

NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Eighty-Second Session, 2023

ASSEMBLY DAILY JOURNAL

THE EIGHTY-SIXTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), May 2, 2023

Assembly called to order at 11:21 a.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Shay Gilliam.

Compassionate and gracious God, we humbly ask for Your blessings and guidance as we gather here today to open the Nevada State Legislature. Every man and woman here is an image bearer of Your glorious grace and has been appointed by You to love and serve the citizens of this great state. As we begin this session, we ask for wisdom, clarity, and a deep sense of responsibility to guide their deliberations and decisions.

May they always keep in mind the well-being of the people of Nevada, and may their efforts be directed towards the common good. May they work together in the spirit of cooperation and respect, setting aside their differences for the greater good of all and maximizing their commonalities to propel us into further greatness.

We ask for your blessings upon the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the members of the Senate and the Assembly, and all those who serve the people of Nevada. May they be guided by Your grace, and may they be strengthened by Your wisdom.

We offer this invocation in humility and gratitude, trusting in your infinite wisdom and love. By the name that is above every name I pray.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and the Speaker and Chief Clerk be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that persons as set forth on the Nevada Legislature's Press Accreditation List of May 2, 2023, be accepted as accredited press representatives, assigned space at the press table in the Assembly Chamber, allowed use of appropriate broadcasting facilities, and that the list be included in this day's Journal:

ASIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Nouthdaraserey Khim, Mia Nakamura, Nicholas Tanuredjo.

Motion carried.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 132.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblywoman Jauregui.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

Senate Bill 132 prohibits discrimination against a living organ donor with regard to any policy or contract of life insurance, life annuity, or health insurance on the basis of that person's status as a living organ donor.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 132:

YEAS—42.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 132 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There being no objections, the Speaker and Chief Clerk signed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the Assembly recess until 4:45 p.m.
Motion carried.

Assembly in recess at 11:59 a.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5:08 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Mr. Speaker appointed Assemblywoman Torres and Assemblyman McArthur as a committee to invite the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear an address by United States Representative Dina Titus.

The President of the Senate and members of the Senate appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker invited the President of the Senate to the Speaker's rostrum.

Mr. Speaker invited the members of the Senate to chairs in the Assembly.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:08 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.
All present except Senator Hansen, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.
All present except Assemblywoman Hansen, who was excused.

Mr. Speaker appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Harris and Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod to wait upon Representative Titus and escort her to the Assembly Chamber.

The Committee on Escort, in company with The Honorable Dina Titus, United States Representative from Nevada, appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

The Committee on Escort escorted the Representative to the rostrum.

The Speaker of the Assembly welcomed Representative Titus and invited her to deliver her message.

Representative Titus delivered her message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA
EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION, 2023

Mr. Speaker, Madam Majority Leader, honored guests, and fellow legislators, it is very nice to be here. Thank you for giving me your time tonight. You know, I always feel a little nostalgic when I come back to this building. It is very different now. I had to go through about three different doors and security. Before, anybody could walk in. It did not matter. In fact, when I was here, we had somebody who claimed to be from outer space who hung around here. You remember him. So things have changed quite a bit. I look around this room, and I see so many new faces—people I do not know, people I would like to get to know. But the fact is, only three of you were here when I served in the Legislature: Senators Gansert, Ohrenschall, and Goicoechea. They were all in the Assembly. All the rest of you are new to this, and that is what term limits can do. So thank you for being here.

I would also mention someone who is still here and who was here when I was here: the wonderful, amazing Brenda Erdoes. I do not know what we would do without her. I checked out the book for the lobby corps, and that was especially interesting. It has certainly changed a lot, but the interesting thing is that the faces are younger, but the names are the same. You have Nicky Vassiliadis, Erin McMullen, Bob and Henry Ernaut, Tommy Ferraro, Jesse Wadhams, Sev Carlson, Chase Whittemore, Will Adler, and John Sande IV. I know all these people's families, so I feel at home here. You know, *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. Indeed, that is the case—the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Look at the agenda you have—some of the things we have been dealing with in this state for a long time: stopping Yucca Mountain, paying our teachers more, funding mental health. Those are just three examples. Also, in 1990, we passed Question 7 to enshrine *Roe v. Wade* in our legislation. Now, in response to the Dobbs decision, you are trying to put the protection of women's health care in the *Constitution*. Thank you, Majority Leader Cannizzaro.

In 1997, I had a bill called "Ring Around the Valley." They called it ring around the collar, ring around the rosie. They put a picture of me on the cover of a magazine with a noose around my neck. Nonetheless, that was about sustainable growth. Today, you are still dealing with the consequences of growth, especially in relation to our declining water supply. As a founding member of the Colorado River Caucus, I look forward to working with you on this critical issue. Thank you, Assemblyman Watts.

In 2005, I chaired an interim disability committee to bring the state in compliance with the Olmstead Act. Now you all are working on a disability bill of rights. The witness for this, who

has testified so compellingly, is the same witness who helped me. She is the amazing Santa Perez. I will give a shout-out to her, whether she is here or not. What an incredible person. The whole time I was here, we had to fight for funding the Wild Horse and Burro Commission. I understand you are now pushing to make the iconic wild mustang the state horse. Thank you, Senator Pazina. Go for it.

Under the leadership of Senator David Parks in 1999, we passed the first LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning] protections in the state of Nevada. Just this past November, our state voted on a sweeping equal rights amendment to the *Constitution* that outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Thank you, Senator Spearman.

We have a lot in common. We worked on a lot of the same issues. We are good partners, I do believe. One thing, though, that is different from when I was here is that Nevada has so much federal money to invest in needed programs. In the past, Nevada was a donor state—we sent more money to Washington than we received in return. Part of that was because we were not very good at writing grant proposals, and we either refused to or were not able to provide a state match. That is no longer true. Nevada received considerable funding from the COVID recovery bills, from the infrastructure package, and from the Inflation Reduction Act. In short, Nevada received \$43.5 billion. That included \$2.25 billion for local governments, over \$1 billion for school districts, and some \$121 million for Native tribes. That was on top of the money that went directly to the unemployed and to small businesses, like shuttered venues and restaurants, to help them with personnel costs, utilities, and rent. I am not going to spend my short time here going over ad nauseam the details of all these bills; I am sure you will hear a lot about them from some of my colleagues from the delegation. But just think about some of the things, like renewable energy, water conservation, childcare, and mass transit—all of that is funding coming to Nevada. And not to mention the extended Child Tax Credit, health insurance assistance, and rebates for transitioning to renewable energy—all of that goes directly to the people of Nevada.

I would like to brag a little bit. I am proud of my efforts to increase Nevada's allocation overall. I fought very hard to change the funding formulas to also include unemployment as well as population, and that resulted in Nevada getting an extra \$1 billion. As Chair then and ranking member now of the subcommittee that oversees economic development, we were able to get special funding streams for areas hardest hit by the lack of tourism because of the pandemic. We created an undersecretary for tourism in the Department of Commerce. At the time, we were the only country in the G-20 that did not have such a position or did not elevate tourism to that level. We got some of that additional money.

I will tell you—as bad as I hate to—that we are never going to get that amount of federal funding again, no matter how good of a job we do with grants and matching. I urge you to invest it in sustainable—substantive but sustainable—projects that can create major systemic change in Nevada. Do not hand it out in a piecemeal, one-off fashion. That could be very popular in the short term, but in the long term, you know as well as I do how hard it is to take away a benefit or stop a program that people want and like once the money runs out. I have a feeling that there is not much of a mind to raise taxes to cover those programs here in the state. Mr. Treasurer, you are going to have to do some good investing to make this happen. Speaking of investment, I urge you to spend these dollars now because if you look at the Republicans' bill to deal with the debt ceiling, part of that provision is to claw back any unspent COVID money. Get it out the door as much as possible. We do not want to give back anything to the federal government.

There are some issues coming up when I go back next week that we are going to have to deal with through the summer. Dealing with the debt limit is certainly one of them. Addressing gun violence and immigration reform will be at the top of the list, along with passing the PRO [Protecting the Right to Organize] Act, the Equality Act, and the Women's Health Act. All of this is going to be very difficult given the politics we face right now. Our political environment is very stressed. Right now, the majority interest in the House is not on those things I just mentioned. It is on two things. One is rolling back—rolling back environmental protection, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, abortion rights, labor rights, and voting rights. That is the agenda. The second half of the agenda is conducting investigations. As of now, we have

investigations regarding January 6, Hunter Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, Dr. Fauci, the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation], document leaks, the Wuhan lab, the Afghanistan withdrawal, and the weaponization of the federal government—whatever the hell that means.

That is what is happening. But, you know, that is not what the people of Nevada want. They want us to get together, work together, get along, and get something accomplished. We cannot let the fringe control the majority. We have to put people over politics. We can do that. We did it with the passage of the PACT [Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics] Act, which benefited veterans by increasing benefits, and the CHIPS [Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors] Act, which stimulated American manufacturing. We can work across the aisle, and I know you all do a good job of that here in Carson.

Specifically, I am going to be engaged on two fronts throughout the summer, and they are both bipartisan. As Co-Chair of the Gaming Caucus, I am going to be working to raise the reportable win limit, which has not been raised since 1977, and to eliminate the handle tax, which is mostly paid by Nevada. As a senior member of the Transportation Committee, I am going to keep fighting for those dollars so we can finally build an interstate—Interstate 11—between Las Vegas and Phoenix, the only two metropolitan areas that are not connected by an interstate. And let us get that speed train. I have been on the speed train commission, appointed by Bob Miller and continued by Kenny Guinn. Then Gibbons came along. I do not think he knew it existed. He forgot I was even on it or he would have thrown me off. How many years is that? Brightline is finally making a little way forward, so let us hope we get that speed train.

We have come a long way since the pandemic hit. You think, Oh, that was last year—no, that was two, three years ago. That is how much time we have lost. We were the hardest hit in the country. We had 35 percent unemployment, the worst since the Great Depression. Now we are the fastest-recovering part of the country. Our unemployment is way down. We have record gaming revenues and record airport traffic. The economy is definitely coming back, but we need to be sure the recovery is sustainable and the benefits reach everybody. We need to get equal pay for women. We need to invest in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] education and workforce development. I know a lot of you are working on that. We need environmental justice.

I am an optimist. If I were not, I would not be in this business. I think we can get these things done. I think we can work together and make progress. Sometimes, I might get a little discouraged by the likes of Marjorie Taylor Greene or by what is happening on the ground in Ukraine. That is enough to make you discouraged. When I feel that way, I stop and think about something we accomplished recently with all kinds of folks from every walk of life coming together, working quietly behind the scenes for a sustained period of time and never giving up. That is the key. That was the designation of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. This national monument is half a million acres of sacred Indian lands. It has breathtaking scenery and landscapes and iconic flora and fauna. It will now be preserved and protected for posterity. Native American tribal leaders, local government officials, conservationists, progressive groups, outdoor recreationists and the businesses they support, President Biden, and Secretary of the Interior Haaland all joined forces to make this happen. I want to thank them for letting me help carry the baton over the finish line. It is one of my proudest moments, and I am honored to continue Nevada's legacy of protecting our public lands for future generations.

Speaking of legacies, I have heard recently that Annette Magnus has decided she is going to retire from Battle Born Progress after this session. I hated to hear that. We all owe Annette a debt of gratitude for what she has done to educate the public, successfully advocate for important causes, and keep the progressive agenda at the forefront of Nevada politics. Godspeed, Annette. We will miss you here, but I do not think you will be a stranger. Maybe you should run for office.

I want to thank you all again for your time, your consideration, and your attention. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of Nevadans. Thank you for being away from home and in this snowmageddon you had this year. Thank you for your dedication and your passion. I am honored to be your colleague, and I look forward to working with you. Let us go finish the job. Thank you so much.

Senator Buck moved that the Senate and Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to Representative Titus for her timely, able, and constructive message.

Seconded by Assemblywoman Brittney Miller.

Motion carried.

The Committee on Escort escorted Representative Titus to the bar of the Assembly.

Assemblywoman Brown-May moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Seconded by Senator Stone.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:30 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5:31 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Assemblywoman Brown-May, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Robert E. Heaney, Dave Howard, Ashlee Cooper, and Jeff May.

On request of Assemblyman Carter, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ronnie Young.

On request of Assemblywoman Considine, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Shanieka Cooper.

On request of Assemblyman D'Silva, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Marie Niesess and former Assemblyman Mo Denis.

On request of Assemblyman DeLong, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblywoman Sharron E. Angle.

On request of Assemblywoman Dickman, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Robert F. Rusk.

On request of Assemblywoman Gallant, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Bob Weise.

On request of Assemblywoman Gorelow, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblywoman Susie Martinez and Carlos Hernandez.

On request of Assemblyman Gray, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assembly Minority Floor Leader Jim Wheeler and former Assemblyman Kelly Kite.

On request of Assemblyman Gurr, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assembly Speaker pro Tempore John C. Ellison and Wendy Ellison.

On request of Assemblywoman Hansen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Robert M. Benkovich.

On request of Assemblywoman Hardy, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman David F. Brown, former Assemblywoman Jill Tolles, and Celssie Hardy.

On request of Assemblywoman Jauregui, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assembly Majority Floor Leader Paul Anderson and former Assembly Majority Floor Leader Teresa Benitez-Thompson.

On request of Assemblywoman Kasama, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblywoman Helen Foley and Ted Hartwell.

On request of Assemblyman Koenig, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblywoman Patty Cafferata.

On request of Assemblywoman Marzola, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ryan Leonard.

On request of Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assembly Majority Floor Leader William Horne.

On request of Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Gene Collins, Eugene (Lou) Collins, Jr., and Sheila Collins.

On request of Assemblywoman Mosca, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Andrew Martin.

On request of Assemblywoman Newby, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Stephanie Goodman.

On request of Assemblyman Nguyen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Danny L. Thompson, Mia Nakamura, and Nicholas Tanuredjo.

On request of Assemblyman O'Neill, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Randy Kirner and Jared Oscarson.

On request of Assemblyman Orentlicher, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Roderic Newton.

On request of Assemblywoman Peters, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Brooks S. Holcomb.

On request of Assemblywoman Taylor, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assembly Minority Floor Leader Pat Hickey.

On request of Assemblywoman Torres, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Gil Lopez and Olivia Ngo.

On request of Assemblyman Watts, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblywoman Amber Joiner.

On request of Assemblyman Yeager, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assembly Speaker John Ocegüera.

On request of Assemblyman Yurek, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to former Assemblyman Glen Leavitt.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the Assembly adjourn until Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Approved:

STEVE YEAGER
Speaker of the Assembly

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly