what the effect is of this great recession

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that we're still very much in the middle of right here even though we think we've hit the inflection point with respect to Connecticut's economy and tax revenues to the state. But .9-percent versus what we should be doing, what every other businesses, just about every other business in the state of Connecticut -- I know all of you individually, your families and your partnerships have all made cutbacks.

In every company that I'm involved in, we've had a minimum cutback over the last 18 months of 15 percent per year on the cost end and that has allowed us to survive these very difficult times. We're forgetting one thing amongst others that is so pare -- of paramount importance, and that is the rating agencies have once again shot a warning shot across our bow. They've unequivocally stated that we are in trouble and we are likely to have our ratings downgraded. This is not something that's good for the state of Connecticut or any other state out there for that matter because it increases the cost of our borrowing. It also depresses the demand for Connecticut General Obligation Bonds and other bonds that would benefit the state of Connecticut.

So if Moody's and S&P are out there saying that the State of Connecticut is relying far too much on one-time

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budget gimmicks, on federal revenues to the State of Connecticut, which will not be there in 2012, and not addressing the all important issue of our cost structure here. If we're not making meaningful cuts to our structural costs, then we've got a problem in the minds of the rating agencies.

I am concerned that because, sequentially, for however many years now, we always have a bigger budget every year. And in the worst of times, this is undoubtedly, relatively speaking, worse than what it was, like back in the 1930s during the Great Depression. Our budget, of course, back then was much smaller than it is today and easier to manage. But relatively speaking, it's worse if you look at the numbers objectively. So I have, through you, Mr. President, I have a couple of questions -- and then I'll get back into making a few more statements -- of Senator Harp.

(Senator Gaffey of the 13th in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

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Through you, Mr. President, Senator Harp, the \$100 million pension deferral, is there an interest rate associated with that deferral?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

Not to my knowledge.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Okay. My understanding is that there is a cost whenever there's a deferral. And I would like to -- if I can't get the answer from Senator Harp, although maybe she is correct -- if there's a differing opinion, I would like to get that at -- at some point either, through you, Mr. President, or in the hallways out there.

My understanding is that there are -- there would be an interest rate. The last deferral, I believe, was at an 8 percent interest rate, which we all know today is a pretty spectacular guaranteed return. Risk adjusted that's more than double that number so call it 16 percent. And that is of particular concern.

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Another question, through you, Mr. President, for
Senator Harp.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

Senator Harp, prepare yourself.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, the funds that we will
be receiving from Washington, ARRA funds, Medicaid funds,
what's the level or the probability of receiving those
dollars as indicated in this budget here?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I believe that we have all agreed that our
expectation is that we will receive these funds. Many
other states have built them into their budgets, but, for
clarity sake, they have not been passed by Congress, yet.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Okay. And once again, through you, Mr. President,
in your estimation being the person who knows the most

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about this budget, what is your estimated -- estimate of
the probability?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp:

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you --

THE CHAIR:

-- estimated probability.

SENATOR HARP:

You know, I believe that we will receive the funds.
You know, I've -- I'm -- I believe that we will so I
don't know whether or not I can give an estimate of -- is
it 75 percent that we'll receive it or 50 percent, but I
believe that we will. Over 50 percent of the states in
the United States have budgeted receiving these dollars.
And in the same way that we assure that we hold our towns
harmless, I believe Congress will do the same for states
in this country.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz, you have the floor, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

I share your optimism and -- and I hope you are
right about this. It is essential to our State's

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solvency and ability to continue on as -- as we know it today. So I'm optimistic about that, but one thing I would like to point out is that we have to be extra careful about this funding coming in from the outside. S&P and Moody has indicated to us that we are relying on it too much.

We don't know what the future streams of revenue from or grants or funding or whatever you want to call it coming from the federal government will be. So, therefore, we have to be very careful and not become complacent that we're receiving these funds. And also be very, very careful about how we look at this Budget Reserve Fund or rainy-day fund. It has that name "rainy-day fund" for a very specific reason and that is when you get into trouble, fiscal trouble, this is the fund that's there to help you out. And that's exactly what we're doing.

But, I would als -- I would caution that we need to do it in a much more reasonable fashion so that we're not going through it so quickly. In essence, what it does is it numbs the body, numbs the mind to the intellectual ability to realize that we have a serious fiscal problem in the state of Connecticut. If we could just put another bandaid on the wound and get through another few

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months, we don't really address the problem that we have underneath that bandaid and so I would caution everybody in thinking about how they're going to vote on this proposed budget to think about that, as well, because we do utilize a huge portion of the Budget Reserve Fund. And once again, we don't know what our economy is going to be like in two years' time and three and four and five years' time. Wouldn't it be prudent because we know we're not going to be generating surpluses, wouldn't it be prudent to have a little more money left in that Budget Reserve Fund to use under circumstances that could be even more extreme?

One statement I heard today, which was particularly alarming to me, is -- and this goes hand and hand with the Budget Reserve Fund discussion we just had, which is that when you feel that you've hit the inflection point and when you feel that revenues are on the rise again, I would caution everybody to avoid thinking that we're out of the woods here yet. Recessions are ugly things. And it's always difficult to figure out when you're really coming out of a recession.

Connecticut typically lags by about 18 months to the rest of the national economy. Yes, you can make arguments that the national economy is, in fact, out of

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the recession on the whole. There are so many different components to the economic data that we see.

We may see GDP growth in a positive -- in the positive column. Well, that doesn't necessarily mean that all of the economy is out of the recession. So I would urge everybody to be very careful about that. When I heard that there was an immediate bump up in the economy and the level of revenues to the state of Connecticut, I would take that with a great deal of caution.

The other area I'd like to spend a little bit of time on is -- and let's call it what is -- it really is -- it really is securitization. When you take a current -- either fund or a current stream of revenue and you sell notes in the open market that is securitization by anybody's definition. So the economic recovery notes -- this is a question, through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily -- through you, Mr. President -- through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily --

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

-- is -- is what is the -- what's the interest rate on the notes for the ERNs, as best you understand it, as of today?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I'm not certain what the ERNs are. We're not acting on those today. We did before. But I think in conversations, they were in the neighborhood of 4 percent.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Four percent, 4 percent. Thank you for that answer. Do we know, given the duration of this issuance, at let's assume an interest rate of 4 percent, what extra money would that cost the taxpayers of Connecticut? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you.

But I'd like to ask you for some clarification. Are you talking about the borrowing that's in the bill that we're acting on today?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Correct. Yes, through you, Mr. President, that's correct.

SENATOR DAILY:

The Governor has said that that's not securitization. Those are Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds. And if the Governor says that, that's good enough for me.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Fair enough.

SENATOR DAILY:

And you could pose your question again. I'm very ready to answer.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you. So the question is do we have any idea, through you, Mr. President, of what the extra cost would be by engaging in -- in the ERNs?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

I have to go back to a question you asked before.
The interest rate we anticipate on these is 3 percent.
These are triple-A rated. We will be paying 136.4
million for eight years. And I don't have right here the
total cost to the State of Connecticut, but it is
significant, as we both know, any time you borrow that
kind of money.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Okay. Thank you.

We may not have a choice but to engage in this
borrowing. However, I think over the long haul it's very
important for everybody to remember that we should try to
avoid getting into a situation like this so we don't have
to go to -- on a short notice go to the bond market and
look for funding for the State of Connecticut,
particularly, as it goes into -- or, particularly,
because it goes into our operating -- paying for our
operating expenses. I think it's just a bad practice. I
would love to see over the course of time more cushion
built into the system so, in fact, we don't have to go to
the bond market when we get into a tough period such as
this one.

The other concern, Mr. President, I have is that if, in fact, we're using the -- and Senator Meyer's right here -- we're using money that's in the Clean Energy -- sorry -- the Energy Efficiency Fund to support this borrowing.

If, in fact, we're doing that, what it -- what it is in essence is it's -- it's a bad tax. It really is a tax at the end of the day, and it's a -- it's a worse than normal tax because you're not only tacking on to utility bills this extra charge. You're also borrowing money, which ultimately the taxpayer, the ratepayer, has to pay so we have to be aware of that double whammy. It's as if the credit card company called you up and said, Mr. President, said, you know, We're going to put this extra charge on your credit card, and we're going to go out and borrow money on the open market, and we're going to charge you the interest for borrowing that money, and we're going to just stick that automatically on your credit card. You have no choice, you have to pay it.

The transfer are of -- of interests -- fund transfers, \$4 million from the Workers' Comp Fund to the -- to the General Fund. May I ask a question, another question of Senator Harp, if it's okay with you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, Senator Harp, are you concerned about any significant negative implications of the \$4 million transfer to the General Fund from the Workers' Comp Fund?

I'm not exactly sure how that works, but if we take \$4 million out of it, are we harming anybody irreparably?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, I don't believe that we are, sir. And I believe that if -- if there would be a need for those funds, I believe they're surplus funds now. And that's typically an amount of surplus that we have year after year. But if something happens that is an aberration next budget year, then we would have to address it through some sort of mitigation.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Harp, for that question.

There's another transfer of \$5 million from the Community Investment Act to the General Fund. Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Harp, is -- is there a chance of ever being able to fund that again if you -- if we, in fact, take the \$5 million out, and -- and how big is that account currently?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I believe that this fund is replenished every year. And it comes from filing fees for various types of land records in our court.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

I'll end by thanking both Senator Harp and Senator Daily for putting all of the time that they put into creating budgets and creating revenues for the State of Connecticut, doing all the right things to make sure that we have a steady stream of revenue to the State of

Connecticut to pay for the delivery of -- of goods and services to the people of Connecticut. Again, that's our primary function here as legislators and part of Connecticut's state government.

