

NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Eighty-Second Session, 2023

ASSEMBLY DAILY JOURNAL

THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), May 3, 2023

Assembly called to order at 4:40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Shay Gilliam.

Almighty God, who was, and is, and is to come, as we gather here before the State Legislature, we ask for your guidance and blessings. We pray for unity and discernment as our leaders convene to make decisions that will impact the lives of countless Nevadans.

We ask that You guide our lawmakers with Your wisdom and inspire them to work together for the greater good of all citizens. We pray for their endurance, that they would know how much we appreciate the importance of their efforts and that they do not tire of doing what is right.

May they lead with integrity and a steadfast commitment to do justice, to love goodness, and to walk humbly before You. We also ask for Your protection and blessings upon our state, our communities, and all those who serve and protect us. May this legislative session be one of great success, filled with the joy of knowing that they are doing the hard work to keep Nevada safe, prosperous, and upright.

We ask all of these things in Your holy and precious Name.

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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, to which was referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 5, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

MICHELLE GORELOW, *Chair*

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 464, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

DANIELE MONROE-MORENO, *Chair*

Mr. Speaker announced if there were no objections, the Assembly would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Assembly in recess at 4:48 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5 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 Steven Horsford.

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 5:07 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senator Titus, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblyman Gray, who was excused.

Mr. Speaker appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Spearman and Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno to wait upon United States Representative Steven Horsford and escort him to the Assembly Chamber.

The Committee on Escort, in company with The Honorable Steven Horsford, 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 Horsford and invited him to deliver his message.

Representative Horsford delivered his message as follows:

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

Good evening. Thank you so very much. It is an honor to be back here. I want to thank Speaker Steve Yeager and Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro for accepting my request to address the Nevada Legislature. Thank you to our Supreme Court justices, our state constitutional officers, and all of you for taking the time. I know this is a busy time—a month to go before *sine die*—and it is a great honor to be here as you commemorate the beginning of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I know there was a basketball game last night. I heard there may be some sore members. While the Democrats may have come up a little short, it is great to see the camaraderie of that game and the charity you support continue.

It is great to be back here at the Nevada State Legislature. My first opportunity to serve in this body was as a legislative intern back in 1993, while attending college at the University of Nevada, Reno. I recall the opportunities that internship afforded me to learn the important role this body plays and that each of you contribute to make the state of Nevada, and the people in it, better. I also recall not having a proper tie and literally being supported by mentors who took me down the street to the local store to buy one so I could be on the floor. Years later, I returned to the Legislature, becoming only the fourth African American elected in the State Senate and then the first Black Senate Majority Leader. Fortunately, I was the first but not the last. It is great to see Attorney General Aaron Ford here and see all the great work he is doing.

During the six special sessions and four regular sessions I served, we were able to accomplish great work—work you all are continuing right now. Again, you have more or less 30 days to go, so I am not going to keep you long because I know you are tired and ready to continue that great work. But I want to underscore: You all are public servants, along with the staff who serve with you to make this institution work for the great people of the state of Nevada. I want to start by saying thank you for your service and for everything you do for the state of Nevada.

I am now in my third consecutive term, and fourth overall, in the U.S. House of Representatives. I am honored to have been elected Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for the 118th Congress. The Congressional Black Caucus is the largest in our history, comprised of 58 members who are Representatives and Senators from all across this country, from every region and every ideological perspective. We are often cited as being the conscience of the Congress because we are able to work with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remind each other of the real and human impact of the legislative proposals we work to advance—from health care to reproductive justice, from veterans and military budgets to the investments in nutrition and retirement security for our seniors. I am now four months into my term, and while it is keeping me quite busy, I am honored to advance issues from voting rights to housing affordability, to equitable job creation and economic opportunity, to achieving public safety—whether from gun violence, police accountability, or confronting discrimination against anti-Semitism and anti-Asian hate. All of us should agree, regardless of party, all of our communities should be safe.

In the last Congress, we were able to accomplish many great legislative victories for our nation and for Nevada, like the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. We have a real crisis in our nation and, sadly, right here in Nevada. The gun violence epidemic is taking countless lives, many of them our young people, inflicting great trauma on our community and our families. Pew Research reports that the number of children younger than 18 killed by guns has increased by 50 percent from 2019 to 2021. Children 12 to 17 accounted for 86 percent of all gun deaths for those younger than 18 in 2021. Thirty-three Nevada children aged 19 and younger died from guns in 2019.

