

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017

SESSION OF 2017

201ST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 12 m., e.s.t.

**THE CHIEF CLERK
(DAVID L. REDDECLIFF) PRESIDING**

CALL TO ORDER

The CHIEF CLERK. This being the day and the hour appointed by Article II, section 4, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania for the meeting of the General Assembly, the House of Representatives will now come to order.

The Sergeants at Arms will close the doors of the House.

The prayer will be offered by Elder Steven Kenric Lewis, nephew of Representative Harry Lewis, pastor at Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church of America, Washington, DC. Immediately after the prayer, we will recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members and guests will please rise as able.

PRAYER

ELDER STEVEN KENRIC LEWIS, Guest Chaplain of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Shall we pray:

Lord, this is the day that You have made, and because You have made this day, it requires two responses from us. The first response is to simply say thank You for such a wonderful day that You have allowed each and every one of us to see, followed by the most appropriate and logical second response, which is to simply rejoice and be glad in allowing us to be part of this momentous and tremendous occasion.

We thank You for the swearing-in day, inauguration event, for these elected officials that will serve in the public office of the House of Representatives within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Lord, we ask You on today, this 3d day of January 2017, that You would simply guide the hearts and give clarity of thought to the minds of each and every individual that is assembled here today.

Furthermore, in our petition to You on today, we ask that You would grant each of the 203 elected individuals of the House of Representatives and the Speaker of the House, grant them the serenity or the calmness to accept the things during their tenure that they may not be able to change. Then I pray that You would give those same individuals the courage,

strength, and fortitude to change the things that they are able to change. Then, most importantly, give those same individuals that are here today the cerebral strength, the cognitive ability, mental capacity, and wisdom to be able to appropriately distinguish critically and know the difference between the things that they can change versus the things that they cannot change during their time in office.

So as we conclude our dialogue with You on today, we close as we started by saying thank You for hearing our petition on today and allowing family members, loved ones, and significant others to be part of such a marvelous and magnanimous event on today. We thank You for helping us to be united in all of our efforts and simply functioning as one nation under You, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members-elect and visitors.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The Sergeants at Arms will open the doors of the House. Members and guests may be seated.

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Chief Clerk, the Deputy Secretary for Elections and Administration of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Marian Schneider.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes Deputy Secretary Schneider.

Ms. SCHNEIDER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

I have the honor to present the returns and statement of campaign expense compliance for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the election held November 8, 2016.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair extends the thanks of the House to Ms. Schneider.

The clerk will proceed with the reading of the returns.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the returns of the General Election held November 8, 2016. The following, having received the highest number of votes in their respective districts, were duly elected Members of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly:

Name	District		
Patrick J. Harkins	First	David L. Reed	Sixty-second
Florindo J. Fabrizio	Second	Donna R. Oberlander	Sixty-third
Ryan A. Bizzarro	Third	Robert L. James	Sixty-fourth
Curtis G. Sonney	Fourth	Kathy L. Rapp	Sixty-fifth
Barry J. Jozwiak	Fifth	Cris E. Dush	Sixty-sixth
Bradley T. Roae	Sixth	Martin T. Causer	Sixty-seventh
Mark A. Longietti	Seventh	Matthew E. Baker	Sixty-eighth
Tedd C. Nesbit	Eighth	Carl Walker Metzgar	Sixty-ninth
Christopher Sainato	Ninth	Matthew D. Bradford	Seventieth
Aaron Joseph Bernstine	Tenth	Bryan E. Barbin	Seventy-first
Brian L. Ellis	Eleventh	Frank Burns	Seventy-second
Daryl D. Metcalfe	Twelfth	Thomas R. Sankey, III	Seventy-third
John Adda Lawrence	Thirteenth	Harry Lewis, Jr.	Seventy-fourth
James E. Marshall	Fourteenth	Matthew M. Gabler	Seventy-fifth
James J. Christiana, III	Fifteenth	Michael K. Hanna, Sr.	Seventy-sixth
Robert F. Matzie	Sixteenth	H. Scott Conklin	Seventy-seventh
Parke H. Wentling	Seventeenth	Jesse W. Topper	Seventy-eighth
Gene DiGirolamo	Eighteenth	John D. McGinnis	Seventy-ninth
Jake Wheatley	Nineteenth	Judith F. Ward	Eightieth
Adam J. Ravenstahl	Twentieth	Richard S. Irvin	Eighty-first
Dominic James Costa	Twenty-first	Christopher Adam Harris	Eighty-second
Peter George Schweyer	Twenty-second	Jeff C. Wheeland	Eighty-third
Dan B. Frankel	Twenty-third	Garth David Everett	Eighty-fourth
Edward C. Gainey	Twenty-fourth	Frederick B. Keller	Eighty-fifth
Joseph F. Markosek	Twenty-fifth	Mark K. Keller	Eighty-sixth
Timothy F. Hennessey	Twenty-sixth	William Gregory Rothman	Eighty-seventh
Daniel J. Deasy	Twenty-seventh	Sheryl M. Delozier	Eighty-eighth
Michael C. Turzai	Twenty-eighth	Robert W. Kauffman	Eighty-ninth
Bernard T. O'Neill	Twenty-ninth	Paul Schemel	Ninetieth
Harold A. English	Thirtieth	Daniel P. Moul	Ninety-first
Perry S. Warren, Jr.	Thirty-first	Dawn Wetzel Keefer	Ninety-second
Anthony M. DeLuca	Thirty-second	Kristin Lee Phillips-Hill	Ninety-third
Francis J. Dermody	Thirty-third	Stanley E. Saylor	Ninety-fourth
Paul Costa	Thirty-fourth	Carol Hill-Evans	Ninety-fifth
Marc J. Gergely	Thirty-fifth	Peter Michael Sturla	Ninety-sixth
Harry A. Readshaw, III	Thirty-sixth	Steven Curtis Mentzer	Ninety-seventh
Melinda S. Fee	Thirty-seventh	David S. Hickernell	Ninety-eighth
William C. Kortz, II	Thirty-eighth	David H. Zimmerman	Ninety-ninth
Richard Saccone	Thirty-ninth	Bryan D. Cutler	One hundredth
John A. Maher	Fortieth	Francis Xavier Ryan	One hundred first
Brett R. Miller	Forty-first	Russ Diamond	One hundred second
Daniel Laurenzano Miller	Forty-second	Patty H. Kim	One hundred third
Keith J. Greiner	Forty-third	Susan C. Helm	One hundred fourth
Thomas Mark Mustio	Forty-fourth	Ronald S. Marsico	One hundred fifth
Anita Astorino Kulik	Forty-fifth	Thomas L. Mehaffie, III	One hundred sixth
Jason A. Ortity	Forty-sixth	Kurt A. Masser	One hundred seventh
Keith J. Gillespie	Forty-seventh	Lynda J. Schlegel Culver	One hundred eighth
Brandon P. Neuman	Forty-eighth	David R. Millard	One hundred ninth
Donald Cook	Forty-ninth	Tina Pickett	One hundred tenth
Pamela Snyder	Fiftieth	Jonathan A. Fritz	One hundred eleventh
Matthew David Dowling	Fifty-first	Kevin Haggerty	One hundred twelfth
Ryan James Warner	Fifty-second	Martin B. Flynn, II	One hundred thirteenth
Robert W. Godshall	Fifty-third	Michael George Kavulich	One hundred fourteenth
Eli Evankovich	Fifty-fourth	Maureen E. Madden	One hundred fifteenth
Joseph A. Petrarca	Fifty-fifth	Tarah C. Toohil	One hundred sixteenth
George S. Dunbar	Fifty-sixth	Karen Boback	One hundred seventeenth
Eric R. Nelson	Fifty-seventh	Michael B. Carroll	One hundred eighteenth
Justin M. Walsh	Fifty-eighth	Gerald J. Mullery	One hundred nineteenth
Michael P. Reese	Fifty-ninth	Aaron D. Kaufer	One hundred twentieth
Jeffrey P. Pyle	Sixtieth	Edwin A. Pashinski	One hundred twenty-first
Kate M. Harper	Sixty-first	Doyle M. Heffley	One hundred twenty-second
		Neal P. Goodman	One hundred twenty-third
		Jerome P. Knowles	One hundred twenty-fourth
		Michael G. Tobash	One hundred twenty-fifth
		Mark Lucio Rozzi	One hundred twenty-sixth
		Thomas R. Caltagirone	One hundred twenty-seventh
		Mark M. Gillen	One hundred twenty-eighth
		James A. Cox, Jr.	One hundred twenty-ninth

David M. Maloney, Sr. One hundred thirtieth
 Justin J. Simmons One hundred thirty-first
 Michael H. Schlossberg One hundred thirty-second
 Daniel T. McNeill One hundred thirty-third
 Ryan E. Mackenzie One hundred thirty-fourth
 Stephen P. Samuelson One hundred thirty-fifth
 Robert Freeman One hundred thirty-sixth
 Joseph T. Emrick One hundred thirty-seventh
 Marcia M. Hahn One hundred thirty-eighth
 Michael T. Peifer One hundred thirty-ninth
 John T. Galloway One hundred fortieth
 Tina M. Davis One hundred forty-first
 Frank Anthony Farry, III One hundred forty-second
 Marguerite Corr Quinn One hundred forty-third
 Katharine M. Watson One hundred forty-fourth
 Craig T. Staats One hundred forty-fifth
 Thomas J. Quigley One hundred forty-sixth
 Marcy Toepel One hundred forty-seventh
 Mary Josephine Daley One hundred forty-eighth
 Timothy P. Briggs One hundred forty-ninth
 Michael N. Corr One hundred fiftieth
 William Todd Stephens One hundred fifty-first
 Thomas Paul Murt One hundred fifty-second
 Madeleine Dean Cunnane One hundred fifty-third
 Stephen C. McCarter One hundred fifty-fourth
 Rebecca P. Corbin One hundred fifty-fifth
 Carolyn T. Comitta One hundred fifty-sixth
 Warren E. Kampf One hundred fifty-seventh
 Eric M. Roe One hundred fifty-eighth
 Brian Joseph Kirkland One hundred fifty-ninth
 Stephen E. Barrar One hundred sixtieth
 Leanne T. Krueger-Braneky One hundred sixty-first
 Nicholas Anthony Miccarelli One hundred sixty-second
 James Santora One hundred sixty-third
 Margo L. Davidson One hundred sixty-fourth
 Alexander Tesla Charlton One hundred sixty-fifth
 Gregory S. Vitali One hundred sixty-sixth
 Duane D. Milne One hundred sixty-seventh
 Christopher B. Quinn One hundred sixty-eighth
 Kate Anne Klunk One hundred sixty-ninth
 Martina A. White One hundred seventieth
 Kerry Albert Benninghoff One hundred seventy-first
 Kevin J. Boyle One hundred seventy-second
 Michael Joseph Driscoll One hundred seventy-third
 Ed J. Neilson One hundred seventy-fourth
 Michael H. O'Brien One hundred seventy-fifth
 Jack B. Rader, Jr. One hundred seventy-sixth
 John J. Taylor One hundred seventy-seventh
 Scott Petri One hundred seventy-eighth
 Jason T. Dawkins One hundred seventy-ninth
 Angel L. Cruz One hundred eightieth
 W. Curtis Thomas One hundred eighty-first
 Brian K. Sims One hundred eighty-second
 Zachary A. Mako One hundred eighty-third
 William F. Keller One hundred eighty-fourth
 Maria P. Donatucci One hundred eighty-fifth
 Jordan A. Harris One hundred eighty-sixth
 Gary W. Day One hundred eighty-seventh
 James R. Roebuck One hundred eighty-eighth
 Rosemary Maula Brown One hundred eighty-ninth
 Vanessa L. Brown One hundred ninetieth
 Joanna E. McClinton One hundred ninety-first
 Morgan B. Cephas One hundred ninety-second
 Will F. Tallman One hundred ninety-third
 Pamela A. DeLissio One hundred ninety-fourth

Donna Bullock One hundred ninety-fifth
 Seth Grove One hundred ninety-sixth
 Leslie Acosta One hundred ninety-seventh
 Rosita C. Youngblood One hundred ninety-eighth
 Stephen L. Bloom One hundred ninety-ninth
 Christopher M. Rabb Two hundredth
 Stephen Kinsey Two hundred first
 Jared G. Solomon Two hundred second
 Isabella Fitzgerald Two hundred third

Witness my hand and the seal of my office this
 twenty-first day of December, 2016.

(SEAL)

Pedro A. Cortés
 Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 GREETINGS:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1632(b) of the Pennsylvania Election Code, 25 P.S. § 3252(b), I do hereby certify that all duly elected members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have filed all of the reports and statements of contributions and expenditures required by the provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled "Primary and Election Expenses."

Witness my hand and the seal of my office
 this twenty-first day of December, 2016.

(SEAL)

Pedro A. Cortés
 Secretary of the Commonwealth

The CHIEF CLERK. The election returns for all candidates for membership in the House of Representatives will be printed in the Journal of the House.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

The CHIEF CLERK. A communication from the Honorable Leslie Acosta, which the clerk will read.