I will just end on this note. If we do not have our fiscal house in order, it makes life difficult for everybody, not only the recipients of these goods and services we're talking about but every citizen throughout the state of Connecticut who pays taxes is constantly going to be looking at higher tax rates, higher utility rates because of these different charges that are put on the bills every month, looking at a whole slew of other costs that go up because the cost of state government is too big.

We need to at some points get our hands around this. We need to understand much better fundamentally how big our tax base is. What is our full capacity? And if we assume it's X and you take a certain level of tax threshold and you say that's X percent of X, have we gone beyond that? Are we spending beyond our means? I think the answer is, yes. And what I'm particularly concerned about is that if we don't get a rein here on spending and control it much better going forward that we will not have quite the tax base that we have enjoyed over 100 to

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150 years since Connecticut started taxing companies and individuals or trade. Thank you very much, Mr.

President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Frantz.

Will you remark further on this Emergency Certified Bill?

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President, good evening.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Mr. President, I'd like to ask a couple of questions to Senator Daily, if she's in the mood for answering questions.

THE CHAIR:

That's questionable and please proceed.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily, I think it might be helpful for anyone who is watching on TV or reads the transcript that when they say what's going on in Hartford? What are you guys up to? Through you to Senator Daily, would it be fair to say, we're

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trying to fix our budget for Fiscal Year 2011, which is going to begin on July 1, 2010, and end on June 30 2011? Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily, is that fair to say to the man on the street what we're trying to do?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

That is exactly what we're trying to do.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Okay. And, through you, Mr. President --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback. Let's go through the Chair, please.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Through you, Mr. President -- I apologize -- to Senator Daily. Could we say to the man on the street, what we have found out is that after all of our best efforts when we get to June 30, 2011, the end of Fiscal Year 2011, we are \$955 million shy of what we need to do what we want to do here in the state of Connecticut? Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Thank you, Senator Roraback.

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Yes, if we took no action, that's exactly what would happen at the end of that fiscal year, we'd be shy that much money.

SENATOR RORABACK:

So here --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

through you, Mr. President, here we are before the beginning of the fiscal year, trying to figure out what to do with next fiscal year, and we say, geez, if we do everything we want to do, we get to the end of the day, we're \$955 million shy of what we need. So kind of speaking, generally, to the man on the street, we've got two choices or actually kind of three choices, I guess. We could either find \$955 million in spending reductions. We could increase taxes by \$955 million or we could borrow \$955 million. And when I go home to my district tomorrow, Mr. President, through you, to Senator Daily, does she have any advice on what I should tell the man or woman on the street we're doing to solve that \$955

million problem? Or, through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily, what will she tell her constituents when she goes home tomorrow how we solved that problem?

Through you, to Senator Daily

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Through you, Mr. President, perhaps, we should go to each other's districts.

Let me not minimize what -- what this is. First, we are trying to repair what we passed last September. So this decision -- decision to securitize was voted on then. We also voted on a requirement that the Treasurer and the OPM Secretary give us their best recommendations about how to solve that securitization problem. From that day until this, our condition has improved because revenues are up slightly. We are not going to securitize. We are going to have Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds and at a lesser amount than what we had thought when we passed this budget.

The recommendation -- there were six recommendations contained in the information that we requested. The first was to take some of the stranded costs that were due to expire. Anybody can try to dodge it but that is a

tax, and we have an obligation to pay that money. That is considered to be the least painful because that is coming out of everybody's pocket right now each and every week. When this goes into effect, they'll be getting more money in their pocket than they do now but not as much as they would have absent our action.

The part that was not a primary choice or a first choice, particularly not a first choice of mine, is to use any of those Energy Conservation and Efficiency Funds. I'd say the only person in this building that it pains more than it pains me is for my good friend, Jessie Stratton. We wrote that together in 1998. We first tried to do it in 1997, when we were looking at deregulation. The Energy Committee wouldn't accept it. Deregulation didn't go forward and the next year, it did go forward with this as part of it.

I know firsthand all the things that Senator Meyer was describing about the job losses, the loss in the -- that sort of business model going forward. We took money from those funds in 2002 to our detriment. And it wasn't our choice to do this again, but we are doing it again.

The other thing that we're doing in this effort to borrow is changing a passed appropriation of bond issuance of \$5 million every year for the last three

years. That was for energy as well. And only \$2 million of that has been spent. So we are establishing a new Green Connecticut Loan Fund through CHEFA, which has a good history of moving these kinds of dollars out. And that will be \$18 million, which we hope to leverage in the private sector for \$40 million. So those are the kinds of things that we can tell our constituents we're trying to do to make things better for us at the end of this fiscal year and all the fiscal years going forward.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Daily.