Many of you know my personal story. I lost my father to gun violence while I was at college. I was a freshman. He was working at a convenience store when someone came in with a gun and shot him. I never got to say goodbye or tell him I loved him. For too many families, that is the reality they face every single day. That is why I have worked so hard to secure \$250 million in community violence intervention funding and why I introduced the Break the Cycle of Violence Act. I was proud to see the community violence intervention programs included in the

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that we passed last Congress and that is now resulting in real community investments. In fact, my office recently hosted a workshop with nonprofits, organizations, and government entities here in Nevada on how we can tap our share of these resources. Our children must feel safe in school. Parents should feel safe sending them to school. This epidemic of school shootings, along with gun violence in general, must come to an end. I want to commend the work you all are doing in this Legislature to continue to make gun safety a priority.

Some of the other landmark bills we were able to see signed into law last Congress—like the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the CHIPS [Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors] and Science Act—are all providing real returns for Nevada as well. The Biden-Harris Investing in America agenda is creating jobs and churning our economy here in the Silver State, and I am proud of the work we will continue to do. In fact, since President Biden took office, nearly \$8 billion in private corporate investment has been made here in Nevada. Thanks to the legislative efforts we passed in the last Congress and that the President has signed into law, we are creating good-paying jobs, boosting U.S. competitiveness, and rebuilding our infrastructure. It is no longer infrastructure week—infrastructure is finally coming to our communities.

Nevada, as you all know, is also poised to be at the forefront of our nation's clean energy economy. Lithium is essential to powering the electric vehicles of today and the future, and corporations know that. We look forward to working with these companies as they invest in Nevada. My only ask, when I talk to any of them, is to focus on jobs, focus on small businesses, and make sure the impact they make is sustaining and long-term. Do not come to Nevada if you are not willing to invest in the long-term benefit of our state.

Our state's unemployment rate is at 5.5 percent. We have added 239,300 new jobs, and we have seen 128,000 new businesses created here in Nevada. All across the state, we have seen 103 new projects funded thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—projects like the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada getting \$6.7 million to buy hydrogen fuel cell electric buses to reduce emissions and prevent health issues like asthma that disproportionately impact children and communities of color, and another \$31 million investment in the Harry Reid International Airport, which is something we will all need because of all the great sporting and entertainment events on deck over the next couple of years.

Our legislation has also helped to lower real costs for Nevada families. Over 493,000 Nevada residents with Medicare will now benefit from the \$2,000 yearly cap on out-of-pocket prescription drugs. This was my legislation that I have been pushing since 2019. It has real impact that is going to save seniors thousands of dollars a year. We also won against Big Pharma by capping insulin at \$35 per month. Now companies are extending the benefit so that a 10-year-old child who needs insulin can also have the lifesaving medication they need to stay alive. Ninety-six thousand individuals in Nevada signed up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act during the last open enrollment period for 2023. That is going to ensure they benefit from up to thousands of dollars per year in savings from lower health care premiums. I want to thank and commend this Legislature and ask you and the Governor to continue to prioritize efforts to keep Nevadans connected to their health coverage, either on Medicare or on the Affordable Care Act marketplace, so they can see their doctor, maintain the continuity of their health care, and avoid more costly care in hospital emergency rooms. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

The average new homeowner in Nevada will also save about \$181 annually, or about 9.7 percent, on their utility bills if this body and local governments across our state use new grants to adopt the latest building energy codes. Nevada residents will be eligible to get 30 percent off solar panels, battery storage systems, heating and cooling upgrades, and weatherization, which can help them save hundreds of dollars every year on their energy bills. It is estimated that 75,000 additional Nevada households will install rooftop solar panels because of these new tax credits.

Over 191,000 Nevada households can access affordable, or even free, high-speed Internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program investments that were also made as a part of this work. I recently had the opportunity to bring one of the FCC [Federal Communications Commission] commissioners into my district and to speak directly with seniors at one of our

housing facilities. Many of these residents are eligible—they just needed help signing up. I am here to remind people: If you are receiving SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] benefits, free or reduced school lunches, social security checks, or housing vouchers, then you are likely eligible for this benefit. I want you to know that my staff is willing to partner with anyone to make sure we get people connected to this program because when they are connected to the Internet, they are connected for their health care, for their work, to help their child or grandchild with homework and, most importantly, to improve their quality of life.

I am also happy to hear about the efforts to create a lottery system for the state of Nevada, which has gotten further than any other efforts in years past. When I was in this body, I led the effort then to try and establish a lottery program for our state. I am proud to see the hard work of my good friend, Assemblyman Cameron Miller, in leading this bill and to dedicate the funding for important investments, like access to mental health care.

I also want to applaud efforts to improve pay and benefits for state workers. As I mentioned earlier, we are all public servants, and so are many of our staff that support the work here in Carson City and in so many of our state and local government offices. A career in public service should be rewarded with good pay and good benefits, especially to keep from losing some of the great talent to the private sector.