The following communication was read:

House of Representatives
 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Harrisburg

December 16, 2016

The Honorable Mike Turzai
 Pennsylvania House of Representatives
 139 Main Capitol
 PO Box 202028
 Harrisburg PA 17120-2028

Dear Representative Turzai:

Please accept this letter as my resignation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives effective as of the close of business on January 3, 2017.

Due to above average levels of constituent services in my district within my caucus, maintaining current staff levels is appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Leslie Acosta

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The CHIEF CLERK. Are there requests for leaves of absence? The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Mr. Cutler.

Mr. CUTLER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

We would like to place the honorable gentleman from Allegheny County, Representative MAHER, on leave.

The CHIEF CLERK. Without objection, the leave of absence is granted. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the Democratic whip, Mr. Hanna.

Mr. HANNA. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

We would like to request leave for Representative ACOSTA and Representative DAVIS.

The CHIEF CLERK. Without objection, leaves of absence are granted. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ROLL CALL

The CHIEF CLERK. The roll will now be taken, and the members will signify their presence by pressing the "aye" button. The members will proceed to vote.

The roll was recorded, and the following members-elect were present:

PRESENT—200

Baker	Emrick	Knowles	Rabb
Barbin	English	Kortz	Rader
Barrar	Evankovich	Krueger	Rapp
Benninghoff	Evans	Kulik	Ravenstahl
Bernstine	Everett	Lawrence	Readshaw
Bizzarro	Fabrizio	Lewis	Reed
Bloom	Farry	Longietti	Reese
Boback	Fee	Mackenzie	Roae
Boyle	Fitzgerald	Madden	Roe
Bradford	Flynn	Mako	Roebuck
Briggs	Frankel	Maloney	Rothman
Brown, R.	Freeman	Markosek	Rozzi
Brown, V.	Fritz	Marshall	Ryan
Bullock	Gabler	Marsico	Saccone
Burns	Gainey	Masser	Sainato
Caltagirone	Galloway	Matzie	Samuelson
Carroll	Gergely	McCarter	Sankey
Causser	Gillen	McClinton	Santora
Cephas	Gillespie	McGinnis	Saylor
Charlton	Godshall	McNeill	Schemel
Christiana	Goodman	Mehaffie	Schlossberg
Comitta	Greiner	Mentzer	Schweyer
Conklin	Grove	Metcalfe	Simmons
Cook	Haggerty	Metzgar	Sims
Corbin	Hahn	Miccarelli	Snyder
Corr	Hanna	Millard	Solomon
Costa, D.	Harkins	Miller, B.	Sonney
Costa, P.	Harper	Miller, D.	Staats
Cox	Harris, A.	Milne	Stephens
Cruz	Harris, J.	Moul	Sturla
Culver	Heffley	Mullery	Tallman
Cutler	Helm	Murt	Taylor
Daley	Hennessey	Mustio	Thomas
Davidson	Hickernell	Neilson	Tobash

Dawkins	Hill	Nelson	Toepel
Day	Irvin	Nesbit	Toohil
Dean	James	Neuman	Topper
Deasy	Jozwiak	O'Brien	Turzai
DeLissio	Kampf	O'Neill	Vitali
DeLozier	Kaufert	Oberlander	Walsh
DeLuca	Kauffman	Ortitay	Ward
Dermody	Kavulich	Pashinski	Warner
Diamond	Keefer	Peifer	Warren
DiGirolamo	Keller, F.	Petrarca	Watson
Donatucci	Keller, M.K.	Petri	Wentling
Dowling	Keller, W.	Pickett	Wheatley
Driscoll	Kim	Pyle	Wheeland
Dunbar	Kinsey	Quigley	White
Dush	Kirkland	Quinn, C.	Youngblood
Ellis	Klunk	Quinn, M.	Zimmerman

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—3

Acosta	Davis	Maher
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LEAVES ADDED—2

Galloway	Godshall
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The CHIEF CLERK. Two hundred members having indicated their presence, a quorum is present.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS-ELECT

The CHIEF CLERK. A Bible has been placed on the desk of those members who swear or affirm by the Bible.

Members will rise, place your left hand on a Holy Book or the Constitution, raise your right hand, and remain standing at your desk during the administration of the oath to which each member will swear or affirm.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable Craig A. Dally, judge, Northampton County Court of Common Pleas, and a former member of the House.

(Members-elect stood.)

JUDGE DALLY. Thank you, Chief Clerk Reddecliff.

Speaker-designee Turzai, Majority Leader Reed, Minority Leader Dermody, and Judge Michael Fisher, and members-elect of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives:

Twenty years I had the distinct honor being here where you are, in the hall of the House, to take the oath of office in my first of what would be seven terms of service representing the people of the 138th Legislative District in Northampton and Monroe Counties.

Together with your family, friends, and supporters gathered here in the House chamber and the various viewing areas throughout the Capitol Complex on this, a festive and celebratory day, I want to congratulate each one of you on your election. Enjoy this day, for it represents a hallmark in your life's journey, and be prepared for tomorrow when your leadership will be looked upon as you begin the work of this body, a legislative assembly that was the foundation of all others in this country, as you address the important and

compelling issues of this Commonwealth and the concerns of the constituents of your district who sent you to this place as their Representative.

Good luck and Godspeed.

Now, if you will please place your left hand on the Bible or Holy Book and raise your right hand: Do you solemnly swear that you will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that you will discharge the duties of your office with fidelity? If so, say "I do."

(Members asserted oath.)

JUDGE DALLY. Congratulations.

The CHIEF CLERK. You may be seated.

RESOLUTION

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair would like to recognize the gentleman from Westmoreland County, Mr. Reese.

Mr. REESE. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

First, I would like to wish all of my colleagues and all of their guests a very happy and blessed new year.

And as it has been done for generations, Mr. Chief Clerk, it is my honor to present a resolution for the election of Speaker.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Westmoreland, Mr. Reese, presents a resolution, which the clerk will read.

Mr. REESE offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
January 3, 2017

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Article II, section 9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the House do now proceed to the election of a Speaker.

NOMINATIONS FOR SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. Nominations are now in order for the office of Speaker.

The Chair recognizes the lady from Bradford County, Ms. Pickett.

Ms. PICKETT. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Mr. Chief Clerk, as we sit here in this magnificent chamber this afternoon and celebrate the beginning of our 201st legislative session, we also appear here today ready to tackle the challenging issues that lie ahead, and I can think of no better person to lead this chamber through the next 2 years. He is a man of great character and tremendous dedication. He has the innate ability to buckle down to solve our State's most pressing challenges, and that is why today I rise to nominate the Honorable Michael C. Turzai as Speaker of this House.

Fellow members, Mike and I were members of the class of 2000, a group of 13 members, and only 4 of us remain here today. Over the past 16 years, we have fought together for many priorities aimed at making Pennsylvania a better place to live, to work, and to raise our families.

Leadership is a gift, and it was apparent 16 years ago that Mike was a man of great talent who would quickly take the reins of responsibility to pull us in the right direction for Pennsylvania. Mike was friendly, upbeat, energetic, and encouraging. I liked and admired him from our very first meeting, and it soon became clear Mike possessed a level of determination, one that I had not seen before and have not seen since. He simply does not give up, no matter how difficult a task or policy issue may be.

Part of what makes Mike such an outstanding leader and policymaker is his genuine interest in knowing every corner of Pennsylvania and the people who live there. Mike has spent time in the northeast, and he takes the time to listen to and impart the thoughts of our citizens into our lawmaking decisions.

Our districts are quite different. He is from the suburbs and my area is very rural. There is a reason we call it the Endless Mountains. You would think the differences would stand out, but not to Mike. He sees the similarities and the shared goals and he focuses on those issues to help bring us, as a legislative body, as well as the people of the Commonwealth together. We all want good jobs. We all want good health care. We all want good schools and an educational system that allows our students to succeed, and we all want to be able to call Pennsylvania home, now and for generations to come. That is Mike.

Another quality that makes him the best possible person to stand before us and lead us as a chamber for the next 2 years is his ability to be fair. While a man of solid convictions, Mike listens to all, gives all a voice, and facilitates a final position that moves Pennsylvania forward.

That attribute cannot be understated as we face the challenges before us. Oh, surely, there will be times in this chamber that tempers will flare because we are all very passionate about our beliefs and our goals for making Pennsylvania better. But Mike is the one who will reason with both sides and make a ruling that, no matter where you sit on this floor, will be fair.

This is not an easy job, and the time we spend here is away from our families and our homes. He understands that as much as anyone because he values the time he is able to spend with his own family. As Lidia, Andrew, Stephen, and Matthew sit with us here today, I want them all to know that we, and all of Pennsylvania, are so very lucky to have their husband and their father lead us in this chamber.

That is why I rise today to nominate Michael C. Turzai as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 201st legislative session.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The lady from Bradford County, Ms. Pickett, places in nomination for office of Speaker the gentleman from Allegheny County, the Honorable Mike Turzai.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Readshaw.

Mr. READSHAW. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

On this day it is proper that we recognize the nominee, Representative Michael Turzai, for Speaker of the House and for his continued dedication and commitment to the House of Representatives and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As he was unanimously elected Speaker of the House on January 6, 2015, we have seen him grow in that position, and accordingly, we feel confident he will continue to grow in that direction. I believe that coming together is a beginning, keeping

together is progress, working together is success, and I know in communicating with Speaker-elect Turzai he shares in that belief.

I am honored and appreciate the opportunity to stand today for my colleague from Allegheny County and second the nominating motion for the Honorable Michael Turzai as Speaker of this House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Readshaw, seconds the nomination of Mike Turzai for the office of Speaker.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Chester County, Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. LAWRENCE. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Colleagues, congratulations on your election, with my special regard to each of the freshmen. Welcome.

Mr. Chief Clerk, the role of Speaker of this Pennsylvania House of Representatives is the oldest elected legislative leadership position in North America. The Charter of Privileges granted by our founder, William Penn, on October 28, 1701, specifically mentions the role of the Speaker. The Speaker is the literal and figurative leader of this chamber, the House of the people. There is not a majority Speaker, nor a minority Speaker. There is but one Speaker for all the members.

Today the good gentleman from Allegheny County, from the 28th Legislative District, is before us. He has taken his place amongst the distinguished list of individuals who have led this chamber with honor and dignity in an unbroken chain dating all the way back to 1683.

The challenges facing this General Assembly over the coming days are significant. Each of us has been called to faithfully represent the people of this great Commonwealth in these times marked by difficulty, promise, and opportunity. And just as each member is to serve his or her constituents, so too must the Speaker serve this chamber, ensuring each member has the opportunity to be heard, so that each Pennsylvanian has the opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Chief Clerk, over the past 10 years I have seen the gentleman from Allegheny in good times and in difficult times. And I have seen him over the past 2 years preside over this chamber in a fair and evenhanded manner, even in challenging circumstances. No man is perfect, but I believe the gentleman to be a man of uncommon character and decency.

With all of this in mind, Mr. Chief Clerk, I second the nomination of the good gentleman, my friend, Mike Turzai, for Speaker of the House. May God bless and guide him and this House in the days ahead.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Chester County, Mr. Lawrence, seconds the nomination of Mike Turzai for the office of Speaker.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Thomas.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Mr. Chief Clerk, let me extend a heartfelt welcome to family, friends, loved ones, and significant others from all parts of Pennsylvania to the people's House. This is the people's House. And we are honored to have you here today.

I rise, Mr. Chief Clerk, to close the nominations for Speaker of the 201st legislative term. Now, Mr. Chief Clerk, I think we have heard all that we have needed to hear, we have witnessed

all that we have needed to see, because we know that our nominee has served as Speaker and managed difficult and good times of this august body.

And so, Mr. Chief Clerk, I rise to close the nomination and move that by acclamation that we select the Honorable Michael Turzai as the Speaker of the 201st legislative term. Hear ye, hear ye. Thank you.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Thomas, moves that nominations now be closed.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

The CHIEF CLERK. Those in favor of the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mike Turzai, for the office of Speaker of the House will say "aye"; those opposed, "no." The "ayes" have it, and Mike Turzai is unanimously elected Speaker of the House.

Congratulations.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT SPEAKER-ELECT TO ROSTRUM

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair appoints the gentleman from Indiana County, Mr. Reed, and the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Dermody, to escort Speaker-elect Mike Turzai to the rostrum.

The committee to escort the Speaker-elect will proceed with the performance of its duties.

The Chair recognizes the chairman of the committee, Mr. Reed.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Mr. Chief Clerk.

I have the honor of presenting my friend and our Speaker-elect, Mike Turzai.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SPEAKER-ELECT TURZAI

The CHIEF CLERK. The oath of office to the Speaker-elect will now be administered by the Honorable D. Michael Fisher, judge, Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and a former member of the House.

Members and all guests, please rise as able for the oath of office.

JUDGE FISHER. As the Turzai family is getting positioned up here, let me just say congratulations to all of you and what an honor it is for me to be back here. Forty years ago today I was being sworn in to my second term as a member of the State House, sitting back there in the back row. Little did I ever think that I would get up here to the podium and be in a position to swear in the Speaker. But as I did 2 years ago, I am back here for the second time to swear in the Speaker, a person whom I have been a friend of for many, many years. His father taught me in grade school. My wife and I had the pleasure of going out with Lidia and Mike on their first date. I have seen their family grow up. I have seen him do what he has done so ably for the people of Allegheny County and for the people of Pennsylvania. And I am very pleased to be here today to be able to administer the oath of office.

So with that, Mr. Speaker-elect, would you please place your left hand on your Bible and raise your right hand and repeat after me: I, Mike Turzai, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Speaker-elect Turzai asserted oath.)

JUDGE FISHER. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair now requests the Honorable Dick Stevenson, a former member of the House, to take the Chair for the purpose of presenting the gavel to Speaker Mike Turzai.

Mr. STEVENSON. Governor Wolf, members of the House, honored guests, it was 16 years ago in 2001 when I met Mike Turzai. He joined our class after winning a special election during our first year in the General Assembly. We then served together for 14 years, living in the same House for 10 of them and serving as members of leadership for 4.

Mike and I sat near each other on the House floor, and quite early in our tenure it became clear that he was here to make a difference. With his ability to build consensus, he soon became a mentor to others as he tirelessly advocated for and against the issues of the day. He quickly became a strong presence in our caucus, and those who worked with him on an issue as well as those in opposition have witnessed his determination and his passion. It was not long before Mike's leadership skills were recognized by the caucus as he was elected to one leadership post after another before first being elected as Speaker 2 years ago.

His determination and passion are not reserved solely for his work. It is not unusual at all for Mike at the end of a long day in Harrisburg to get in the car and drive the 3 hours it takes to get back to Allegheny County. Then he must rise very early the next day to return to the Capitol. He spends those 6 hours of an already short night on the road so that he can spend time with his family. His wife, Lidia, and his three sons are truly the fuel that keeps him going and the glue that holds him together.

So it is an honor and a pleasure for me today to return to this chamber to offer my congratulations on his reelection as Speaker of the House of Representatives and to present the gavel with my best wishes to my friend, Mike Turzai.

THE SPEAKER (MIKE TURZAI) PRESIDING

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Please take your seats. Thank you so much. Quite an honor.

First of all, welcome to this august chamber, and before I introduce some folks and thank some folks, I have to start with the list of very important dignitaries that we are so honored as a group to have in our chamber from other branches of government.

First of all, the Honorable Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf. Thank you so much, Governor. Please rise. Please rise. I speak for all of us, Governor, that we are so honored that you would take the time to be with us on this special day.

From the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, a longtime friend, an outstanding jurist, Justice Debra Todd. Justice Todd, thank you, my dear.

With respect to the governance of Pennsylvania, as you know, there are three very important, we in the press and in the public domain call them row offices. They have such important responsibilities. I am going to introduce each of them individually, beginning with Auditor General Eugene DePasquale. General. One of our former colleagues here in the House of Representatives. Attorney General-elect Josh Shapiro. Josh, thank you. Josh, too, served with us here in the House of Representatives. And Treasurer-elect Joe Torsella. Joe, thank you.

Former Speaker of the House, Robert O'Donnell, is present with us today. Speaker O'Donnell. And from my home county, the outstanding Allegheny County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald. Rich.

It is my understanding that former member Gordon Linton is present with us today, and he is the guest of Representative Chris Rabb. He also served as the Federal Transit Administrator from 1993 to 1999. Representative Linton.

We had a distinguished group from both sides of the aisle sit on a swearing-in day committee to help us in terms of the cost of today's celebration and then also to make sure that it was such a lovely day for our friends and family. Would these individuals please rise after I call your name – and we will hold our applause until after the entire group has been announced – Gene Barr, Sil Lutkewitte, Wendie Holsinger, and Matt Smith. Please rise. Thank you so much for being with us today.

Now, I think what is really exciting, and I realize it is the first day of school for many of our kids after the holiday break, the Christmas break, but I think it would be great, because I have three kids here, if any of the kids or grandkids of the legislators or nephews and nieces are here, could you please stand and get a show of support from all of us. We are so excited to have you here. To each and every one of you – daughters and sons, granddaughters and grandsons, nieces and nephews – you should be so proud of your mom, dad, grandma, grandfather, aunt, uncle today for being sworn in to represent citizens in the oldest legislative body, some say in the Americas. They are doing great work and they could not do it without your love and support, so thank you for being here today.

Now, we had some outstanding folks working on this beautiful day for all of us and I must just thank them, including another family member of mine, not really by blood but just a great friend – Lidia and I are godparents to her oldest, Mary, age 7 – Sara Kennedy. Sara, if you could stand. Karen Coates, our Chief of Staff. Kelly Fedeli, who handles the protocol for the chamber. Kelly. Jen – where is Jen? – her right-hand assistant. Is Jen here? And then we also have Clancy, the speaker who knows all the history behind each and every item that we do here. Clancy Myer. Steve Miskin, Candice, Lisa, Lisa, and Lori. Lori Locketto. I hope she is on the floor. Where is Lori? Lori, thank you so much for all that you have done, dear. We love you.

Now, folks, I know I have to personally thank Mike Reese, Tina Pickett, just thank you for those truly kind words. Harry Readshaw, a man really with a vision of this institution, a

positive vision of this institution. John Lawrence and Curtis Thomas. Curtis, who was so kind to call me up to ask to offer one of the nominations, and I had asked him if he would do the courtesy to this institution to close the nominations.

To Judge Mike Fisher, what an outstanding jurist and career this man has had – House of Representatives, State Senate, Attorney General, and Third Circuit. And I know his lovely daughter, Michelle, is with him today. Mike, thank you so much for being with us again, my good, good friend.

Judge Craig Dally, without a doubt one of the most talented legislators and one of the most friendly. Such a good friend to many. I saw his other very good friend – I hope she is in the well of the House – Julie Harhart, here today and maybe even Sandy Major. Judge Dally, thank you for swearing in your former colleagues. We love having you here from Northampton County.

Dick Stevenson, a man of real principle. He and his wife, Sue, friends to so many people across Pennsylvania to drive out from the really distinguished town of Grove City, the home of Grove City College. Dick, thank you for your kind words.

And, Dave Reddecliff, thank you for doing an outstanding job in this role, your first opportunity to do so as Chief Clerk for the House of Representatives. Thank you.

If you will bear with me, I know I did this 2 years ago, but with much pride I do have to once again just introduce my lovely family. My wife, Lidia, first, please. Lidia, if you could please stand. She always looks so great. She and her family and our family have weathered some sad times this year, but Lidia is just a principled, loving, tough, when needed to be, mom and wife, a pediatrician. Folks, I swear, amongst your other keys make sure your spouse is somebody really well liked in the community; it really helps. So any of your faults can sometimes be forgiven if you have a great spouse and Lidia is that. I cannot tell you how many – yes; I even still knock on doors. I knock on doors and they go, "Oh, we love your wife. She sees our kids." And I say, "Oh my goodness, thank goodness." Lidia herself served on the Allegheny County Health Department under a Republican and Democrat chief executive, and while she was not a delegate this year to the convention, she has been a delegate in the past. And just an outstanding, outstanding lady in her own right. Thank you, Lidia, for being here today. We love you.

Andrew is our oldest, and, Andrew, if you could stand. I said, "Andrew, please make sure the gum is out of your mouth," and he said, "Dad, really, you've got to give me an order already?" This young man just finished his football season, varsity football player, and became an Eagle Scout right before his 18th birthday, for those of you who know what that is. He served on our school board, serves on student council, ready to begin varsity baseball, and then he is graduating and we are going to miss him. I sometimes get teary-eyed already, for those of you that have already had somebody leave your house, I still get teary-eyed or maybe you are like me with a senior. And then I sometimes say, "Oh my goodness, I am going to so miss our conversations where Andrew gets to yell at me and I get to yell back." He is really just an outstanding young man. And, Andrew, thank you for being here today, buddy.

Stephen. Stephen Turzai, this good man. Now, Andrew is at North Allegheny, graduates about 700 kids a year, a public school. Stephen is actually at Vincentian Academy, a local Catholic school in my district, and his school graduates about

75 kids a year. So it is quite a contrast. Stephen is a baseball pitcher, let me tell you. That kid thinks and breathes baseball, and his team won the Class A State champs last year and Stephen got to be a part of that, and I have to give you a round of applause for that, Stephen. Great job, my man. He has watched "Moneyball" – if you have not seen that movie, "Moneyball," Stephen has watched that about 20, 30 times, and I do not have to worry about a career path for him. He wants to be, you know, those guys that run the organization and like pick and choose and draft players and let them go, like that "Moneyball" guy. He is also on honor roll, and high honor roll, and is our only employed kid in the family. He is a lifeguard, which we love because he brings money into the coffers. We keep working on Andrew, but he keeps saying he has been too busy. But outstanding. Stephen, thanks so much, buddy. We love you.

Matthew, our youngest. We cannot call him a baby anymore; he has gotten so big. And he just finished football season, is in the middle of basketball season at Marshall Middle School in North Allegheny, soon to do baseball, and unlike the others who clearly have steered away from the government side – now, Andrew is on student council, I guess – but Matt actually ran for president of the student body and won for Marshall Middle School. Straight-A student, still swims, an altar boy. I have to give you a quick story. The two boys were both on the altar at church and Matt got a little heated – I do not know if any of you have ever done this in your services or Mass – got a little heated up on the altar, ready to pass out. Stephen, good brother right next to him, walks away from him. He said, "Oh my God, Dad, couldn't he last a few more minutes?" We were near the end. Actually, they are very close, you know, in good brother sense. Lidia and I of course ran up, and Lidia actually knew what was going on and could help Matt out. But Matt is really just one of the most polite young men, I have to say; just a great young man and we love him. Thank you, Matthew.

And my sister, Becky, and my brother, Terry. Becky is a nurse. Terry is a teacher, and Terry has also been a coach. And we love them, and thank you so much for being here today, both of you.

I know there are many great friends of all of ours, and we welcome each and every one of you because this is a chance for optimism, right? Going into a new session is not a negative thing; it is a positive thing. You know, we as legislators are the only ones, the only ones – I tell this to the classes too, and I am sure you do as well, tell it to the classes, where I get to tell them about our roles and responsibilities, and I say, the Governor cannot introduce a bill, right? Nobody in the 65,000 people that we represent can introduce a bill. Nobody can vote on a bill. You, the members of the House of Representatives and our colleagues in the Senate, are the only folks in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who can introduce legislation, who can vote on legislation, who can work to move legislation. The power that the people back home have given to me and to you together to change Pennsylvania is so significant, and we can never take it lightly. I always tell the new members, be on the House floor; it is a privilege, it is a privilege to be able to vote on legislation, to speak on legislation, to advocate for it. You can change the direction of Pennsylvania. I know you know that. But the new members, do not forget the admonition. It is so important to remember. You can make a positive difference for the citizens of this great Commonwealth.

I want to hold up real briefly, this was the Holy Bible that I was able to be sworn in on today; I was so blessed. It contains the Old and New Testaments, obviously, and it was newly translated out of original tongues, and with marginal notes, showing the Scripture to be the best interpreter of that Scripture, and it was printed in London by a gentleman by the name of Charles Bill, and it was the executrix of Thomas Newcombe, deceased; printers to the King and most Excellent Majesty, 1698. What the importance of the— It was a bookplate showing the ownership by William Penn, the founder of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania himself. If you have an opportunity, please feel free to come up and inspect, each and every member, this Bible owned once by the founder of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, William Penn. What a great honor.

And I want to use a William Penn quote today: "Speak properly" – this is probably to me, and I have already violated it – "Speak properly, and in as few words as you can, but always plainly" – I think I got that part right – "for the end of speech is not ostentation, but to be understood."

I think we have such great opportunities in front of us as a body. The majority party does have an obligation to govern, and the minority party has an obligation to participate and be a part of moving legislation forward, and we are, each and every one of us, members without regard to party, Republican and Democrat, as we serve here in the House of Representatives.

There are so many important issues for us to take on. In looking back over the past session, some very important pieces of legislation that so many of you worked on with the Governor and with members on both sides of the aisle. We, in terms of moving forward, actually since 2010-2011 – I want to give you these numbers; I want to make sure I have them correct – have increased, since the 2010-11 budget, spending on State dollars for those with intellectual disabilities by 67.3 percent, almost \$2 billion in funding, and the key there is, we need to get more individuals off those waivers and into these particular services that we have been putting front and center because what it says is that each and every Pennsylvanian is a person of dignity.

In the city of Philadelphia we have about 25,000 to 30,000 students plus those across the Commonwealth who would still like to have an opportunity to maybe go to a charter school, a type of a public school, and we have to continue to improve our public schools where most of the students in the Commonwealth are educated. I think there is an opportunity like we did before when we did the compromise on the local cigarette tax, but we also put a provision in to actually have a formal application process and an appeals process. Seven thousand kids were added to those charter schools as a result of that compromise legislation. Cherelle Parker, who is now on the city council, was a leader on that with John Taylor and myself.

We have an opportunity with respect to the educational improvement tax credit and the opportunity scholarship tax credit to make sure that students in Philadelphia, by way of example, at the Independence Mission Schools – one I recently toured was St. Thomas Aquinas where Nicole Unegbu was the principal, children of all backgrounds and faiths who had an opportunity to wear that uniform and to be safe – and we have an opportunity to expand that, and that has always been a bipartisan opportunity with respect to making improvements for education so that each and every child has an opportunity to find his or her place.

With respect to the budget, we found ways to meet our obligations while holding the line on broad-based taxes. We have reduced debt. We have more to do. We have to make sure that there are family-sustaining jobs for each and every Pennsylvanian, and energy independence is a significant part of that opportunity to provide those family-sustaining jobs. We as a group moved the sale of wine to the private sector, moving Pennsylvania into the 21st century. We have made sure that we have all-time highest spending on public education in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

And we, I know that some of us disagreed on the approach, but there is going to be those who suffer from epilepsy or PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder, who are going to have the opportunity to get some medicines and hopefully we are going to do that to make sure it gets right to them to make their lives ever better and to make sure that we do not increase the problem of drug abuse in this Commonwealth. On those lines we as a group did some landmark bills with respect to freeing Pennsylvania citizens from opioid addiction.

All of that was member-driven, in contact with the folks back home, knowing what is in front of us and making sure that we do the best job we can. There are going to be disagreements. We are going to have different perspectives on certain issues. But more often than not, we are going to be able to work together to move these important issues forward. I think of all the work we did on child abuse under Kathy Watson and Mauree Gingrich, by way of example, just outstanding legislation that we did together.

I think this session, '17-'18, is going to be that kind of session. I think each and every one of you are empowered to take hold of those important issues that you have learned about from your own experience in life and from back home, and we are going to reach across the aisle and we are going to get things accomplished.

You have two outstanding leadership teams, two outstanding leadership teams – the majority leader, Dave Reed; minority leader, Frank Dermody; a new Appropriations chair in Stan Saylor; Joe Markosek, one of our longest serving members – with great experience that they bring to the table, and all the other leaders of these teams that will be introduced shortly. I think there is a great chance for continued success. Each and every one of us should be so optimistic.

With that, I just want to tell you I am so honored to hold this position of Speaker. I hold it with high regard. I will continue to work every single day to show respect to each and every one of you and to make sure that any rulings that have to be made by the bench are done fairly and without regard to partisanship.

I want to end with this last quote from William Penn: "Sense shines with a double luster when it is set in humility. An able yet humble man" – and I will add and woman – "is a jewel worth a kingdom."

May God bless each and every one of you, and thank you for voting me in to hold this really important position of responsibility for this august chamber. Thank you.

Thank you.

COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Chief Clerk.

Sorry; this has been just history of swearing-in day, but there is a commemorative gavel that is presented by the Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. Mr. Speaker, today marks my 18th swearing-in ceremony, but as you know, it is my first in this capacity. As you can imagine, it is a special day for me, but it is extra special to be standing here with you. I am honored and thrilled to present this ceremonial gavel to an outstanding Speaker and a great friend. Congratulations and best wishes as you continue to lead in this historic role.

The SPEAKER. Dave, thank you. Thank you so much. An outstanding Chief Clerk.

PLACING OF MACE

The SPEAKER. The oath of office having been taken by the members of the House and the Speaker now elected, the Chair instructs the Sergeant at Arms to now place the mace on the rostrum. The mace is the symbol of authority of the House, and when the mace is at the Speaker's right, the House is in session.

(Mace was placed on rostrum.)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Now, you may have noticed our macebearer, James Fata, is not here today. God bless. We have some very sad news to report. James' wife, Sandy, passed away last evening. She has been in hospice and she has been in our prayers. We ask that you keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

We will take a short moment of silence to remember James' wife, Sandy. Just do it at your seats. We will do it at our seats and we will bow our heads.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

The SPEAKER. Thank you. God bless you, James. We miss you. Our prayers are with you and Sandy.

PARLIAMENTARIAN APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. In compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth authorizing the Speaker to appoint a Parliamentarian, the Speaker appoints Clancy Myer as Parliamentarian of the House. Please, everybody, let us give him a round of applause.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJORITY LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER. Now, I have the distinct honor and privilege of recognizing one of our new leadership members, the lady from Montgomery County, Mrs. Marcy Toepel, for the purpose of making an important announcement. Madam Chair.

Mrs. TOEPEL. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Republican Caucus, I have been instructed to announce, for the information of the members of the House and for the record, that the gentleman from Indiana County, Mr. Reed, has been elected majority leader by the caucus, and that the gentleman from Lancaster County, Mr. Cutler, has been elected majority whip. Furthermore, the lady from Armstrong and Clarion Counties, Ms. Oberlander, has been elected caucus secretary; the

gentleman from Centre and Mifflin Counties, Mr. Benninghoff, has been elected policy chairman; the gentleman from Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Counties, Mr. Masser, has been elected caucus administrator; and the gentleman from York, Mr. Saylor, has been elected majority chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

Would each of these new leaders for this session, '17-'18, please rise.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Frankel, for the purpose of making an announcement. Chairman Frankel.

Mr. FRANKEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and let me add my congratulations on your reelection as our Speaker and to all my colleagues on this momentous day in your lives as you are sworn in.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been instructed to announce, for the information of the members of the House and for the record, that the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Dermody, has been elected Democratic leader by the Democratic Caucus, and that the gentleman from Clinton County, Mr. Hanna, has been elected Democratic whip. Furthermore, the lady from Philadelphia County, Ms. Youngblood, has been elected caucus secretary; the gentleman from Lancaster County, Mr. Sturla, has been elected policy chairman; the gentleman from Schuylkill County, Mr. Goodman, has been elected caucus administrator; and the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Markosek, has been elected Democratic chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, sir.

Would each of those new leaders for this session please rise for a round of applause.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. A very important part in this program.

The Speaker recognizes the good lady from Clarion and Armstrong Counties, Ms. Oberlander, to introduce the freshman members of the Republican Caucus. Donna.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I, too, offer my heartfelt congratulations to you and to all of you members.

Mr. Speaker, as I call the names of the new members of the Republican Caucus, will they please stand, and I would ask that you hold your applause until I have completed the introduction of all of the new members.

Aaron Bernstine, 10th District; Bud Cook, 49th District; Matthew Dowling, 51st District; Justin M. Walsh, 58th District; Dawn Keefer, 92d District; Francis Ryan, 101st District; Thomas Mehaffie III, 106th District; Jonathan Fritz, 111th District; Michael Corr, 150th District; Eric Roe, 158th District; Alexander Charlton, 165th District; Zachary Mako, 183d District.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, Donna.

The Speaker recognizes the good lady from Philadelphia County, Ms. Youngblood, to introduce the freshman members of the Democratic Caucus.

Ms. YOUNGBLOOD. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker, on being reelected Speaker for the 2017-18 session.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of the entire Democratic Caucus, I would like to congratulate the newest members of the Democratic Caucus. As I call their names, I ask each of our newest colleagues to stand. Please hold your applause until I have introduced all of our new members.

Perry Warren, Jr., representing the 31st District; Anita Kulik, representing the 45th District; Carol Hill-Evans, representing the 95th District; Kevin Haggerty, representing the 112th District; Maureen Madden, representing the 115th District; Carolyn Comitta, representing the 156th District; Brian Kirkland, representing the 159th District; Morgan Cephas, representing the 192d District; Christopher Rabb, representing the 200th District; Jared Solomon, representing the 202d District; Isabella Fitzgerald, representing the 203d District.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And congratulations again to our new Democratic members.

FORMER MEMBERS WELCOMED

The SPEAKER. Members, I know I saw earlier a good friend and colleague, Representative Mike Vereb. Mike Vereb, I believe is here, Michael. I think also Representative Mario Civera. Appropriations chair, Mario Civera, I know was going to be present. If there are any other former members of the House of Representatives that I have not been given notice of, I would certainly appreciate if you could stand at this time so that we could please acknowledge your presence here today in this chamber. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MR. IRVIN

The SPEAKER. Now, folks, we have a very sad note here, and I am sorry, given this wonderful day, that we have to deal with this tragedy.

But the Speaker recognizes, and it is fitting that we do so, Representative Rich Irvin from Huntingdon County, who will be making remarks regarding State Trooper Landon Weaver, and he will be joined by Representative Barry Jozwiak, a former State trooper. If any other former members of law enforcement, Dom Costa or any others, wish to join Rich Irvin, please come up.

And, Rich, if you will just come up to the leader's rostrum.

Mr. IRVIN. Mr. Speaker, Governor Wolf, members of the General Assembly, and honored guests, on this first day of our new session I am saddened to rise in order to honor the life of Trooper Landon Weaver of Troop G in Huntingdon County, who was killed in the line of duty this past Friday. Trooper Weaver became the 97th member of the Pennsylvania State Police killed in the line of duty on December 30 as he responded to a domestic incident in the Raystown Lake area of Huntingdon County.

Trooper Weaver enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in December 2015. He married his high school sweetheart in June 2016. At the age of 23, Trooper Weaver was just beginning his life as a husband and public servant – a life lost too soon.

As a son of a State trooper, I know all too well the sacrifices made and the dangers encountered by our State Police officers. Due to the nature of their work, our men and women in blue become a family. This never became more evident than this Friday when I saw the saddened, urgent look on my father's face when my wife told us that a trooper had been shot.

It is my honor today to recognize Trooper Weaver's bravery as he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the people of Pennsylvania. I commend the Pennsylvania State Police, with cooperation of Federal and local law enforcement agencies, in keeping the citizens of Huntingdon County safe as they pursued the man responsible for Trooper Weaver's death.

On behalf of myself and the citizens of the 81st District, I would like to express my sincerest condolences to Trooper Weaver's wife, Macy, along with his family, friends, and fellow officers. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Members and guests, please rise for a moment of silence as we mark respect for State Trooper Landon Weaver, who was killed in the line of duty.

(Whereupon, the members of the House and all visitors stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of State Trooper Landon Weaver.)

The SPEAKER. Members and guests may be seated. Thank you.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. At this time we will be hearing remarks from our outstanding majority leader, Representative Dave Reed, of Indiana County, and he will be followed by the esteemed Democratic leader, Representative Dermody.

I turn it over to my good friend, Representative David Reed. Dave.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Before I begin, I want to congratulate you and your family on being elected to a second term being Speaker of this House of Representatives.

I also want to take the opportunity to congratulate my colleagues on a successful ending to a long journey to come before this body today and participate in a swearing-in ceremony to represent the citizens of your districts over the next 2 years. I also want to welcome your friends, your family members, and your supporters to the hall of the House today. As they say, there is no more beautiful place to come to work on a daily basis.

I want to take a moment to also thank my wife, Heather, and our three children, Joshua, Gracie, and Ellie, who are with me today and appropriately seated right in front of me today, for their love and support and their patience, and without all of them supporting me, I would not have been able to go down this path of public service as I have for the last number of years.

And I also want to recognize two young friends who took the time away from school to be here today, two constituents from my district, Mr. Elliot Tomb, son of Matt and Jill Tomb, from Indiana Borough, and Miss Lily Manzi, daughter of Bob and Amy Manzi, who took time to be with us for today's swearing-in ceremony. And I also especially want to thank Lily, who made the choice to be with us here today in Harrisburg in the Capitol as opposed to her brother, Charlie Manzi, who took the journey westward to the Rose Bowl with his mother, Amy, last night. Great game, not the best ending, but great game nonetheless.

Today we gather together in this beautiful building now as members of this historic body on this splendid occasion, and as we do so, I would encourage each of us, take a moment, take it in, appreciate the significance of the moment in time and the opportunity that you have before you, and as you appreciate that significance, make sure you understand that with it comes a great responsibility. We each now bear a burden upon our shoulders to represent 64,000 people back home but collectively to represent 13 million Pennsylvanians across this State, and as we do so, we control the destiny of this Commonwealth. We control the destiny of our communities and of this entire Commonwealth and the future of both together through our public policy decisions.

Now, certainly during the last legislative session – and the Speaker alluded to a number of the issues that we talked about – we had many great debates on many grand issues upon this floor. We talked about budgets after budgets after budgets. We talked about pension reform, liquor privatization, property tax elimination, the legalization of medical marijuana for our sickest children and our suffering adults, and we talked about creating an educational system in which all can be winners.

Some of those items made it over the goal line. Others still are going to require some work of this body over the next 2 years. But as we begin this journey together into the 201st legislative session of this grand body and as we listen to the pundits and as we listen to the naysayers across this State, I would ask do not get caught up in the negativity associated with politics and government. Folks will continue to focus on the challenges, focus on the difficulties, focus on budget deficits, pension liabilities, property tax burdens, entitlement spending growth, and even ensuring educational opportunities for all.

But as I hear those descriptions and as I hear folks talk about those difficulties and oftentimes with a negative overture, I am often brought back to a quote from one of the great leaders of the 20th century, Sir Winston Churchill, who, when confronted with that sort of perception, often was found to remark with the following: It is the pessimist who sees every difficulty in each opportunity, but yet it is the optimist who sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Folks, there will be plenty of difficulties ahead. There are many challenges facing this State and our communities collectively, but out of those challenges, we have an amazing opportunity. We have an opportunity that no body like ours has ever had in the history of this Commonwealth. We get to evaluate what our future should look like. We get to determine how government should meet the needs of our citizens. We get to have a conversation about restructuring a government that has looked the same for 40 or 50 years. We get to determine what are our needs and what are merely our wants. We get to

redesign how we educate our children. We get to redesign how we bring safety to the streets of our neighborhoods. We get to create job opportunities for each and every man and woman of this Commonwealth who wants the opportunity to work for a living. We can lift our neediest citizens out of poverty. We have the duty and the obligation and the opportunity to protect each and every life, to protect the liberty of our citizens, and to ensure the pursuit of happiness of all among us.

Folks, the days of reshuffling the deck in protection of the status quo, they are over. It is time to change government and it is time to do it together. We get that chance because we are elected Representatives of 65,000 people individually and 13 million people collectively. We can reinvent government together. We can imagine what we want our government to look like over the next 20, 30, 40 years, and by uniting together as one body, not as Republicans, not as Democrats, not as urban legislators, not as rural legislators, but by uniting together we could take that image, we could take that vision, and we can make it a reality.

I would encourage each of you, as you look forward to this session, and as we begin that journey together today, look forward as the optimist, look for the solutions, look for the opportunities, do not just focus on the challenges. Together we can make a difference for the future of our children and our grandchildren and the generations to come.

So congratulations to each of my colleagues. May God watch over you and your families over the next 2 years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REMARKS BY DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER. Representative Frank Dermody, the minority leader, from Allegheny County.

Mr. DERMODY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, once again you have gathered quite a crowd of some important guests here today: Governor Wolf, Auditor General DePasquale, Attorney General-elect Shapiro, Treasurer-elect Torsella, Judge Fisher, Judge Dally, Justice Todd. I cannot forget our county executive, Rich Fitzgerald. Thank you all for being here today. I appreciate it. Gordon Linton, a former colleague of ours who went on to bigger and better things, is also with us here today. Thank you all. Thank you all for coming.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on once again taking the Speaker's chair. The Speaker and I have been friends for many years. We have had the opportunities and the chance to work together for several years, and, Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to continuing that relationship these next 2 years.

I also want to congratulate the Republican leader, Dave Reed. With all the challenges that Pennsylvania faces – and you just mentioned quite a few – your job as majority leader is not going to be easy. But I sincerely want to work with you and get done what both of our caucuses want to do, and that is to work together to move Pennsylvania forward.

And I also want to take a moment to acknowledge our Governor, Tom Wolf. He continues to work hard every day to change this State and make it better. And, Governor, I personally pledge to you my efforts and those of the Democratic Caucus to work with you every day in every way we can to make you and help you meet those challenges.

Because as we embark on a new year and a new legislative session, there is a lot of uncertainty about what lies ahead for Pennsylvania. A new President is about to take office in Washington, DC. He is someone with a very different style and his own way of doing things. We will have to wait and see what he intends to do and the impact and the effect it will have on Pennsylvania. There are many things that could happen to affect our State's budget and our State's people in big ways. The new administration and the new Congress in Washington definitely have changes in mind, and some are very concerning, but we simply do not know what to expect.

But whatever this year may bring, the House Democratic Caucus that I am honored to lead will continue to speak up, speak out, and stand up for working families, for retirees, for our children. We will keep working to improve all of Pennsylvania's schools so that all our children get the kind of start in life that prepares them to succeed, and we will never stop fighting for the rights and protection of disadvantaged people who suffer from economic hardship, race or gender discrimination, or the lack of basic rights that all of us should be able to take for granted. We will do all this because we know that our people, to reach their full potential, Pennsylvania needs to be an economic, educational, and environmental leader.

Those of us who serve in this House of Representatives will have a big part to play in helping the people of our State reach their aspirations. So to each of my colleagues here today, both Republicans and Democrats, those of you who are returning and to 22 of our new members, congratulations and welcome.

The Democratic Caucus is welcoming 10 new members today, 6 women and 4 men, and I can assure all my House colleagues that once you get to know these new members, you are going to be truly impressed. They are an outstanding group of thoughtful people, brimming with energy, ideas, and a genuine desire to get things done. Each of them has had success in their life and careers to get this far and to get to this point. And while it is normal in the House for senior members to help newer members learn the ropes of our institution, I believe that if we listen to these new members, they will have important things to teach all of us.

I am sure the new members sitting in this beautiful chamber today already have a sense of what an honor this job is and what a tremendous responsibility that each of us has just accepted. That will be confirmed as we begin in earnest to address the hard issues facing Pennsylvania. From my personal experience, my advice to all of you is this: Rely on your family and friends. Many of them are here with you today to celebrate and support and honor you. They will keep you grounded in reality and they will keep you on track. And be sure to thank them often, because when you are serving here, wherever they are, they, too, will be making the sacrifices to help you do your job. The job is not easy. It is hard on our families. Our families all make sacrifices to make sure we can do this job. Never, never forget to say thank you. Our families absolutely bear the brunt of our work and they keep our families together when we are away from home.

Now, I truly hope that the vast majority of your time during your service as a State Representative will be fulfilling, interesting, and satisfying. And mostly it has been that way for me. I have been pretty lucky. But there will be days when it is frustrating, disappointing, and tough. Do not forget that we serve a demanding taskmaster, the people of Pennsylvania, and they have a right to be demanding. They are looking for us to

work as hard and as long as we must to help create a better Pennsylvania, one where their fortunes, their families, and their lives can grow and prosper. They expect and deserve our best efforts.

There are more than 203 of us in this— There are 203 of us in this chamber – not more; I hope not – working for 12.8 million people of Pennsylvania. Each of us comes from a unique community, a place with unique issues and perspectives. Each of us has our own story to tell about how we made the decision to run for public office, and now that we have arrived here, all of us, all of us are here for the same purpose, and that is to represent our communities and our constituents to the best of our ability.

But while we are working to help the people who sent us here, to help them out – that is our job; it is – we must not lose sight of the fact that we have a common purpose as well. It should be our mission to move Pennsylvania forward. As Pennsylvanians we share common goals and common dreams. Indeed, as long as we all live in Pennsylvania, we all are going to share the same common destiny. It is up to us to make it a good one. That is why Pennsylvania must commit itself to providing a quality basic education for every single child in the Commonwealth, no matter what their address, their background, or their family circumstance. That is why Pennsylvania must strengthen its higher education system to prepare our young people to realize their full potential and help all of our residents as they reach for greater possibilities. That is why Pennsylvania must create a climate where we have steady job growth and are developing our economy in ways that benefit everyone, not just the select few. And that is why Pennsylvania must protect its workers so they and their families do not just stay out of poverty but participate in and strengthen our economy. That is why Pennsylvania must ensure that women who do the same work as men must earn the same wage so they can support and sustain their families. And that is why Pennsylvania must protect its natural resources and guarantee that as we develop those resources, which we all share, we do so in a way that benefits us all.

We must continue the difficult but necessary work of bringing our budget back into balance. We do have some issues here, the difficult issues to face. Balancing our budget will be one of them. But we need to fix the budget. We need to make the investments that we need to make in our children, in our State, in our infrastructure. We should all understand that we are facing a budget deficit. We cannot pretend it does not exist, and we are going to have to make difficult decisions about how to deal with it.

For the past 2 years Governor Wolf has been as honest and straightforward with the people of Pennsylvania as he can be. We still have work to do. It will not be easy, but despite this, our Governor believes that progress awaits us and so do I. Our Governor has committed himself to working with the legislature. He shares with many of us an honest commitment to seek out innovative thinking and exciting creative solutions that the majority leader has just talked about.

So for me personally, I am looking forward to this legislative session and the challenges that await us. Governing in difficult times is hard, no doubt, but as the leader has said, it also gives us a chance to make a real difference. Each and every one of us has that chance. If we choose to make a real positive mark on our communities and the people, if we do, if we make that choice, we can make a difference in our communities.

When we put aside partisan rancor and work together, some great things can happen, and we have shown that, as has already been mentioned. We worked together and funded our transportation needs. We worked together and we authorized medical marijuana in Pennsylvania. We worked together and we began the fight against opioid and heroin addiction in this State. These positive things happened when Democrats and Republicans started talking and worked together to recognize common needs and find common solutions. That is really what the people of Pennsylvania expect us to do. If we work together, we will move Pennsylvania forward for a better tomorrow and a more secure future.

President Kennedy was born 100 years ago. Actually, he was born May 29, 1917. I share a birthday with him – May 29, that is. I am not 100, but I am working on it. But there is a quote from his inaugural speech in January 1961. Now, at that time the nation was in a bitter cold war. I do not know if it is going to happen again, but we were in a bitter cold war at that time, and he was talking about the global struggle between two opposing sides. Fortunately, our two caucuses – I think Dave and Mike will agree with me – we are not at war, but given how much we have argued in recent times about the direction of the State, I think the quote still does have some resonance. President Kennedy said, "So let us begin anew – remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate. Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us."

Mr. Speaker, each of us has important principles we believe in. I know that and you know that. But it is often too easy to close ourselves off from listening to others. We become convinced that one side is right and the other is simply wrong, or worse. Mr. Speaker, I hope that as we begin this new session, we all find ways of listening to each other, understanding and working together, and getting past our differences. If we can do that, the people who sent us here will be the winners and we will make progress in the vital task of building a better Pennsylvania.

So with that, once again congratulations to each and every one of you who took the oath of office today and welcome to all our guests. This is a great day for you and your families. Enjoy it. Enjoy this great chamber. I look forward to working together with every one of you, with each and every one of you to make Pennsylvania better.

God bless you all, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RESOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, Representative Reed, and he will offer a resolution, which the clerk will read.

The following resolution was read:

House Resolution No. 2

A RESOLUTION

Providing for the adoption of a temporary rule relating to the consideration of a resolution providing for the Rules of the House of Representatives.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. On the resolution, the Chair recognizes the majority leader, Representative Dave Reed.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

HR 1, the amendment to the House rules for the 2017-18 term, is an agreed-upon product between the House Republican Caucus and the House Democratic Caucus.

In the interest of establishing rules today so that the House can move forward with the business of the Commonwealth in an expedited fashion, HR 2 simply provides that HR 1 is to be considered in a straight up-or-down vote. I would appreciate the members' support of HR 2. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Representative Dermody, on HR 2.

Mr. DERMODY. I would urge the members to support HR 2.

The SPEAKER. Representative Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, HRs 1 and 2 were only given to the members in writing this morning. Notice was only given yesterday, which was a de facto national holiday. These resolutions deal with very serious issues. They compromise the right of the rank-and-file members to be heard and to cast an informed vote vis-à-vis leadership. They also deal with things like the expulsion of a member. They also deal with things like changes to the Ethics Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would imagine that a substantial number of members are not aware of the contents of these two rules, so I am going to informally, rather than asking for a formal motion to postpone, I am going to ask in the spirit of bipartisanship, in the spirit of working together, in the spirit of giving all of us, and the 65,000 people we represent referred to by the majority leader, time to caucus this so each member can really understand what they are voting on.

I think it sets a really bad precedent with our new members that the first legal act they do is really without adequate information. That is really a bad precedent. I did not want to do this today, but it was forced upon us. I am just going to ask that we perhaps pause for a half hour, go up to caucus, let our leadership explain to us what is in it, what was the thinking, why we should support it, because I object strongly that this was agreed to by the caucus.

The rank-and-file members of my caucus that I have spoken to, including myself – and I was working yesterday – had no input into this drafting, no knowledge of its contents, no consent to its contents. I just think we should go to caucus, go over it, and then just come back and cast an informed vote.

So I would ask informally we take a pause and we just discuss this like our constituents would expect us to discuss it.

The SPEAKER. Sir, with all due respect, do you have a formal motion that you wish to make on the floor, sir?

Mr. VITALI. I do not want to do that. I just want the courtesy – I do not want to do a motion to postpone – I just want to have the courtesy of having members go to caucus like we do on any other important matter and discuss the contents of this 50-page rule.

Maybe we could pause and have leadership discuss it among themselves?

The SPEAKER. The Chair does not have the power to do an informal review at this time. If there was a motion in front of us, then the body as a whole could take a vote on that particular

motion, and we do have in front of us HR 2, which is to be voted upon by this body. But members should take your remarks, you know, into respect, in deciding as to how they wish to vote on HR 2.

Mr. VITALI. If I can just make a couple other points.

Generally, when we vote on things—

The SPEAKER. Representative Vitali, please just hold.

I will call upon you again for the second time, because you had concluded those remarks.

Mr. VITALI. Well, I have not concluded the remarks.

The SPEAKER. Sir, I do apologize.

At this time I am going to call on Representative Samuelson, and I will call on you again shortly.

Representative Samuelson, the floor is yours.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I urge a "no" vote on HR 2. I was listening closely as the leaders of the House were giving their welcoming remarks. I know the majority leader from Indiana County said we are going to reinvent government together, but the very first resolution he puts on the floor is to make the rules unamendable.

The Speaker gave some wonderful remarks just a few minutes ago and said that the minority party has the opportunity to participate, but yet what we are going to be voting on in just a couple of minutes says that the rules of the House that will govern this body for 2 years shall be put up for a vote without amendment.

I urge the leaders to listen to their own words, vote "no" on HR 2, and if you want to have a debate today on the rules, let us have the opportunity to debate and discuss possible amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Representative Vitali, you are recognized for the second time on HR 2, sir.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, the problem with voting on HR 2, which would make HR 1 unamendable, first of all it is pointless, if you think about it. Why are we voting now, because the next thing we are going to do is vote on HR 1, why would we vote now to vote that we cannot consider something in 5 minutes? It is pointless and it is an effort to squelch debate.

But my concern is this: I filed — although we only got the printer's number today at 11, which was the first time the Legislative Reference Bureau could act to do amendments — I prepared and filed two amendments, amendment No. 7 and amendment No. 8, which for reasons that were not adequately explained to me were not accepted. I have those amendments with me and I would like to outline what they are, because they are my reasons why this should be amended.

The SPEAKER. Representative Vitali, if you will just suspend for a second.

Sir, in talking to the Parliamentarian, I believe that your proposed amendments are for HR 1, not HR 2, and so if you wish to address or raise those amendments, I will give you some leeway with respect to HR 1, but they would be inappropriate here for HR 2 at this time.

Mr. VITALI. Well, HR 2 says HR 1 is unamendable, so I am arguing that HR 1 is amendable, because there are good amendments to be filed to it, and I wanted to outline what those good amendments are. So I think it is very relevant here. I think it is very relevant why we should allow amendments, is because we have good amendments to file. That is why. And I just wanted to outline in brief form what those amendments are.

The first amendment, amendment No. 7, would basically maintain the existing policy of giving House members at least 24 hours' time when a bill comes back on concurrence. This will be my 25th budget, and what I have noticed is that a lot of nasty stuff against the public interest is crammed into the Fiscal Code, and Governor Wolf knows this very well because he has had two agonizing budgets, the problem is when you put this stuff into the Fiscal Code, this 200-page document, it takes time, A, to find it; and, B, to understand it; and, C, to get input from your constituents about it. So why do we want to reduce? We now have 24 hours under—

The SPEAKER. Representative Vitali, with all due respect, there are many members here. If you have a perspective on whether you want members to vote "yes" or "no" on HR 2, this is certainly the appropriate time to say it. Just limit your remarks to whether you wish people to vote "yes" or "no" on HR 2 or if you wish to make a formal motion. But we have the Senate that is waiting to come into the chamber for a joint session. We have many family members for all members, all 203. I would just ask graciously for your respect to the guests that are here and to the Senate that wishes to come in.

Mr. VITALI. Yes.

The SPEAKER. I understand if you are opposed. You are perfectly in the right to oppose it and to argue for people to vote against it, but I would appreciate if we could move forward so that I can let some other people speak and that we can get to a vote.

Mr. VITALI. And you are making very persuasive remarks as to why it is highly inappropriate to be considering these changes right now and why you should pass over this.

But the second point is that I have an amendment that would— What HR 1 would do is limit the members' right to debate on important bills, like the Fiscal Code, like the Tax Code, like other budget-related bills, it would limit their debate to one time at the podium and 5 minutes. That is something that I do not believe serves the public interest. When you have the most important bills of the term before us, like the Fiscal Code, and we discussed the high jinks and that before, members should have a second crack at the mike, if things are said after them that they believe are just not true.

So I believe that HR 2 should be defeated, because I think we should have the opportunity to excise those two provisions from the bill that take away the rank-and-file members' rights to cast an informed vote. So I would urge a "no" vote.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, Representative Vitali.

Representative Bob Freeman will be followed by Representative Curtis Thomas.

Representative Freeman, the floor is yours, sir.

Mr. FREEMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will not delay the House long. I realize this is mostly a ceremonial day. But the setting of rules for our legislative body in the beginning of a session is a very critical and important step. It governs how we will operate for the next 2 years. HR 2 prohibits us, as a body, from amending HR 1, which sets our rules. Each and every one of us here today, elected by our constituents, was elected to a deliberative body. If we shut down debate, if we prohibit the exercise of our ability as members to amend and to set the standards of our rules, then we abdicate a portion of our deliberative responsibilities and our deliberative opportunities.

As such, I urge the members of this House to vote down HR 2. Let us examine the rules of this House in HR 1 and freely decide, as members of this chamber, whether we feel it is appropriate to amend and shape the rules that will govern our operation for the next 2 years. I urge a "no" vote.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, Representative Freeman.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. Representative Curtis Thomas.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the first part is a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. Yes, sir. You may proceed, sir.

Mr. THOMAS. And I have heard from several of my colleagues, but I filed amendments to HR 1. So it is my understanding that if the majority leader asks me to vote "yes" to HR 2, in effect, I will be closing the door on consideration of my amendments to HR 1. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER. Sir, that is correct.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to vote "no" on HR 2. Thank you, Mr. Leader.

The SPEAKER. Representative Madeleine Dean.

Mrs. DEAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I, too, offer everyone congratulations on this grand and ceremonious day, and thank you for the friends and family who are here with us.

But we are at a moment of actual work, and I think it is important that I urge my colleagues to take great pause and consideration before we amend our House rules, before we vote on new House rules without amendment, without any deliberation, and from the very little time I had to take a look at the changes, they go in the direction I do not want to go in, which is shorter time for concurrence, shorter time for deliberation, and less transparency.

With those ideas in mind and in the spirit of what we want to do together with the optimism that I share with you, Mr. Leader, I think we all deserve some input on this resolution, and I urge a "no" vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, Representative Dean.

On the question recurring,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

(Members proceeded to vote.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. Representative Bob GODSHALL has requested to be placed on leave. Without objection, that will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF HR 2 CONTINUED

On the question recurring,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—132

Baker	Gabler	Marshall	Saccone
Barrar	Gergely	Marsico	Sainato
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Masser	Sankey
Bernstine	Goodman	Mehaffie	Santora
Bloom	Greiner	Mentzer	Saylor
Boback	Grove	Metcalfe	Schemel
Brown, R.	Haggerty	Metzgar	Schlossberg
Causar	Hahn	Miccarelli	Schweyer
Charlton	Hanna	Millard	Simmons
Christiana	Harris, A.	Milne	Snyder
Cook	Heffley	Moul	Solomon
Corbin	Helm	Mustio	Sonney
Costa, D.	Hennessey	Nelson	Staats
Costa, P.	Hickernell	Nesbit	Stephens
Cox	Hill	O'Neill	Sturla
Culver	Irvin	Oberlander	Tallman
Cutler	Jozwiak	Ortitay	Taylor
Daley	Kampf	Peifer	Tobash
Day	Kaufner	Petrarca	Toepel
Deasy	Kauffman	Petri	Toohil
Delozier	Keefer	Pickett	Topper
Dermody	Keller, F.	Pyle	Walsh
DiGirolamo	Keller, M.K.	Quigley	Ward
Dowling	Klunk	Quinn, C.	Warner
Driscoll	Knowles	Quinn, M.	Watson
Dunbar	Kortz	Rader	Wentling
Ellis	Kulik	Rapp	Wheeland
Emrick	Lawrence	Readshaw	White
Evankovich	Lewis	Reed	Youngblood
Everett	Longietti	Reese	Zimmerman
Farry	Mackenzie	Roae	
Fee	Mako	Roe	Turzai,
Frankel	Maloney	Rothman	Speaker
Fritz	Markosek		

NAYS—67

Barbin	Dean	Harris, J.	Murt
Bizzarro	DeLissio	James	Neilson
Boyle	DeLuca	Kavulich	Neuman
Bradford	Diamond	Keller, W.	O'Brien
Briggs	Donatucci	Kim	Pashinski
Brown, V.	Dush	Kinsey	Rabb
Bullock	English	Kirkland	Ravenstahl
Burns	Evans	Krueger	Roebuck
Caltagirone	Fabrizio	Madden	Rozzi
Carroll	Fitzgerald	Matzie	Ryan
Cephas	Flynn	McCarter	Samuelson
Comitta	Freeman	McClinton	Sims
Conklin	Gainey	McGinnis	Thomas
Corr	Galloway	McNeill	Vitali
Cruz	Gillen	Miller, B.	Warren
Davidson	Harkins	Miller, D.	Wheatley
Dawkins	Harper	Mullery	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—4

Acosta	Davis	Godshall	Maher
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The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

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The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Reed, who offers a resolution, HR 1, which the clerk will read.

The following resolution was read:

House Resolution No. 1

A RESOLUTION

Adopting permanent rules for the House of Representatives, further providing for general appropriation bills and non-preferred bills, for consideration of bills, for standing committees and subcommittees, for organization of standing committees and subcommittees, for powers and duties of standing committees and subcommittees, for ethics committee, for status of members indicted or convicted of a crime, for investigations and for ethical rules definitions and conduct; and providing for committee on ethics.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. On HR 1, the Chair recognizes Representative Reed, the majority leader.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I would obviously encourage members to put permanent House rules in place through HR 1 so we could actually get upon the issues facing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, issues that are not Republican, not Democrat, not unique to this House or the Senate or the administration, that we all believe that we should be focusing on in the weeks and months ahead.

Just to give everybody an outline of the process we went through in developing these rules, we actually went to our caucus 2 months ago and asked for input from each and every one of our members to contact the leaders' offices to ask for their suggestions to House rule changes to be voted on, on swearing-in day. We then took those changes, discussed them amongst our leadership team, as well with many of those members who had suggested those changes, and then had numerous meetings over the last several weeks with the House Democratic Caucus negotiation team, to be able to formalize those changes into the House rules to begin this session.

This is not a unique process. In fact, we began earlier than I think any other legislative session has begun negotiating final rules to be presented before this body on swearing-in day.

Now, I understand that some folks may have some concern about this rule or that rule, and I believe, you know, the limitation of 5 minutes on a budget-related bill was mentioned by the gentleman from Delaware County. I would just point out that there are certainly limitations on speech on every proposal within the confines of Congress, within Washington, DC, and within our own State. If former President Lincoln can give the Gettysburg Address in 2 minutes, I should hope that we would be able to negotiate and be able to speak in brief terms concisely and to the point on budget-related bills before this body and the people of Pennsylvania in 5 minutes or less.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members, let us vote these rules into place. We can always consider additional rule changes through the Rules Committee that the gentleman from Allegheny County, Leader Dermody, and myself chair throughout the entire 2-year tenure. But there is no reason to put this session, this body, behind the eight ball moving forward with the issues that are important to the citizens of this State from the very first day.

I would encourage the members to vote "yes" on HR 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, Leader Reed.

Representative Dermody, the minority leader.

Mr. DERMODY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, HR 1 contains the rules, as we just heard from the majority leader, that we have been negotiating and talking about for months. The House resolution contains the rules that we are able to agree on. Now, there were some negotiations, there was compromise, obviously, and there are still some issues outstanding, which we talked to the majority leader about, we talked to staff on both sides of the aisle, and we are going to continue to work on, and as has been mentioned, we can amend these rules at any time through the Rules Committee.

However, I do think it is important and I agree with the leader that we need to move forward with the rules today, and I urge passage of HR 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Representative Vitali, do you wish to be recognized? And then Representative Petri.

Mr. VITALI. I do. And one problem with HR 1, and I totally understand why leadership is supportive of it, because to some degree this is a matter of the rank-and-file members' rights to be heard. Those familiar with House proceedings know that even in budget times, appropriate, the leadership is not limited. They would not be affected by this. They are not limited by that one time on the floor. They are not limited by this. It is rank and file who are limited by it, and that is why I oppose it.

The key thing, I think, is the policy damage done by legislators who are forced to vote on things, like the Fiscal Code, without knowledge of the contents. Now, sure, legislative leaders do not mind that because they are upstairs in the adult room negotiating all of this, while we are down here. Of course they do not mind. When they bring it to us, they have been talking about it day after day. Of course they do not mind. But it is we, we at the end, once they hammer out their deal and once they are good and ready to give it to us, that we have to start sifting through that 200-page document.

Now we have 24 hours. A "yes" vote shortens it to 6 hours. I find that during those 6 hours, typically during budget season, it is not like you can just sit down in a quiet room, smoke a cigar, and read. You are in caucus. You are on the floor debating other things. Your time is distracted by other things, so even though you may have 6 hours, you cannot use it for that because you are trying to put out some other fire. You need the 24 hours because you need that overnight. You need that time when the action ends to just, if you choose to, start to work through that bill.

If this is passed, you do not get that. And historically, a lot of bad stuff has been in those budgets, and I think people that have been around this system know that. We do not have to stop business. We can enact, as we have done numerous times in the past, temporary rules, which would be a continuation of our current rules, until January 23, which would keep us functioning just like we did last term.

MOTION TO POSTPONE

Mr. VITALI. So therefore, I move that HR 1 be continued until January 23 at 1 p.m., with last session's rules remaining in effect until such time as the new rules are enacted. I so move.

The SPEAKER. We have before us a motion to postpone a vote on HR 1 until January 23.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. All those in favor will vote "aye"; all those opposed, "nay." Members will proceed to vote—

Mr. VITALI. Is this a debatable motion, to be clear? I do not know if there is any debate on this.

The SPEAKER. I think everybody would want it to proceed to a vote, unless you wish to debate further.

Mr. VITALI. No. I just wanted to make sure. It was kind of quick.

On the question recurring,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—38

Bizzarro	Dawkins	Harper	Miller, D.
Boyle	Dean	Harris, J.	Mullery
Bradford	DeLissio	Kinsey	Pashinski
Briggs	DeLuca	Kirkland	Rabb
Brown, V.	English	Krueger	Roebuck
Bullock	Fitzgerald	McCarter	Samuelson
Caltagirone	Frankel	McClinton	Sims
Cephas	Freeman	McNeill	Vitali
Comitta	Gainey	Miller, B.	Warren
Conklin	Harkins		

NAYS—161

Baker	Farry	Madden	Roae
Barbin	Fee	Mako	Roe
Barrar	Flynn	Maloney	Rothman
Benninghoff	Fritz	Markosek	Rozzi
Bernstine	Gabler	Marshall	Ryan
Bloom	Galloway	Marsico	Saccone
Boback	Gergely	Masser	Sainato
Brown, R.	Gillen	Matzie	Sankey
Burns	Gillespie	McGinnis	Santora
Carroll	Goodman	Mehaffie	Saylor
Causer	Greiner	Mentzer	Schemel
Charlton	Grove	Metcalfe	Schlossberg
Christiana	Haggerty	Metzgar	Schweyer
Cook	Hahn	Miccarelli	Simmons
Corbin	Hanna	Millard	Snyder
Corr	Harris, A.	Milne	Solomon
Costa, D.	Heffley	Moul	Sonney
Costa, P.	Helm	Murt	Staats
Cox	Hennessey	Mustio	Stephens
Cruz	Hickernell	Neilson	Sturla
Culver	Hill	Nelson	Tallman
Cutler	Irvin	Nesbit	Taylor
Daley	James	Neuman	Thomas
Davidson	Jozwiak	O'Brien	Tobash
Day	Kampf	O'Neill	Toepel
Deasy	Kaufer	Oberlander	Toohil
Delozier	Kauffman	Ortitay	Topper
Dermody	Kavulich	Peifer	Walsh
Diamond	Keefer	Petrarca	Ward
DiGirolamo	Keller, F.	Petri	Warner
Donatucci	Keller, M.K.	Pickett	Watson
Dowling	Keller, W.	Pyle	Wentling
Driscoll	Kim	Quigley	Wheatley
Dunbar	Klunk	Quinn, C.	Wheeland
Dush	Knowles	Quinn, M.	White
Ellis	Kortz	Rader	Youngblood

Emrick	Kulik	Rapp	Zimmerman
Evankovich	Lawrence	Ravenstahl	
Evans	Lewis	Readshaw	Turzai,
Everett	Longiotti	Reed	Speaker
Fabrizio	Mackenzie	Reese	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—4

Acosta	Davis	Godshall	Maher
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Less than the majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. We will proceed.

Representative Curtis Thomas wishes to speak on HR 1.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know the folks will do what they think is right, but, Mr. Speaker, I have heard a couple comments. My mama used to tell me that sometimes if I keep singing to myself, all I hear is my music.

Mr. Speaker, this past election cycle made something very clear in my district, in Erie, and all over the State. There are people hurting, folks who have been out of work. We have to stop talking about we are creating jobs and folks are still suffering. We have babies, sons and daughters, trapped in opiate, wanting help and cannot figure out why help is over here but it is not over here.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would just like for us that when we start talking about ways in which to talk about what is important to Pennsylvanians, that we do not rush to hear our own music. Let us get out there and hear from Pennsylvanians, Pennsylvanians that have real challenges every day, unlike anything that many of us in this body have seen or felt, and let us make sure that when we talk about what is really going on out there, that we have a handle on it and we do the right thing in bringing about some substantive changes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Representative Scott Petri, on HR 1.

Mr. PETRI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the benefit of the members, I will keep this brief, particularly given the needs of our guests probably to even use the facilities at this point.

These are important procedural rules which we will be adopting today. They represent significant changes to our ethics provisions, and ethics was mentioned as part of the debate today. Let me assure each and every member that the ethics changes that are contained here and are being proposed were worked in a bipartisan manner on a committee that is comprised of four Democrats and four Republican members. With the aid of substantial research, looking at the best practices in the 50 States and in the United States Congress, based upon some of the finest legal minds in Pennsylvania, and coming together we have come up with 10 pages of new and historic rules, which you can assure yourself will improve our process here today. There are both substantive and procedural clarifications and changes in these rules that will serve our chamber well.

On the substantive changes that have been discussed by the gentleman from Montgomery County, these rule changes make us much more similar to the Senate and able to operate in a more efficient way and in a more equal way in dealing with the Senate on changes.

So I would encourage my members to support these historic, important, ethical changes today so that we can start off our session on the right foot and the highest level of integrity. And I want to thank my fellow committee members for your fine work on the recommendations contained in here, and our legal staff, both inside and outside this Capitol, for their input. These are very important changes, and I would urge the members to support them. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, Representative.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—167

Baker	Fabrizio	Lewis	Readshaw
Barbin	Farry	Longietti	Reed
Barrar	Fee	Mackenzie	Reese
Benninghoff	Flynn	Madden	Roae
Bernstine	Frankel	Mako	Roe
Bizzarro	Fritz	Maloney	Rothman
Bloom	Gabler	Markosek	Rozzi
Boback	Galloway	Marshall	Ryan
Brown, R.	Gergely	Marsico	Saccone
Burns	Gillen	Masser	Sainato
Carroll	Gillespie	Matzie	Sankey
Causar	Goodman	McGinnis	Santora
Charlton	Greiner	Mehaffie	Saylor
Christiana	Grove	Mentzer	Schemel
Conklin	Haggerty	Metcalfe	Schlossberg
Cook	Hahn	Metzgar	Schweyer
Corbin	Hanna	Miccarelli	Simmons
Corr	Harkins	Millard	Snyder
Costa, D.	Harper	Miller, B.	Solomon
Costa, P.	Harris, A.	Milne	Sonney
Cox	Heffley	Moul	Staats
Cruz	Helm	Murt	Stephens
Culver	Hennessey	Mustio	Sturla
Cutler	Hickernell	Neilson	Tallman
Daley	Hill	Nelson	Taylor
Day	Irvin	Nesbit	Tobash
Deasy	James	O'Brien	Toepel
Delozier	Jozwiak	O'Neill	Toohil
DeLuca	Kampf	Oberlander	Topper
Dermody	Kaufner	Ortitay	Walsh
Diamond	Kauffman	Pashinski	Ward
DiGirolamo	Kavulich	Peifer	Warner
Donatucci	Keefer	Petrarca	Warren
Dowling	Keller, F.	Petri	Watson
Driscoll	Keller, M.K.	Pickett	Wentling
Dunbar	Keller, W.	Pyle	Wheeland
Dush	Kirkland	Quigley	White
Ellis	Klunk	Quinn, C.	Youngblood
Emrick	Knowles	Quinn, M.	Zimmerman
English	Kortz	Rader	
Evankovich	Kulik	Rapp	Turzai,
Evans	Lawrence	Ravenstahl	Speaker
Everett			

NAYS—32

Boyle	Davidson	Kim	Neuman
Bradford	Dawkins	Kinsey	Rabb
Briggs	Dean	Krueger	Roebuck
Brown, V.	DeLissio	McCarter	Samuelson
Bullock	Fitzgerald	McClinton	Sims
Caltagirone	Freeman	McNeill	Thomas
Cephas	Gainey	Miller, D.	Vitali
Comitta	Harris, J.	Mullery	Wheatley

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—4

Acosta	Davis	Godshall	Maher
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The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as a committee to notify the Senate – and I see that they have been waiting patiently to come into the well of the House – that the House is organized, these include the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Mustio; the lady from Dauphin County, Ms. Helm; the gentleman from Northampton County, Mr. Emrick; the lady from Blair County, Mrs. Ward; the lady from York County, Mrs. Hill-Evans; and the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Kirkland.

The committee will now proceed in the performance of its duties.

GUEST INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. While we await the invitation of the Senate to come to the House, Representative Frank Dermody, the minority leader, is recognized.

Mr. DERMODY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Very briefly. During the course of my remarks – we have assembled such a group of honored guests here – I forgot to mention a very special friend and our former Speaker, Bob O'Donnell. And, Bob, I think we just relived some bad memories for you.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. Now, the Governor does officially go to his chambers and he has done so. God bless him.

The Speaker appoints as a committee to wait upon the Governor and notify him that the House is organized, the gentleman from Tioga County, Mr. Baker; the lady from Bucks County, Mrs. Watson; the gentleman from Pike County, Mr. Peifer; the lady from York County, Ms. Klunk; the lady from Monroe County, Ms. Madden; and the lady from Chester County, Mrs. Comitta.

The committee will now proceed with the performance of its duties.

BENEDICTION

The SPEAKER. Now our emissaries to the Senate and to the Governor will proceed with their duties, and while they are doing so, we are going to have a benediction before we formally move into the joint session. So we are going to have a benediction first.

I would ask the Sergeants at Arms to please close the doors of the House for the benediction, as soon as our emissaries from the House have left to visit with the Senate and with the Governor to inform him that we are organized, and our benediction will be offered by Rabbi Larry Kaplan of Temple Israel of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and he is a guest and good friend of our colleague, Representative Aaron Kaufer.

Representative Kaufer, you are welcome to join us up at the rostrum.

Rabbi, we will just wait until Representative Kaufer comes up, and then the rostrum is yours, good sir.

Will members and guests please rise.

RABBI KAPLAN. What a magnificent Bible to be standing next to here.

Mr. Speaker, you know what? Is it okay, can we be seated?

The SPEAKER. Oh, yes, definitely.

RABBI KAPLAN. Let us be seated.

Do not get nervous. It is just that when politicians speak, people look at their watch; when clergy speak, they look at a calendar.

When Mr. Speaker was sharing about his children and his beautiful family, I could not help but think, gee, I would love to do that as well, talk about my kids, one of whom is here hiding, kind of all of the way in the back there. But we will just take a moment or two. I have 10 children – no, we will not go there.

I was not completely certain that I was permitted to invoke God's name today at this honorable gathering, but when I did see so many Bibles out there – Elder, that was a beautiful thing to watch, was it not, seeing all these Bibles out there? – I figured that when you say, "So help you God," pronounced as part of the ceremony, I guess it was okay, because you never know these days.

Many years ago I had a congregation in Miami. I was invited to give an invocation to the Dade County Commissioners. They had sent a letter a few weeks earlier indicating that clergy was asked not to mention the name of any specific deity so as not to offend anyone, and there was a long list that included Jesus Christ and Yahweh and Allah and Vishnu, and it went on and on. So when I was called to give the actual invocation, I said, "I wasn't sure which name to invoke." I said, "The only one that wasn't on the list was Shirley MacLaine." I do not think they appreciated the humor. I was never asked back.

But being back in my home State, I feel much more comfortable.

(Prayer in Hebrew.)

God of our ancestors, we ask Your blessings on this special gathering and ask You to grant Your wisdom upon those who lead our State.

There is an ancient blessing in Jewish tradition that is to be said upon seeing a head of State or a legislator, and I am honored to be able to recite it today.

(Prayer in Hebrew.)

We are blessed by You, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe, who has shared His honor with human beings. But not just any human beings, these people sworn in today who share God's honor are our neighbors, including my Luzerne County neighbors, like Representatives Carroll and Mullery and Boback; like Eddie Day Pashinski, who was a schoolteacher in our community, whose smile and amazing music still inspire; like Tarah Toohil, who like my family has been foster and adoptive parents. It is one thing to support advocating for Pennsylvania's children. It is particularly uplifting to know that we have Representatives who actually take neglected children into their own homes and make them part of their families.

It seems like just a few years ago – where did he go? Where is Aaron? Oh, okay – yeah, it seems like just a few years ago that Aaron Kaufer became bar mitzvah at Temple Israel in Wilkes-Barre, and that is probably because it was just a few years ago. Needless to say, he has grown to be a truly worthy member of this august body, truly worthy of sharing God's honor in this esteemed group of leaders.

At a recent event I was in the presence of some of our local political leaders, and among them happened to be a member of our United States Congress. I made the faux pas of asking him how he liked working in Harrisburg. He glared at me as he said, "You mean Washington, DC." I did not say it then, but I will now: This is where the action is. This is the body that is made up of our neighbors who truly represent God's honor. What the 203 of you and your staff and support teams do, this is what really counts. You are a blessing to all Pennsylvanians.

I hope I will not be offending anyone if I share three short sentences with you from a really good book that has been on the bestseller list for, oh, about 3,000 years. Aaron may remember me saying it to him at his bar mitzvah.

(Prayer in Hebrew.)

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

(Prayer in Hebrew.)

May the Lord turn His face to you and be gracious to you.

(Prayer in Hebrew.)

May God turn to you and grant you peace and success for the sake of your neighbors. Amen.

Mazel tov.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will be at ease while we await the arrival of the Senate.

At this point in time, guests in the well of the House, I would have to ask you to please leave your seats. You are probably ready. We have to make room for the members from the Senate. All other guests, you are welcome to stay, but certainly you do not have to. I understand there are many receptions, and now would be the time to do it.

The House will be at ease for just a few short minutes.

The House will come to order.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. Representative GALLOWAY has requested to be placed on leave. Without objection, that will be granted.

SENATE MESSAGE**JOINT SESSION**

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate,
January 3, 2017

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of witnessing the opening, counting and computing of the official returns of the election for Attorney General, Auditor General, and State Treasurer, held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, in the several counties of the Commonwealth.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

RESOLUTION**APPOINTMENT OF TELLER**

Mr. REED offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
January 3, 2017

RESOLVED, That the lady from Philadelphia, Ms. McClinton, be appointed Teller on the part of the House of Representatives to open and compute the vote for Attorney General, Auditor General, and Treasurer in a joint session of the Senate and House.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
APPOINTED**

The SPEAKER. The following members have been selected to serve on the Committee on Committees: The chair will be Representative Bob Godshall. Others include Representative Bryan Cutler; Representative Kurt Masser; Representative Mark Mustio; Representative Tina Pickett; Representative Dave Reed; Representative Mike Reese; Representative Stan Saylor; Representative Mike Tobash; and Representative Marcy Toepel.

At this time the members from the Democrats, the minority caucus, have not yet been submitted. And the Speaker is a member of the Committee on Committees as well.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Members are reminded to report to the Chief Clerk's Office sometime today or tomorrow to sign the oath book.

SENATE MESSAGE**RECESS RESOLUTION
FOR CONCURRENCE**

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate,
January 3, 2017

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, January 23, 2017, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, January 23, 2017, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

**COMMITTEE ON PART OF
SENATE RECOGNIZED**

The SPEAKER. We have a notification committee from the Senate.

The Speaker recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the committee on the part of the Senate, Senator Ryan Aument.

The SPEAKER. Senator Aument. Would everybody please give a warm welcome to Senator Ryan Aument, a former House member.

Senator Aument, you may proceed, sir.

Mr. AUMENT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the warm welcome.

Members of the House of Representatives, we are a committee from the Senate to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is convened and organized in regular session and ready to proceed with business.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Senator Aument, whom do you have with you today from the Senate?

Mr. AUMENT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am joined by Senator Killion and Senator Judy Schwank.

The SPEAKER. Thank you so much to all three of you for coming over to our body. We are so appreciative. Thank you.

We are going to be just briefly at ease. I would ask members to please take their seats, as the Senate will be joining us shortly.

ARRIVAL OF SENATE

The SPEAKER. The Senate is now entering the hall of the House. Will all members please rise and guests as well. Will all members please rise.

The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate is now present in the hall of the House.

The SPEAKER. The Chair requests the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Mike Stack, to preside over the proceedings of the joint session of the General Assembly.

The President pro tem of the Senate, our good friend, the Honorable Joe Scarnati, is invited to be seated at the rostrum with us.

The members of the House and Senate, we are now welcoming our good friends from the Senate to come down the aisle and to take their seats in the well of the House.

Lieutenant Governor Stack and the Senate pro tem, Joseph Scarnati, are invited to come to the rostrum.

Members of the Senate, please take your seats in the well of the House. So many of our good friends and former colleagues from the House of Representatives in the Senate.

At this time I am going to ask all members to please take your seats from the Senate and the House, and we are going to turn it over to our esteemed Lieutenant Governor, Michael Stack.

JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (MIKE STACK) PRESIDING

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wonderful to be here with my friends in the House today.

The joint session of the General Assembly will please come to order.

This being the day and time agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of this Commonwealth for the opening and computing of the official returns of the election for Treasurer, Auditor General, and Attorney General held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, in the several counties of this Commonwealth, the returns will now be opened and read.

The teller on the part of the Senate is the Senator from Lycoming County, Senator Gene Yaw. The teller on the part of the House of Representatives is the Representative from Philadelphia County, Representative Joanna McClinton.

The tellers will please come to the desks assigned to them by the Chief Clerk of the House and proceed in the performance of their duties.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 8, 2016, for the office of State Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Mr. Joseph M. Torsella, Democratic, received 2,991,404 votes,
Mr. Otto W. Voit, III, Republican, received 2,610,811 votes,
Ms. Kristin Combs, Green, received 170,275 votes,
Mr. James Babb, Libertarian, received 132,654 votes,
Write-in Votes, 2,662 (scattered),

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of Elections.

Witness my hand and the seal of my
office this twenty-seventh day of December,
2016.

(SEAL)

Pedro C. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

* * *

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 8, 2016, for the office of Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Mr. Eugene A. DePasquale, Democratic, received 2,958,818 votes,
Mr. John A. Brown, Republican, received 2,667,318 votes,
Mr. John J. Sweeney, Green, received 158,942 votes,
Mr. Roy A. Minet, Libertarian, 131,853 received votes,
Write-in Votes, 2,480 (scattered),

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of Elections.

Witness my hand and the seal of my
office this twenty-seventh day of December,
2016.

(SEAL)

Pedro C. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

* * *

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 8, 2016, for the office of Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Mr. Joshua D. Shapiro, Democratic, received 3,057,010 votes,
Mr. John C. Rafferty, Jr., Republican, received 2,891,325 votes,
Write-in Votes, 4,635 (scattered),

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of Elections.

Witness my hand and the seal of my
office this twenty-seventh day of December,
2016.

(SEAL)

Pedro C. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1632(b) of the Pennsylvania Election Code [25 P.S. § 3252(b)], I do hereby certify that Joshua D. Shapiro, Attorney General, Eugene A. DePasquale, Auditor General, and Joseph M. Torsella, State Treasurer, have filed all of the reports and statements of contributions and expenditures required by the provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled "Primary and Election Expenses."

Witness my hand and the seal of my
office this twenty-seventh day of December,
2016.

(SEAL)

Pedro C. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

TELLERS' REPORT

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair recognizes the teller on the part of the Senate, the gentleman from Lycoming County, Senator Yaw.

Mr. YAW. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and members of the General Assembly, the tellers agree in their count and submit their report of the votes cast for the offices of State Treasurer, Auditor General, and Attorney General.

FOR STATE TREASURER:

Joseph M. Torsella, Democrat, received 2,991,404 votes
Otto W. Voit, III, Republican, received 2,610,811 votes
Kristin Combs, Green Party, received 170,275 votes
James Babb, Libertarian, received 132,654 votes
Scattered write-in votes: 2,662

FOR AUDITOR GENERAL:

Eugene A. DePasquale, Democrat, received 2,958,818 votes
John A. Brown, Republican, received 2,667,318 votes
John J. Sweeney, Green Party, received 158,942 votes
Roy A. Minet, Libertarian, received 131,853 votes
Scattered write-in votes: 2,480

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Joshua D. Shapiro, Democrat, received 3,057,010 votes
John C. Rafferty, Jr., Republican, received 2,891,325 votes
Scattered write-in votes: 4,635

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Joseph M. Torsella, having received the highest number of votes, is duly elected State Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of January 2017.

Eugene A. DePasquale, having received the highest number of votes, is duly elected Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of January 2017.

Joshua D. Shapiro, having received the highest number of votes, is duly elected Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of January 2017.

The General Assembly will now be at ease for several moments while we sign the certificates of election.

**THE SPEAKER (MIKE TURZAI)
PRESIDING****FORMER MEMBER WELCOMED**

The SPEAKER. Representative Paul Clymer, our good friend from Bucks County, a former colleague, Representative Clymer is here in the chamber.

Representative, great to see you, sir. Welcome.

Members, we are going to be taking a vote on the head of the Legislative Reference Bureau here with the Senate as soon as the certificates are signed. We are awaiting Senator Yaw's and Representative McClinton's signatures. As soon as those are done, the Lieutenant Governor will be proceeding to a vote on the head of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

**THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(MIKE STACK) PRESIDING**

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION FILED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Let us come back to order.

The certificates of election for Treasurer, Auditor General, and Attorney General have been signed by the officers and tellers on the part of the Senate and House of Representatives and will be filed.

The following signed certificates of election were filed:

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania
State Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 3, 2017

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the third day of January, A.D., two thousand seventeen, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for State Treasurer of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Joseph M. Torsella had the highest number of votes; where upon The Honorable Joseph M. Torsella was declared to have been duly elected State Treasurer of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(SEAL) Mike Stack
President of the Senate

(SEAL) Mike Turzai
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Gene Yaw
Teller on the part of the Senate

Joanna E. McClinton
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

* * *

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania
State Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 3, 2017

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the third day of January, A.D., two thousand seventeen, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Auditor General of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Eugene A. DePasquale had the highest number of votes; where upon The Honorable Eugene A. DePasquale was declared to have been duly elected Auditor General of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(SEAL) Mike Stack
President of the Senate

(SEAL) Mike Turzai
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Gene Yaw
Teller on the part of the Senate

Joanna E. McClinton
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

* * *

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania
State Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 3, 2017

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the third day of January, A.D., two thousand seventeen, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Attorney General of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro had the highest number of votes; where upon The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro was declared to have been duly elected Attorney General of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(SEAL) Mike Stack
President of the Senate

(SEAL) Mike Turzai
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Gene Yaw
Teller on the part of the Senate

Joanna E. McClinton
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Nominations are now in order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre County, Senator Corman.

Mr. CORMAN. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, it is my pleasure to nominate Vince DeLiberato, Jr., to serve as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Founded in 1909, the Legislative Reference Bureau is one of the oldest joint legislative agencies in Harrisburg. This

bipartisan, bicameral agency has the daunting responsibility for drafting bills, resolutions, and amendments and tracking all proposed legislation.

Vince and his employees are no stranger to long days and even longer nights, particularly when the legislature is in session. They perform their difficult job professionally and with great attention to detail. We are grateful for the outstanding work that they do for the legislature and for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Mr. President, I would like to nominate Vince DeLiberato, Jr., to head the Legislative Reference Bureau and wish him my best in this position.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Thank you, Senator Corman.

The gentleman from Centre County, Senator Corman, places in nomination for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau Vince DeLiberato of Dauphin County.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Indiana County, Representative Reed.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I second the nomination of Vincent C. DeLiberato, Esq., to serve the General Assembly as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

The bicameral, nonpartisan agency serves both members and staff as well as the executive branch to help prepare requested legislative bills and resolutions for introductions within the legislature. Its staff, led by Vince, advises members and committees alike. We appreciate the work and the staff of the Legislative Reference Bureau and understand the quality of their leader.

Philadelphia born, Pennsylvania educated, an Army veteran, Vince has been serving the Commonwealth and LRB since 1975. He has earned the reputation for attention to detail, dedication to the institution and members of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. He has earned the respect of those who have worked with him and around him.

Mr. President, I second the nomination of Vincent C. DeLiberato, Esq., to serve the General Assembly as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks Representative Reed.

Are there any further nominations? The Chair hears none. The Chair declares the nominations closed.

The candidate for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau is Vince DeLiberato, Dauphin County. Those in favor of Vince DeLiberato for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau will say "aye"; those opposed, "no." The "ayes" have it. Vincent DeLiberato is declared unanimously elected Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

COMMITTEE TO ESCORT DIRECTOR-ELECT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The gentleman from Centre County, Senator Corman, and the gentleman from Indiana County, Representative Reed, will escort Vince DeLiberato to the front of the rostrum for the purpose of taking the oath of office.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Please rise for the administration of the oath of office by the Honorable Craig Dally, judge, Court of Common Pleas, Northampton County.

JUDGE DALLY. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

If you will place your left hand on your Bible and raise your right hand and repeat after me: I, Vincent C. DeLiberato, Jr., do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Mr. DeLiberato asserted oath.)

JUDGE DALLY. Congratulations.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Warmest congratulations, Vince.

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair asks the members of the House and visitors to please remain seated for just a moment while the members of the Senate rambunctiously give high fives and leave the House.

The members of the Senate will please reassemble immediately in the Senate chamber upon adjournment of this meeting.

The business for which the joint session has been assembled having been transacted, the session is now adjourned.

THE SPEAKER (MIKE TURZAI) PRESIDING

The SPEAKER. The House will be in order.

MOTION TO PRINT PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives held this 3d day of January 2017 be printed in full in this day's Legislative Journal.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. Now the majority leader moves that the House be adjourned until Monday, January 23, 2017, at 1 p.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to, and at 2:53 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.