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I appreciate Senator Daily's answer such as it was, but what I was trying to ascertain, Mr. President, when I see someone on the street corner in Torrington tomorrow, we're not going to have that kind of time. They're going to say, you had a \$955 million problem. How did you deal with it? Did you cut spending? I think we can say, no, because at the end of the day that's the size of the problem that we have. Did you borrow? I think I'd have to say, yes, because whether you call it securitization or ERRNs or ERNs, sounds like notes, sounds like

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someone's going to give us \$955 million cash on the barrel head. Now, borrowing isn't enough because we have to pay back that borrowing. So I think I'm going to say, listen, we borrowed \$955 million, and we raised taxes to service the cost of that borrowing. Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily, would I be misleading my constituents if I were to explain what we're doing in that way? Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And through you, Mr. President, no, I don't consider that you're misleading anybody. And my answer would be the same.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I appreciate Senator Daily's answers. I -- I'm troubled because I think that at some point in time Connecticut has to have a reality check. And the reality check is that it's not healthy, either in the short or the long term, for us to borrow our way out of a deficit.

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No family has that option or families that have those -- that option once they use that option, sadly find themselves in bankruptcy court when their credit cards are maxed out and they realize, oh, my gosh, I've tried to borrow my way out of my problems and now I'm under water so deep I can't get out.

But, Mr. President, it's not bad enough that we're borrowing our way out of the problem. The money that we're using -- the taxes that we're increasing to pay the borrowing, we are misappropriating funds and using them for purposes for which they were not intended. Mr. President, by my calculations -- well, let me ask Senator Daily, because the fiscal note's a little confusing. Through you, Mr. President, we're going to pay these Economic Recovery notes off over a term of eight years, is that correct, Mr. President, through you --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR RORABACK:

-- to Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Through you, Mr. President, yes, eight years.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you.

And through you, Mr. President, is the first payment going on these notes going to be made in Fiscal Year '11 or in Fiscal Year '12 or in Fiscal Year '13 or when's the first payment? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

I think that will be done in Fiscal Year '12.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So by my calculation, Mr. President, we're paying \$112 million dollars a year in, quote, stranded cost charges, times eight is \$900 million, roughly, in increased charges to the electric bills of residents and businesses in Connecticut. So, through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily, would she agree that essentially, we're raising electric rates by \$900 million in order to service the debt to get out from under the hole that we face at the end of Fiscal Year '11? Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

I wouldn't agree with that at all. The electric bill that every CL&P customer will get when this goes into effect will be reduced by two-thirds. So we'd like -- many would like to claim that that difference is other than a tax, that's not a correct claim. But the bills will be reduced. And the language in -- in this bill requires that it be reduced.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

And I guess, Mr. President, Senator Daily may be looking at the glass as half full, and I appreciate that. But, where I come from, this charge is scheduled to disappear. If we do nothing, this charge would disappear. Instead, we're going to keep this charge and not use it to pay off stranded costs but to use it to balance the state budget. So for each of the next eight years, we're going to be collecting \$112 million from electric ratepayers that they would not otherwise be paying if we didn't do what we're doing tonight. So the way I look at it, Mr. President, is we're increasing electric charges on Connecticut residents and consumers and businesses to the tune of \$900 million. And I'm not

going to try to convince Senator Daily to see it my way, but I think that a cogent argument can be made that that's what we're doing.

But even more distressing to me, is we're taking nearly \$30 million a year for each of the next eight years from money which people in my district are hungry to use to install solar panels, clean energy solutions, energy efficiency opportunities. We're oversubscribed today with the money that we bring in now. It's not enough to satisfy the demand. So what are we doing? We're reducing the supply of funds to set -- to satisfy this demand by \$35 million.

Mr. President, if you take \$30 million for each of the next eight years, that's \$240 million that we told the people of Connecticut would be available for our energy future to promote energy conservation efficiency, to encourage people to convert to clean, green power, and we're taking that money. And the funny thing is I'll bet on the bill it's still going to say this is a wonderful charge for alternative energy. Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily, do you know is our electric bill going to say in small print, "and by the way, this money is really going to be used to pay off the borrowing

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that got the State out of the problem it was in in Fiscal Year '11"? Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Daily.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I don't know what the electric companies are going to do and how they're going to show that. But the other points that you make are 100 percent correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you -- you know, we -- last year we -- we tried to pass a bill or we did pass a bill -- and I see people from the Judicial Branch up in the -- in the gallery.

We passed a bill that said there's a fund that was established to reimburse people when their lawyers steal from them. Right, there was a fund that we created that lawyers pay into that when -- when there are -- when a client is stolen from, they get paid back money from that fund. And we stole that money to balance our state budget. And happily, the people in the Judicial Branch and elsewhere, Legal Services said, wait, that's not

right. You can't use money that's earmarked to make people whole when their lawyers steal from them and use it to balance the state budget. And they were right, and we actually -- we backed off. The Governor backed off. We said, Okay, you're right, we won't steal that money because that's not what it was intended for.

But it seems like we're slow to learn the lesson, Mr. President, because the money for the Clean Energy Fund and the Energy Efficiency Fund, we've told the people of Connecticut you're paying something extra on your electric bill for these good purposes. And now we're stealing it for a wholly unrelated purpose, and that's not -- I just think that that's not being honest with the people of Connecticut.

And the other thing that upsets me is when we passed the Community Investment Act, a lot of skeptics said when the state gets into bad times, they're going to steal that money for other purposes. And I, as a proponent of that bill, said, no, no, no. I want to put in the bill if the State tries to use that money for other purposes, you won't have to shell out 53 bucks every time you record a deed in the land records or a release. And I wish we had put that language in the bill, Mr. President, because the skeptics have proven right. We're taking --

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the dairy farmers in my district are going to suffer because we are taking money from a program which when people say, you know, I don't mind paying that \$53 when I record my deed if I know it's going to help the dairy farmers; I know it's going to help affordable housing; I know it's going to help restore the restore the historic building or church in my community. But now, Mr. President; we've seen fit to say, continue to collect that money, but instead of using it for the purposes for which it was intended, let it solve our budget hole.

Mr. President, no doubt we're up against a really tough challenge here in the State of Connecticut, but I think we could do a lot better, by ourselves, and by the people of Connecticut by starting to bite the bullet because it's not going away. And we can -- we can dig the hole a little deeper, but we're going to regret it, Mr. President, in my opinion.

Our failure to take -- to make hard decisions today is going to make for even harder decisions tomorrow. I urge rejection.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Roraback.

Senator Daily, you have the floor, ma'am.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Senator Roraback, the challenges that you pose and the example you give of other judicial money, we know to be correct. And there was also an issue with collecting money for Long Island Sound and then diverting it. That was challenged, and the Attorney General said, as I recall, no legislature, you cannot do that. But, as far as, I know this has not been formally challenged.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Daily.

Will you remark further on the Emergency Certified Bill? Will you remark further?

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I have a question for Senator Harp, if I might, through you.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, Senator.

Senator Harp, prepare yourself.

SENATOR RORABACK:

A couple ques -- thank you, Mr. President.

These are a couple questions just to clarify an item or two in the -- in the bill. Through you, Mr.

President, it's my understanding that the State will be moving from a MCO to and ASO program for its HUSKY and Charter Oak plan in this bill; is that correct? Mr. President, through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

Through you, Mr. President, it is true that this bill moves the HUSKY program from a managed-care program or capitated program to an ASO model. That's administrative support organization model.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And through you, Mr. President, there's been some concern expressed that the last time this -- this happened there had been some dislocation in the -- in the process in the processing of claims and the administration of the program. And I just wanted to inquire, through you, Mr. President, what steps are there

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in the -- or what provisions are there in the bill to minimize the potential for these disruptions in the future? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

With -- with the approval of CMS, which is our federal center for medic -- Medicare and Medicaid services, the ASO model that we contemplate in this bill will have the MCOs, which will be managing this population, continue to manage their networks and continue to pay the bills.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, additionally, the -- the existing contracts that have been negotiated by hospitals, is it the intent of this bill, through you, Mr. President, that those contracts be maintained at the current reimbursement rates should be retained in place? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

Through you, Mr. President, I believe that the --
that's what I contemplate, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFRONZO:

Okay. So, through you, Mr. President, so it's my understanding then that any savings that are assumed to be generated through this administrative change would be coming from administrative changes in the program rather than adjustments in rates that have been negotiate previously? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

My -- I believe that the savings that are indicated in the budget are based upon actually paying the administrative rate and not asking them to capitate and to function within that whole system of capitation. So that we will be paying the bills -- we will be asking

them to pay the bills, but it's not -- they will not be assuming the risk that they assume under the current program. So, ultimately, what we will be paying them for is their administrative services.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFONZO:

All right.

Through you, Mr. President, you know this much better than I do, so maybe you could put it in -- in -- in simple terms for me. I guess the que -- the basic question is that some hospitals have negotiated rates with -- with their current carriers under the MCO plan. And the concern is that the rates will be subject to modification when the tran -- when the transition goes to the ASO system. And that -- I think that's the -- the concern and the question that I'd like to try and get answered. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

You know, I think that rates constantly change between MCOs and hospitals today. What this does not

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contemplate, which was contemplated in early versions of ASO, is going to the fee for service Medicaid rates. So that within the context of what MCOs and hospitals do all the time, I don't believe that their relationship will change. And I -- we are not requesting that the rates the hospitals are paid go back to the Medicaid fee-for-service rate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

With that, I want to thank Senator Harp for her answers.

And thank you, Mr. President, for your indulgence.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator DeFronzo.

Will you remark further on the Emergency Certified Bill?

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I have -- I just have a particular area that I wanted to discuss briefly with Senator Daily, regarding

for -- for purpose of legislative intent in connection with the Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds.

Earlier in the year I was concerned about the allocation of the responsibility to pay the Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds, specifically, in connection with the utilities. And today, I've done some -- I spoke to an official at the Treasurer's Office. I'm comfortable how they're allocated between CL&P, UI and the municipal utilities. And really my main concern in lay language is that each household basically in the state is equally responsible for the payback figures. And that being said, I've looked in the -- in the bill on page 212 of it. There is language there that -- that comforts me. And I'll just kind of recite it. And I just want to confirm this is the understanding of Chairman Daily. But in this or on line 4492, it details the departments to allocate the responsibility of the funding for these equitably between the electric distribution companies -- being the three companies I just previously mentioned -- and further language states that such allocation, you know, may commence of different dates and may vary over term provided -- and this is that language that I -- that I'm concerned about or I should say I'm comfortable about now -- such charges are equitably to be allocated to the

customers of each electric distribution company. And they all have this -- the substantially the same present value after consultation.

So in normal language, I'm just trying to get -- get -- get across for legislative intent, do -- over the three electric companies, is it fair to say that the electric consumer, statewide, will have the same proportionate allocation or burden under the bill? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And, through you, Mr. President, yes, Senator Doyle, that is the intention. It is the direction in this language to the Department to set this up so it's equitably allocated and so that every household has basically the same responsibility.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle, you have the floor, sir.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Yes, and I thank Senator Daily for her response, and I thank Senator Daily for her patience.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator McLachlan, you've been seeking the floor.
You have the floor, sir.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I have some concerns about this document, primarily, because the length of time that we've had to review it I think is unacceptable. It's my understanding that this process has been ongoing for some time and, yet, myself and staff members in the Senate Republican Caucus probably only had about 90 minutes before we began debate to really get a good look at this 245-page document. So I'm always uncomfortable when we have to consider hundreds of millions of dollars in decisions and -- and we're -- we just don't seem to be having enough time to really vet the document. So that's my first concern.

My second concern is the absence of government reforms that have been talked about in this building for a long time. Most recently, this legislature created the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes, which I had the distinct pleasure of serving on with the chairs of the Government Administration and Elections Committee and the chair of Appropriations. And so, through you, Mr.

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President, I'd like to ask a question to Senator Harp,
please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, Senator Harp, the Commission on
Enhancing Agency Outcomes, of course, was just one of,
perhaps, dozens of government efficiency reports, task
forces that have been conducted in state government over
many years. This is really seems to be one of the most
recent ones, as the work began in February of 2009, and
we filed our report with the General Assembly, I think it
was February 1st of this year. Does this budget document
that we are considering today, incorporate any of the
recommendations of the Commission on Enhancing Agency
Outcomes --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp?

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

-- through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, I believe that section 57 includes some of the recomen -- is it section 57? It's the section having to do with the changes for the Department of Motor Vehicles. And I'm just going to see if I can find that section.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

In the interest of time, if I may interrupt Senator Harp.

Senator Harp, perhaps, we could step back to that question at a later time and --

SENATOR HARP:

Oh, excuse me, sir. If you don't mind, I did find it.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Sure.

SENATOR HARP:

It was section --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, sir, section 25 and 26 reflects some of the work that was done in conjunction with the Enhancing Agency Outcomes and the subcommittee relative to finding savings by changing the manner in which some of our business is done in the State, certainly, not as much as was contemplated by the committee.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you.

And thank you for that answer, Senator Harp. So the -- the budget document does include some of the suggestions. Do we have an idea of what the value of those budget savings are that are incorporated in this document?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

As I recall from discussions from the subcommittee, I be -- I believe it's about \$8 million that it ultimately saves. And it was built into the line item that we have in our budget on Enhancing Agency Outcomes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

The section 25 talks about license plates. And so if there's a way to save millions on license plates, I guess that's a good idea, but I'm not seeing -- I'm not seeing anything that represents \$80 million. I know that the -- the whole idea was to have some pretty substantial recommendations to the legislature to save money, but I'm -- through you, Mr. President, I'm just not seeing anything that would come close to \$80 million in savings as recommended by the CEAO.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President, those savings are going to -- are things that can be done without legislation and are done in agreement with the Department of Motor Vehicle. I believe that the one thing that did require legislation was enabling them to allow the AAAs to renew nondriver's license ident -- and identification cards and motor vehicle registrations. I also believe that the legislation allows us to -- it allows but doesn't require the removal of the sticker for registration that we have

which will save dollars. And I -- I don't know that that fiscal note actually gives the exact amount of that, but there are other efficiencies that the Department has agreed to work towards that are reflected in the Enhancing Agency Outcomes' work.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Senator Harp for your answer. I -- I'm glad to see that -- that there is at least some of the suggestions used. I -- I guess I, respectfully, disagree with the value as those things you've just mentioned I don't think are valued at anywhere near \$80 million, but we're headed in the right direction. And I think that's what's important is that that these reports that were created by the -- the task force, the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes, took a lot of suggestions from across state government and the private sector in trying to help this legislature deal with our -- our budget crisis. But I -- I think that we have a long way to go. And I sense that your response sort of acknowledged that this budget document does not come close to what the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes

was hopeful we could accomplish in budget savings. In fact, if it's anywhere near \$80 million, I'll -- I'll talk to our budget analyst to see where that money is. That would be great news, although, I'm not sure it's there.

So, my -- my point is that if we're going to have a crisis budget that we need to adopt now, we really need to be adopting the consideration of CEO and other task forces that have been working hard over the last five years, frankly. And I'm -- I'm fearing that we're really not taking those tough suggestions to -- to transform government in the State of Connecticut during this economic crisis.

Through you, Mr. President, I have a question to Senator Daily regarding the funding mechanism.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, through you, Senator Daily, the Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds, could you clarify for us a bit? How did we get to that vehicle of financing? It's, you know, the traditional way, of course, is state bonds. Securitization was another way that we talked about and,

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in fact, approved in the last -- last year. And now we've come up with this new idea of Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds. And I wonder if you could just clarify how we got there and why we're using that vehicle? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And, through you, Mr. President, when we passed a budget, a two-year budget, last September, we securitized \$134 million. And we instructed the Treasurer's Office, in conjunction with OPM, to come up with a recommendations of how to satisfy that securitization responsibility. On February 3rd, we received a letter that outlined six possibilities. The first of which was securitizing stranded rates. Subsequently, the Finance Committee voted to do that and sent that recommendation to the floor. Then budget negotiations began. The Governor said she would veto any bill that required securitization. There were discussions. The Governor wanted to use other funds. Then the Governor, in another round, agreed to use some securitization and 50 percent of each of the Energy Funds -- the Efficiency Fund we've

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talked about today and the Clean Energy Fund. We argued against using those other funds and argued in favor of using all of the stranded costs to satisfy that obligation that we had incurred.

The Governor then returned to us with a proposal, fairly final proposal, that we do it this way, that we take 35 percent of the Efficiency Funds and zero percent of the Energy Funds, 33 percent of the stranded costs. And that's the proposal that's in this bill and what we bring to you today.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Senator Daily. I appreciate that little history on how we got to ERRB. I guess, now my question is what is ERRB, the vehicle, itself, because when I tried to do a little research on Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds, which apparently the Connecticut State Treasurer Denise Nappier, has said we can do. I can't find anything about them. It's like, California is the only other place they've ever existed. So could help me understand better what that vehicle really is? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, through you, Mr. President, it is really exactly what it appears to be and what it seems to be.

It's a vehicle for borrowing the bonding money of our state and a way then to prepay those bonds.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Daily, for that answer. How -- how is -- I understand that there's this constitutional question about borrowing authority, and so forth, came into play and that ERRB was a new opportunity to -- to stay within our guidelines. How do the bond rating agencies treat Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds in their analysis of Connecticut's state debt? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, through you, Mr. President, it's our information that they rate them triple A.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President.

That's -- that's one good answer, and I appreciate that, Senator Daily. More specifically, it's good to know that they're triple A, but how do the -- the rating agencies, the bond rating agencies, analyze ERRBs in the big picture of Connecticut state debt? How do they treat that? Do they treat it like normal debt that we have? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Through you, Mr. President. Would you ask the Senator or let me ask the Senator to ask that question again?

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Sure.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, through you, Mr. President, you gave me an answer of triple-A rating and I appreciate that that's the rating that determines what the interest rate is essentially on the bond. My question is how do the -- the bond rating agencies analyze Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds in the big picture of analyzing Connecticut's state debt? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And through you, I've never worked in a bond rating agency so the exact mechanics of analyzing I wouldn't even begin to try to pretend I knew. But how they look at us, as far as we know, is favorably. And this would be outside our -- our regular cap and be rated triple-A. That's what we expect when we bring these to market.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Senator Daily. I think you've answered by question. So, essentially, the bond rating

agencies will rate the debt like they normally do, the rest of the state debt. But the State of Connecticut treats the debt differently because we don't really count it as debt. Is that -- do I have that right? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Through you, Mr. President, the reason that we are naming a source of revenue to pay this is because we know through experience that that's what the rating agencies look at very favorably.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Senator Daily. I appreciate your -- your assistance with trying to understand Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds a little more. But I -- I guess I still have some homework to do, and I'm going to do that after I sit down. I'll continue to try to better understand the -- the process.

And here's my concern. I guess that the rating agencies rate state debt and determine what our interest rate will be in the big picture. And we're concerned with a constitutional spending cap that we are approaching our limits. And I think we got even closer to our limit when we talked about building a \$200 million hospital tower yesterday. So if we're getting closer to our limits, the way to get around that is to create a new kind of debt that's outside our limits. And I -- I guess I'm just uncomfortable with that.

Even though the rating agencies look at it one way, it seems somewhat disingenuous to me that we're treating it differently. And I guess that if I look at my own debt picture, I suppose I have different buckets of debt that I owe. I have a new car loan. I think I have a MasterCard in my pocket that probably has a few thousand dollars debt on it. And I -- I have other obligations out there, and they're all in different buckets. But it's still my debt and it's all my debt. And when I try to do a financial statement, a personal financial statement, I have my assets and my liabilities, but they're all still my liabilities.

And it seems to me like we're treating this newly created liability differently than we cre -- we consider

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normal state bond debt. It just doesn't sound right to me. So I'm -- I'm a little uncomfortable with that, and I think I'll do some more homework while this debate continues and, hopefully, be able to get some -- some more answers to my questions before the evening is over.

One more question about, if I may, Mr. President, a question to Senator Daily. How long have we used the electric ratepayers' money to pay for outstanding debt or to help balance the budget? How long have we done that? Is that a relatively new process in Connecticut state government? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And, through you, Mr. President, the answer, we did it in 2002. I was here then so I know. I'm not sure of our total history.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

And thank you, again, Senator Daily, for your help.

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I -- I'm going to continue to listen to the debate, and I'm going to continue to read the 245-page document. And I'm going to ask our -- our budget staff to help me better understand the Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds so that I hope my colleagues here will also be able to get a better understanding of it, too.

But I -- I do, at this point, have severe reservations about this proposal. I'm very uncomfortable with a lack of substantive spending cuts in state government. I have a bit of discomfort at this point with the method in which we're borrowing a lot of money. And I -- I'm not sure that we're really doing what everyone else is doing in the United States of America in this economy and that is spending less money.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator McLachlan.

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

There is an amendment that I'd like to have called on this bill. It's LCO 5717.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you please call the amendment?

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THE CLERK:

LCO 5717 it should be designated Senate Amendment

Schedule "A" --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

THE CLERK:

-- offered by Senator Harp of the 10th District, et al.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much. Mr. President, I move the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Question's on adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

This amendment makes various technical changes to the underlying budget document. For example, it reduces the State Employer Retirement Contribution account by \$1.1 million to take care of the deficiency that has occurred in the State Department of Education's magnet school account to fund the Connecticut Regional Educational Council or CREC for its magnet school transportation costs. We normally do that. I believe

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that it's in the budget, but we didn't indicate how to pay for it as a -- as it was added at a late date.

It also delays the contract -- contracting standards board until Fiscal Year '12. And it clarifies that up to 140 million in unappropriated surplus from Fiscal Year '10 will be credited to the resources of the General Fund in Fiscal Year '11.

It also indicates that there're certain kinds of information that will be available to the Judiciary Committee on -- about incumbent judges.

I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark on the amendment?

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, through you, Mr. President, a few questions on the amendment to the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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I'm looking specifically at section that says, After the last section, add the following. And I was wondering if Senator Harp could just address some of these new sections, section 501, 502, et cetera, et cetera. I believe there's five of them. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

Through you, Mr. President, does the gentleman have specific questions that he cares to ask?

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Oh, thank you, Mr. President, I'll narrow it.

So in section 501, this seems to say, the Appropriations recommended for the Judicial Branch shall be the estimates of the expenditure requirements transmitted to OPM. So basically, this is codifying something that I thought was in the bill before that actually said, when the government -- when OPM gets something from the Judiciary Branch. So this is just

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codifying something that we had discussed before?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much, yes.

I think that it was understood before, but this actually spells it out in language.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Oh, thank you, Mr. President.

And, Mr. President, just going through these section by section just to make sure I understand what's going into the bill.

Section 502, the sum of about \$14 million is being transferred to the State Insurance Risk Management Board account from DAS. Just question to what that is.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I think that this separates from the DAS Other Expenses line item. The amount that is available and needed for the Contracting Standards Board.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you. I thank the good senator for that clarification.

And I believe I understand 503 and 504.

Section 505, this is I believe what Senator Harp was talking about before in terms of interviewing judges. Could you just clarify what section 505 is? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I think that it -- this is saying that beginning January 15, 2011, and every year thereafter that certain kinds of statistics will be forwarded on incumbent judges. So it will be the number of candidates interviewed for appointment as new nominees, the number of incumbent judges interviewed for reappointment to the same court, the number of incumbent judges interviewed

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for appointment to a different court, the number of candidates who were recommended or denied recommendation to the governor as new nominees, the number of incumbent judges recommended and denied recommendation for appointment to the same court and the number of incumbent judges recommended and denied recommendation for appointment to a different court, and the statistics regarding the race, gender, national origin, religion and years of experiences -- experiences, members of the bar, for all of the candidates that were recommended -- that were interviewed, recommended and denied recommendation.

So this is just to provide generalized data, not specific, not identifiable data on those that are -- go before the Judicial Selection Committee, and the information will be provided to the Judiciary Committee of the General Assembly.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I thank Senator Harp for those clarifications in the amendment. I just wanted to make sure I fully understood it before voting on it, seeing as I hadn't