I know you all have been working really hard to make progress on some important issues around housing, particularly with bills addressing transitional housing to help deal with the homelessness crisis that is very real throughout parts of our state. I recently had the opportunity to join U.S. VETS for the ribbon cutting of one of these much-needed facilities, the BETterment Community bridge housing program, which is serving 46 residents at a time, 184 people per year. It is more than just housing—it is getting them counseling and employment assistance and helping to get and keep these folks off the street with a roof over their heads.

Our efforts on housing need to be laser-focused. Residents in Nevada are really feeling the pinch of corporate speculators who are coming in and buying up homes, preventing veterans from using their VA [Veterans Affairs] loans to buy a home or preventing a first-time home buyer, who might be a single mom, from utilizing some of the homeownership programs we have all worked to encourage. These corporate speculators are paying cash and pricing out our working families. That is why I introduced HR 702, the HOME [Housing Oversight and Mitigating Exploitation] Act to address some of the issues that are making home buying more challenging. I know the people in my district in North Las Vegas, in the Windsor Park neighborhood, are seeing their homes literally sink into the ground. I applaud Senator Dina Neal for her proposal to help make sure all the families in this area, mostly Black and Latino families, all continue to have a roof over their heads in neighboring communities.

On Monday, I am convening the Tri-Caucus—the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus—for a summit on affordable housing in Las Vegas. We look forward to hearing recommendations that will help Nevadans, and we look forward to making the policies you all are advancing part of the national conversation to confront the crises of affordable housing and homelessness in our country.

We must continue to invest in our people. They need jobs. They need homes. Together, we can create the job training they need and the child care our families require to be able to work for and achieve the American Dream. We must focus on the economic success of our communities, where many of our constituents feel the most frustration toward government. They want to see our action on housing assistance, child care, the Child Tax Credit, and creating new jobs that improve their quality of life.

It was this place, this very Chamber, that gave me the mentoring—and, yes, the tie—I needed to be on this floor. I am extremely proud to continue to represent Nevada, and I want you to know that I will continue to work hard to make sure Nevadans have the support they need. Thank you so much for the opportunity to address you. I look forward to our continued partnership to deliver for all Nevadans. God bless you.

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

Seconded by Assemblyman C.H. Miller.

Motion carried.

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

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Seconded by Senator Hansen.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:32 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5:32 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Assemblywoman Anderson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Dale Stubblefield and Justin Hopson.

On request of Assemblywoman Brown-May, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kevin Castellanos and Jeff May.

On request of Assemblyman Carter, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Aaron Ibarra and James Halsey.

On request of Assemblywoman Cohen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Victoria Supple.

On request of Assemblywoman Considine, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Anthony Ivester, Gary Boyle, and Jack Grey.

On request of Assemblyman D'Silva, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Adrian Hunt and Moises Denis.

On request of Assemblywoman Duran, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Julie Ann Peeples, Matt Justin, and Veronica Gasper.

On request of Assemblywoman Gorelow, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Caleb Chavez and Kristi Howard.

On request of Assemblyman Hafen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Amanda Flocchini.

On request of Assemblywoman Hardy, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Celssie Hardy and Paul Anderson.

On request of Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Angelyn Tabalba, Caren Royce Yap, and Gerny Robnett.

On request of Assemblywoman Newby, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Brandi Glass and Greg Esposito.

On request of Assemblyman Nguyen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Travis Brewer LaChapelle.

On request of Assemblyman O'Neill, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Pauline Lee and the following students, teachers, and chaperones from Carson Middle School: Ahmad Bachir, Alizabeth Johnson, Alma Gomez Barrios, Aninka Williams, Annalise Heinrich, Ashton Flakus, Ava Thornton, Ayesha Bilal, Bayli Cox, Brisa Gonzalez Pacheco, Celine Assad, Christopher Gregovich, Colbie Gragg, Corbin Hounsell, Denise Velazquez, Eder Martinez Gutierrez, Emmalina Alferez, Ethan Carrasco, Evan Benshoof, Felix Canedo, Gage Orrante, Greyson Jones, Hannah Maddox, Jackson Isom, Jasmine Gill, Jewel Ivy, Josephine Cusack, Kevin Klemetz, Keyla Velasquez, Kimberly Galindo, Liliana Dorio, Logan Davidson, Lorene Assad, Lucy Hoppe, Madalyn Foley, Matthew Warner, Meshaila De La O, Nikole Lawlor, Owen Kimzey, Rivka Williams, Samuel Robillard, Savanna Pace, Sawyer Aikenhead, Townes Buchanan, Valeria Villafranco Gomez, Viviana Chavez Ornelas, Wynni Batten, Zackariah Ponczoch, and Ziah Lampe Jorges.

On request of Assemblywoman Taylor, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kalani Tissot.

On request of Assemblyman Watts, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Anthony Alessandro and Charley Zemp.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the Assembly adjourn until Monday, May 8, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Approved:

STEVE YEAGER
Speaker of the Assembly

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly