

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020

SESSION OF 2020 204TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 26

SENATE

TUESDAY, June 9, 2020

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Hon. MEGAN MARTIN, Secretary of the Senate:

Let us pray.
Psalm 23 tells us:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Heavenly Father, today we offer You this prayer of Thanksgiving. We thank You that You are our good shepherd and that we can trust You with our lives. Thank You for Your guidance and care in all our days. Thank You that You restore our souls, give us peace, and bring us hope in all of our tomorrows. Thank You for Your protection and strength that surrounds us like a shield. Thank You that we never have to fear. Thank You for Your goodness and love that follows after us, even when we are unaware. Thank You, Lord, that You are trustworthy and able, that You are our refuge and our hope. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following Senate Bills numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

June 9, 2020

Senators K. WARD, KILLION, ARNOLD, MENSCH, VOGEL, TOMLINSON, BARTOLOTTA, MARTIN, YAW, PITTMAN, HUTCHINSON, BAKER, STEFANO and SCAVELLO presented to the Chair **SB 1189**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 23, 1956 (1955 P.L.1510, No.500), known as the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, further providing for definitions and for control measures.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, June 9, 2020.

Senators SCAVELLO and STREET presented to the Chair **SB 1195**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, in Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association, further providing for purpose, for definitions, for coverage and limitations, for creation of association, for board of directors, for powers and duties of association, for assessments, for plan of operation, for powers and duties of the commissioner, for prevention of insolvencies, for credits for assessments paid, for miscellaneous provisions, for examination of the association and annual report, for immunity, for stay of proceedings and reopening default judgments, for prohibited advertisement or Insurance Guaranty Association Act in insurance sales and for prospective application.

Which was committed to the Committee on BANKING AND INSURANCE, June 9, 2020.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following Senate Resolution numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which was read by the Clerk:

June 9, 2020

Senators DiSANTO, MENSCH, MARTIN, FONTANA, PHILLIPS-HILL, J. WARD, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, STEFANO, PITTMAN and BROWNE presented to the Chair **SR 332**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing June 19, 2020, as "World Sickle Cell Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to shine the light on sickle cell disease.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, June 9, 2020.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator TOMLINSON, from the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, reported the following bills:

SB 655 (Pr. No. 1760) (Amended)

An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Nurse Licensure Compact; and providing for the form of the compact.

SB 764 (Pr. No. 1761) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.911, No.147), known as the Telemarketer Registration Act, further providing for definitions, for unlawful acts and penalties and for unwanted telephone solicitation calls prohibited.

SB 1186 (Pr. No. 1741)

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, further providing for license without restriction.

SB 1187 (Pr. No. 1742)

An Act amending the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), known as the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, further providing for qualifications for license.

HB 21 (Pr. No. 3904) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1990 (P.L.404, No.98), known as The Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act, further providing for title of act, for definitions, for State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers, for powers and duties of board and for application and qualifications; providing for application and qualifications of home inspectors and home inspectors-in-training, for conduct of home inspection; further providing for reciprocity, for certification renewal, licensure renewal and records, for disciplinary and corrective measures, for reinstatement of certificate or license, for reporting of multiple certification, for surrender of suspended or revoked certificate or license, for penalties and for injunctive relief; providing for remedies for home inspection services consumers, for home inspection contracts and for home inspection reports; and making a related repeal.

HB 1032 (Pr. No. 3905) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1990 (P.L.404, No.98), known as the Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act, further providing for definitions and for State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.

HB 1033 (Pr. No. 3906) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 16, 1992 (P.L.155, No.28), known as the Assessors Certification Act, further providing for definitions and for duties of board; repealing provisions relating to qualifications; further providing for certification; providing for employees of political subdivisions; further providing for disciplinary and correction measures and for unlawful practice; repealing provisions relating to nonapplicability; and providing for assessors in counties of the first class.

HB 1061 (Pr. No. 2580)

An Act amending the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.911, No.147), known as the Telemarketer Registration Act, further providing for unwanted telephone solicitation calls prohibited.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Anthony Williams.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Anthony Williams. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of April 21, 2020, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of April 21, 2020.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and that the Journal be approved.

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator CORMAN and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	Dinniman	Leach	Stefano
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-0

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal is approved.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of a series of off-the-floor committee meetings to be held here on the Senate floor, starting with the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, followed by the Committee on Transportation, followed by the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, followed by the Committee on Local Government, and then followed by a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For purposes of a series of off-the-floor committee meetings to be held here on the Senate floor, starting with the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, followed by the Committee on Transportation, followed by the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, followed by the Committee on Local Government, and then a Republican caucus, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OUT OF ORDER

Without objection, the following bills on today's Calendar were called out of order by Senator CORMAN, as Special Orders of Business.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1125 (Pr. No. 1759) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 25, 1945 (P.L.1050, No.394), known as the Local Tax Collection Law, further providing for application of act and for discounts, penalties and notice.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SB 1166 (Pr. No. 1753) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in the executive, providing for disaster emergency duration.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HB 2502 (Pr. No. 3774) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of State and its departmental administrative board, providing for report on implementation of 2020 general primary election.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 836, AMENDED

Senator CORMAN, without objection, called up from page 10 of the Calendar, **House Resolution No. 836**, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution terminating in part the March 6, 2020, Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued under the hand and Seal of the Governor, Thomas Westerman Wolf.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the resolution?

Senator CORMAN offered the following amendment No. A6139:

Amend Resolution, page 1, line 1, by striking out "in part"

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, we recognize that this is a technical amendment that makes very small, minor changes to the introduction of House Resolution No. 836. To that end, and recognizing that it is a technical amendment, however, we continue to reserve the right to state our objections to House Resolution No. 836 and that agreeing to this amendment in no way undermines our intention to not support House Resolution No. 836.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the resolution, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held on the Senate floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held on the Senate floor, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

RECONSIDERATION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 836

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which House Concurrent Resolution No. 836 went over in its order.

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate concur in the resolution?

RECONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT A6139

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which Amendment No. A6139 to House Resolution No. 836 was agreed to.

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator CORMAN and were as follows, viz:

YEA-46

Argall	Costa	Martin	Street
Arnold	Dinniman	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Aument	DiSanto	Mensch	Tomlinson
Baker	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Bartolotta	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Blake	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Boscola	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Brewster	Iovino	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Brooks	Killion	Scarnati	Yaw
Browne	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Collett	Laughlin	Schwank	
Corman	Leach	Stefano	

NAY-4

Farnese	Haywood	Kearney	Muth
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A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Without objection, the resolution, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 64, SB 107, SB 331, HB 355 and HB 422 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 494 (Pr. No. 528) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 27, 1979 (P.L.241, No.78), entitled "An act authorizing political subdivisions, municipality authorities and transportation authorities to enter into contracts for the purchase of goods and the sale of real and personal property where no bids are received," further providing for title of the act; adding a short title; and providing for contracts for services.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	Dinniman	Leach	Stefano
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 530 (Pr. No. 1331) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in pupils and attendance, providing for students convicted or adjudicated delinquent of sexual assault; and, in safe schools, further providing for safe schools advocate in school districts of the first class.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SB 530 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 530, Printer's No. 1331, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 532 (Pr. No. 1187) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for holidays and observances.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SB 532 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 532, Printer's No. 1187, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 584 and SB 606 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 679 (Pr. No. 1395) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375, No.325), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, further providing for definitions; and providing for programs for removing obstructions and flood-related hazards on streams.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SB 679 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 679, Printer's No. 1395, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 693 (Pr. No. 838) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in ballots, further providing for form of ballots, printing ballots, stubs and numbers; in voting machines, further providing for form of ballot labels on voting machines; and, in electronic voting systems, further providing for forms.

Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 716, SB 763 and SB 932 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 952 (Pr. No. 1757) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' preference, repealing provisions relating to soldier defined, providing for purpose and for definitions, repealing provisions relating to credits in civil service examinations, further providing for additional points in grading civil service examinations, for preference in appointment or promotion, for lack of training, age or physical impairment, for preferential rating provision in public works specifications, for computation of seniority for reduction in force, for preference of spouses and for law exclusive and providing for re-

porting requirement and for guidelines; and, in voluntary veterans' preference in private employment, further providing for definitions and for eligibility for preference.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 952 and submit my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from York, Senator REGAN:)

Mr. President, in recent years, the General Assembly has passed several measures--most recently with Act 71 of 2018--that modernized our Civil Service Law.

At the request of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Office of Administration, I introduced Senate Bill No. 952, which would update our Veterans' Preference Law in Title 51. As many of you know, the Veterans' Preference Law provides a hiring preference to qualified veterans seeking public employment relating to the veteran's military training. Senate Bill No. 952:

Replaces the term "soldier" with "veteran."

Clarifies that an individual would have to complete their initial contractual military obligation with honor prior to qualifying as a veteran. The law was intended to recognize military experience and training to get veterans' preference, not merely completing basic training.

Enables service members, who are transitioning from military service or are still serving in a reserve component and National Guard, to submit documentation which will enable them to receive veterans' preference.

Clarifies the transfer of veterans' preference to spouses.

Removes references to promotions, as application of veterans' preference to promotional opportunities was deemed unconstitutional by the PA Supreme Court.

Requires the Office of Administration to provide annual statistics to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and for the DMVA, in turn, to provide an annual report to the General Assembly.

Most importantly, Senate Bill No. 952 would not take away any rights that a veteran earned.

Thank you Mr. President.

And the question recurring,

Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	Dinniman	Leach	Stefano
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey

Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 957, SB 968, SB 969 and SB 987 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 995 (Pr. No. 1460) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	Dinniman	Leach	Stefano
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1045 and HB 1050 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1379 (Pr. No. 1670) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act repealing the act of June 22, 1935 (P.L.446, No.187), referred to as the Sunday Polo Act.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

HB 1379 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1379, Printer's No. 1670, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1405 (Pr. No. 1725) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act repealing the act of June 22, 1935 (P.L.449, No.188), referred to as the Sunday Tennis Act.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

HB 1405 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1405, Printer's No. 1725, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1510 (Pr. No. 3854) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a portion of Pennsylvania Route 183 from Segment 0040/Offset 2555 to Segment 110/Offset 1180 in Berks County as the Trooper Wayne C. Ebert Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of S.R. 2087 over Inners Creek near Lake Redman, York Township, York County, as the Corporal Michael Cohen Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of State Route 50 in Mount Pleasant Township, Washington County, as the Corporal Brady Clement Paul Memorial Highway; designating the Morgan Road Bridge over Interstate 79 in Cecil Township, Washington County, as the Wreathes Across America Bridge; designating the Interstate 70 Exit 17 in City of Washington, Washington County, as the Sergeant Russell Crupe, Jr., Memorial Exit; designating a bridge, identified by Bridge Key 7381, on that portion of North Main Street over the East Branch Perkiomen Creek, Sellersville Borough, Bucks County, as the Sellersville Veterans Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of Pennsylvania Route 39 in Dauphin County, from Dover Road to Forest Hills Drive, as the Officer Mark Gaspich Memorial Highway; designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 11414, on U.S. Route 219 in Brady Township, Clearfield

County, as the Lance Corporal Robert Clyde Gontero Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge, identified by Bridge Key 46789, on that portion of State Route 3012 over Back Creek on the Border of Hamilton Township and St. Thomas Township, Franklin County, as the Sergeant Melvin G. Ehrhart Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 8042 over U.S. Route 40, West Brownsville Borough, Washington County, as the SFC Thomas McDonough Memorial Bridge; designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 53827, on that portion of State Route 2003, also known as S. Porter Street, over the South Fork Tenmile Creek in Waynesburg, Greene County, as the Sheriff Brian A. Tennant Memorial Bridge; designating the interchange of State Route 43, also known as the Mon-Fayette Expressway, with U.S. Route 40, known as Exit 22, in Redstone Township, Fayette County, as the PFC Joseph Frank Duda Memorial Interchange; and designating the interchange of U.S. Route 40 with State Route 4035, also known as Market Street and Spring Street, in Brownsville, Fayette County, as the Corporal Denny Ray Easter Memorial Interchange.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I rise in support of House Bill No. 1510, legislation which includes language to name a highway, bridge, and exit in Washington County in honor of local heroes in the military and law enforcement. It makes the following designations: Exit 17 on Interstate 70 in the city of Washington as the Sergeant Russell Crupe, Jr., Memorial Exit; a section of Pennsylvania Route 50 in Mount Pleasant Township as the Corporal Brady Clement Paul Memorial Highway; and Morgan Road Bridge over Interstate 79 in Cecil Township as the Wreaths Across America Bridge.

Sergeant Russell Crupe, Jr., served 2 years in active duty in the Navy and 6 years as a member of the Army National Guard and Army Reserves. He served a tour of duty in Iraq as a combat engineer and earned numerous commendations before passing away in 2012.

Corporal Brady Clement Paul served 4 years in the State Highway Patrol. He was shot and killed in the line of duty after setting up a roadblock 3 miles east of New Castle on December 27, 1929.

The Wreaths Across America campaign encourages volunteers to place wreaths on the graves of veterans each December to honor their service to our country. Since the campaign was officially recognized by Congress in 2008, the effort has grown to include wreath-laying ceremonies in every State of the nation and Puerto Rico, as well as 24 overseas cemeteries, at the same hour on the same December Saturday. I have been immensely honored to speak at this ceremony every year since 2014, to recognize the heroes we have lost and to thank the over 4,000 volunteers who lay wreaths at each and every one of the 18,530 graves at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

The brave individuals who have protected our communities with honor and distinction in the military and law enforcement deserve to be recognized for generations to come. I am thankful we are now one step closer to insuring the service of many of our local heroes will be commemorated through this legislation, and I would appreciate an affirmative vote from all of my colleagues.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	Dinniman	Leach	Stefano
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 5, HB 30, SB 207, SB 258, SB 284, SB 531, SB 609, SB 784, SB 809, SB 869, SB 1034 and SB 1036 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1039 (Pr. No. 1755) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 16 (Counties) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, consolidating the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code; and making a related repeal.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1074, SB 1123 and HB 1174 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 1564 (Pr. No. 3901) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in consolidated county assessment, further providing for definitions, for subjects of local taxation, for assessment of mobile homes and house trailers, for special provisions relating to countywide revisions of assessments and for regulations and training of boards.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 2018 and **HB 2045** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 2073 (Pr. No. 3052) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions, for excluded provisions, for construction of act generally, for construction of references, for how act applies and for saving clauses where class of townships changed, repealing provisions relating to exception as to taxation and further providing for legal advertising; in classification and creation of townships of the first class, further providing for article heading and for provisions relating to classification, repealing provisions relating to enrollment to ascertain population, providing for creation of townships of the first class from townships of the second class, repealing provisions relating to proclamations by county commissioners, to submission of question to voters, to returns of election and effect thereof, to ascertainment of population and to submission of question to voters and returns of election and effect thereof, providing for reestablishment of townships of the second class, further providing for subdivision heading, providing for consolidation or merger, further providing for officers for new townships, repealing provisions relating to election of commissioners in new townships and to election of tax collector in new townships, further providing for certificate of creation of township and providing for change of name of township of first class; repealing provisions relating to change of name of township of first class; in townships lines and boundaries, further providing for stream boundaries, for establishment of boundaries, for petition to court and commissioners' report, for exceptions and procedure, for monuments, for compensation and expenses of commissioners and cost and for adjustment of indebtedness; in wards, further providing for creation, division and redivision of wards, providing for petition of electors, repealing provisions relating to filing and confirmation of report and exceptions, providing for county board of elections, repealing provisions relating to compensation of commissioners, to election districts and to numbering of wards, further providing for schedule for election of commissioners in townships first divided into wards and for schedule of election of commissioners in newly created wards and providing for Pennsylvania Election Code; in election of officers and vacancies in office, further providing for eligibility, for hold until successors qualified and for elected officers enumerated, repealing provisions relating to commissioners, to tax collector, to as-

sessors, to auditors and to controller and further providing for vacancies in general; in general provisions relating to township officers, further providing for oath, for bonds, for compensation, for removal of township officers and appointees and for annuities in lieu of joining pension or retirement system, repealing provisions relating to county associations of township officers, further providing for formation of State association authorized, repealing provisions relating to delegates from townships, providing for authorization to attend annual meetings and educational conferences, further providing for expenses of delegates paid by townships, repealing provisions relating to expenses of annual meeting and to conferences, institutes and schools, providing for provisions relating to county associations of township officers, further providing for subdivision heading, for appointments of police and firemen, for civil service commission created, appointments and vacancies, for offices incompatible with civil service commissioner, for organization of commission and quorum, for clerks and supplies, for rules and regulations, for minutes and records, for investigations, for subpoenas, for annual report, for general provisions relating to examinations, for application for examination, for rejection of applicant and hearing, for eligibility list and manner of filling appointments, for age and applicant's residence, for probation period, for provisional appointments, for promotions, for physical and psychological medical examinations, for removals, for hearings on dismissals and reduction, for present employees exempted, for discrimination on account of political or religious affiliations and for penalty, repealing provisions relating to salaries of civil service commission and further providing for police force and fire apparatus operators defined; in township commissioners, further providing for organization and failure to organize, for monthly meetings, quorum and voting, for compensation and for reports to auditors; in appointed township treasurer, further providing for township treasurer, for treasurer's bond, for treasurer's duties, for use of special funds and penalty and for depositories of township funds; in tax collector, further providing for powers and duties of tax collector; in township secretary, further providing for election of secretary and salary, for assistant secretary, for duties and penalty and for records open to inspection; in auditors, providing for subarticle heading, further providing for meetings, general duties and compensation, providing for compensation, further providing for subpoenas, power to administer oaths and penalty, for surcharges, auditors' report and publication of financial statements, for canceling orders, for penalty for failure to perform duty and for employment and compensation of attorney, providing for surcharge by auditors, further providing for balances due to be entered as judgments, for collection of surcharges, for appeals from report, for appeal bond and for consolidation of appeals, repealing provisions relating to testimony and argument, to framed issues and to prima facie evidence, further providing for judgment and for cost, repealing provisions relating to appeals, further providing for counsel fees and providing for provisions relating to appointed independent auditor; in controller, further providing for oath and bond of controller, for salary of controller, for general powers and duties of controller, may require attendance of witnesses and penalty, for controller to countersign warrants, for controller to prevent appropriation over drafts, for amount of contracts to be charged against appropriations, for management and improvement of township finances, for books to be kept by controller, for appeals from controller's report, bond and procedure on appeal and for controller to retain books, documents, et cetera and pending appeals; in township solicitor, further providing for election and vacancies, repealing provisions relating to bond and further providing for solicitor to have control of law matters and for duties of solicitor; in township engineer, further providing for election of township engineer, term and filling of vacancies, repealing provisions relating to bond, further providing for control of engineering matters, for duties and preparation of plans, for certificate of commencement and of completion of municipal improvements and for surveys and repealing provisions relating to real estate registry; providing for township manager; providing for veterans' affairs; in police, further providing for appointment, compensation and training of policemen, providing for special fire police, further providing for chief of police and other officers, for powers of policemen, for service of process and fees and for supervision of police, repealing provisions relating to keepers to receive prisoners, further providing for badge, for not to receive fees, for establishment of police pension fund and management and for private police pension funds and optional transfers, repealing provisions relating to minimum service for retirement, to retirement allowance, to general funds of township not liable, to town-

ship appropriations, gifts and management, to reasons for denying retirement allowance and to annuity contracts in lieu of police pension fund and further providing for school crossing guards; in corporate powers, further providing for suits and property, providing for real property, for personal property, for exceptions, for surcharge from sale or lease and for general powers, further providing for corporate powers of a township, providing for officers, positions and departments, for police force, for lockup facilities, for rewards, for disorderly conduct, for public safety, for fire protection, for building and housing regulations, for numbering buildings, for regulation of business, for nuisances and dangerous structures, for municipal waste, for fireworks and inflammable articles, for smoke regulations, for prohibition of fire producing devices and smoking, for animals, for regulation of foundations, party walls and partition fences, for ambulances and rescue and lifesaving services, for display of flags, for health and cleanliness regulations, for public facilities, for hospital appropriations, for community nursing services, for parking and parking lots, for appropriations for certain streets, for airports, for appropriations for airports, for purchase and planting of trees, for intergovernmental cooperation, for widening and deepening of watercourses, for regulation of charges, for street, sewer, sidewalk, etc. and regulations, for capital reserve fund, for operating reserve fund, for surplus foods, for industrial promotions, for nondebt revenue bonds, for historical properties, for insurance, for appropriations for urban common carrier mass transportation, for open burning, for community development, for observances and celebrations, for building hospitals, for tourist promotion agencies, for sale of real or personal property to nonprofit medical service corporation, for sale of real or personal property to nonprofit housing corporation, for nonprofit art corporations, for neighborhood crime watch programs, for drug and alcohol abuse programs, for watershed associations, for emergency services, for mines and quarries, for conservation district, for electricity and for storm water and further providing for typewritten, printed, photostated and microfilmed records valid and recording or transcribing records; providing for real estate registry; in public health, repealing a subarticle heading, further providing for appointment of boards of health and health officers, for members of board, terms and secretary, for organization of board, salary of secretary, bonds, fees and penalties and power to administer oaths, for duties of secretary, for duties of health officer, for powers of board of health, for entry of premises, for inspections, for budget and appropriations, for cooperation in health work and for powers of Secretary of Health and repealing provisions relating to expenses incurred by board or Secretary of Health, to suits by State Secretary of Health to recover expenses, to payment of expenses recovered into State Treasury and provisions relating to vacation of streets declared nuisances by board of health; in finance and taxation, further providing for fiscal year, annual budget and regulation of appropriations, for amending budget and notice, for committee to prepare uniform forms and for appropriations not to be exceeded and changes in appropriations, repealing provisions relating to certain contracts invalid, to power to create indebtedness, sinking fund and temporary indebtedness and to sinking fund and regulations and investments and further providing for investment of township funds, for indebtedness and orders of previous years, for disbursements to pay indebtedness, for tax levies, for additions and revisions to duplicates, for tax rates to be expressed in dollars and cents, for special levies to pay indebtedness and for delivery of duplicates; in contracts, further providing for power to make contracts, for general regulations concerning contracts, for evasion of advertising requirements, for bonds for protection of labor and materialmen, for purchase contracts for petroleum products, fire company, etc. and participation, for separate specifications for branches of work and for workmen's compensation insurance, repealing provisions relating to engineers and architects not to be interested in contracts and to minimum wages under contracts and further providing for penalty for personal interest in contracts; in eminent domain, assessment of damages and benefits, repealing subdivision heading, further providing for exercise of eminent domain and for restrictions as to certain property, providing for declaration of intention, further providing for value of land or property not to be assessed as benefits and exceptions and for title acquired and repealing provisions relating to procedure for the exercise of eminent domain and for the assessment of damages and benefits; in streets and highways, repealing subdivision heading, providing for definitions, for township street plan and for certain streets declared public streets, repealing subdivision heading, further providing for power to lay out, open, widen, vacate, et cetera, for burial

grounds, et cetera, saved and for notice of hearing, repealing provisions relating to draft and report, to exceptions to report, to appointment of viewers and to notices to be posted along improvement, providing for petition for opening, etc. and for notice of petition, further providing for width of public roads, for opening and repairing roads and for detours, repealing provisions relating to laying out roads under the general road law, providing for street connecting with street of another municipal corporation, repealing subdivision heading and provisions relating to scope of subdivision, further providing for plans of dedicated streets, repealing provisions relating to appeals where commissioners refuse approval, to no responsibility on township where plans not approved, to entry of lands, to penalty and to powers of State and counties preserved, providing for powers of State and counties preserved, for exclusive nature of provisions, for failure of board of commissioners to hold hearing, for entry on land to maintain marks and monuments and for bike paths, repealing subdivision heading, further providing for agreements to relocate, alter and vacate streets in or near State parks, repealing provisions relating to agreement to be filed in court and effect of filing, to altered and relocated streets declared township streets, to assessment of damages and to elimination of curves and repealing subdivision headings, further providing for improving or vacating streets by agreement, repealing subdivision heading, further providing for proceedings on petition, repealing provisions relating to grading restrictions, to notice, to contents of notice, to appeals from ordinance, to assessment of damages and benefits by viewers, to assessments to bear interest and collection, to grading, draining, curbing, paving or macadamizing streets or highways and collection of cost by foot front rule and to road material, ditches, drains and watercourses, providing for power to open drains and ditches, repealing a subdivision heading, further providing for provisions relating to trees, shrubbery and obstructions within limits of streets or highways, repealing a subdivision heading, further providing for provisions relating to protection of streets and highways from snowdrifts, repealing a subdivision heading and provisions relating to duty to erect, providing for naming of streets and for street lighting, ornamental lighting and traffic control signals and devices, further providing for penalty for destroying, repealing a subdivision heading, further providing for railroad crossings and for street permits, repealing a subdivision heading, further providing for provisions relating to county aid in the improvement of township streets, repealing provisions relating to penal provisions and to opening, making, amending and repairing streets and bridges by contracts with taxpayers and providing for boundary streets, for streets, the center line of which is the boundary between a township and another municipal corporation, for streets having more than half of their width within township and for assessment for improvements on property outside limits where street entirely within township; repealing provisions relating to boundary roads and streets; in bridges and viaducts, further providing for article heading, repealing subdivision heading, further providing for provisions relating to bridges and viaducts as part of street, repealing a subdivision heading and provisions relating to power to construct, further providing for maintenance, repealing provisions relating to bridges and viaducts over marshy or swampy grounds, creeks, rivulets, gullies, canals and railroads and a subdivision heading, further providing for bridges on division line of townships and repealing provisions relating to bridges between townships and municipalities, to bridges over railroad or canal and to maintenance, repair and rebuilding of bridges built by county; in sidewalks, further providing for power to lay out, ordain and establish grades, for width, for paving and curbing sidewalks and for repair of sidewalks and providing for emergency repairs; in sewers and drains, further providing for article heading, for power to establish and construct sewers and drains, require connections and sewer rentals and for sewer and drainage systems, constructed by any municipality authority, connection by owners and enforcement, providing for notice of contemplated construction, further providing for location of sewers on private property and for treatment works and facilities therefor, repealing provisions relating to entry on lands to mark sewer routes and damages and to enforcement of judgment for damages, further providing for cost of construction and how paid, for sewer districts and for manner of assessment, repealing provisions relating to procedure for assessment of benefits, to lien for assessments and costs of proceedings and to assessment of property outside limits of townships for sewers, further providing for provisions relating to acquisition of sewer system from private interests and distribution of costs, to contracts with individuals or corporations for construction and maintenance of sewer and

drainage systems, to sewers and drains in streets or highways or over private property and assessment of cost of construction according to benefits and for consent necessary, repealing provisions relating to assessment of cost, further providing for subdivision heading and for connection by agreement or petition and appointment of viewers, repealing provisions relating to notice of contemplated construction and protests by property owners, further providing for subdivision heading and for building joint sewers, repealing provisions relating to State permit and a subdivision heading; repealing provisions relating to collection by installment of the cost of street, curb, sidewalk and sewer improvements; providing for assessments for public improvements; providing for assessments, for public improvements; repealing provisions relating to revolving fund for street and sewer improvements; in water supply and waterworks, further providing for article heading and for contract with water companies and municipality and development of own water supply, providing for public utility law saved and for rates, further providing for State permit, for occupation of highways and for property damages and bond by township, repealing provisions relating to appointment of viewers, further providing for water districts and application of taxpayers and for connection to water supply system, repealing provisions relating to connection to water supply system of municipality authorities, further providing for cost of connection and where payable and for default in payment of installment, repealing provisions relating to entry of liens and further providing for subdivision heading, for joint maintenance of works with municipality, for State permits and for commission of waterworks; in manufacture and sale of electricity, further providing for manufacture and sale of electricity, for may regulate use and prices, for sale of hydroelectric generating facilities, for construction or purchase of hydroelectric generating facilities and for submission to electors; in public buildings, further providing for town hall, for unloading and warehouses, for appropriation of property, for ordinance of commissioners, for assessment of damages and for use of public lands acquired for other purposes; in licenses and licenses fees, further providing for provisions relating to transient retail merchants, for agents for licensed dealers not to be licensed, for insurance agents and brokers not to be licensed and for license fees on residents not to exceed those on nonresidents; in parks, recreation centers, shade trees and forests, further providing for acquisition of lands and buildings, for creation of recreation board, for composition of park or recreation boards, for organization of park or recreation boards and powers and duties delegated to the board by the commissioners, for maintenance and tax levy, for joint ownership and maintenance, for issue of bonds, for right of establishment, for personnel of commission, appointment, terms and vacancies, for powers may be vested in park commission, for general powers of commission, for hiring of employees and legislative power of commission, for report of commission, for notice of commission's activities and planting or removal of shade trees, for landholders liability for costs and for removal of diseased trees, repealing provisions relating to assessments liens, further providing for maintenance by township and funds for and for penalties, repealing provisions relating to disposition of penalties, further providing for right of acquisition of forest lands, repealing provisions relating to approval of Department of Forests and Waters and further providing for ordinance and notice, for appropriation for acquisition, for rules and regulations, for appropriation for maintenance, for use of township forests, for ordinance of sale and for appropriation of money to forestry organizations; in land subdivision, repealing article heading; in zoning, repealing article heading; in Uniform Construction Code, Property Maintenance Code and reserved powers, further providing for changes in Uniform Construction Code, for property maintenance code and for reserved powers; in township planning commission, repealing article heading; repealing provisions relating to enforcement of ordinances; providing for ordinances; in actions by and against townships, further providing for recovery of municipal claims by suit; and, in repeals, further providing for provisions relating to repeals and repealing provisions relating to inconsistent repeals.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HB 2418 (Pr. No. 3902) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in organization of departmental administrative boards and commissions and of advisory boards and commissions, further providing for State Geospatial Coordinating Board; providing for COVID-19 debt cost reduction review.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 836, ADOPTED**

Senator CORMAN, without objection, called up from page 1 of Supplemental Calendar No. 1, **House Concurrent Resolution No. 836**, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution terminating the March 6, 2020, Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued under the hand and Seal of the Governor, Thomas Westerman Wolf.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the resolution?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in House Concurrent Resolution No. 836.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures. We have witnessed it with the Governor, and now we are at that point here in the legislature. As I said yesterday in committee, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, no one could fault the Governor for issuing an emergency declaration and calling for precautionary measures to be taken by residents. We understood that the novel coronavirus was, indeed, unprecedented, and we were of the mindset that we all could make temporary sacrifices for the greater good. However, as days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months, and as the calendar flipped from March to April and May to June, we experienced more than anyone could imagine. We saw the school year come to a halt and parents taking on the role of teacher, some trying to work from home while others worried how they were going to feed their kids after being laid off. We saw this Commonwealth's economy shut down. We saw unemployment spike to Depression-era numbers; 2.5 million applied for unemployment compensation, the most in the nation. In turn, we saw

the failures of our bureaucratic unemployment compensation system. We saw our loved ones in nursing homes, so sadly, cordoned off.

While some bipartisan decisions were made early on, that quickly gave way to Governor Wolf making unilateral decisions via executive order. Title 35, our Emergency Management Code, affords broad powers to the Governor during an emergency declaration, but those powers were originally intended for reacting to natural disasters, Mr. President, not for something like this. We all paid close attention when Governor Wolf came up with his business closure order, and then we waited to find out what he deemed essential and nonessential and life-sustaining and non-life-sustaining. We subsequently called for a process so businesses could seek a waiver and continue operating; such a process was riddled with discrepancies and lack of transparency. We learned that some businesses, like a certain cabinetry corporation in York, received exemptions, while others did not. According to DCED's business waiver denial list, 99 businesses dealing with the construction and manufacturing of cabinets were denied a waiver. When we asked for information, we were refused, as the Governor ignored the General Assembly, the free press, and the Right to Know Law.

During these past few months, we learned a lot about COVID-19, and we learned that with CDC and CISA guidance, we could stand up to this virus and people could resume their lives with businesses reopening in a safe manner. We saw that in many other States. Yet, the Governor, instead, chose to use modeling from an academic research university rather than one of our premiere Pennsylvania medical institutions, and despite this flawed modeling, he continued to double down on his efforts to control the lives and livelihoods of Pennsylvanians. Most importantly, Mr. President, we have heard from leading health professionals that indicate it is safe to reopen, while voicing grave concerns that social isolation is more threatening than the coronavirus. Social isolation has led to an increase in suicides, drug overdoses, domestic violence, and people postponing and delaying necessary surgeries and healthcare that have had a compounding effect on people's overall health and wellness in this great Commonwealth.

When pressed, the Governor has reacted harshly, calling anyone who questioned or protested him as a coward and a deserter. Then, just a few weeks later, he showed his ultimate hypocrisy by violating his own orders, Mr. President, by protesting along with a large crowd without social distancing. I certainly respect the Governor's right to protest and his realization of what most of us realized in April: that it is safe to go outside the home with certain precautions, that you can open the doors to your business, that you should not live in fear, that you should not hide from the virus, that there are important issues that deserve our undivided attention aside from COVID-19.

So, today, after allowing the Governor his unprecedented actions that have led the Commonwealth down a damaging path, we are taking our own unprecedented step to get Pennsylvania back on course by terminating the Governor's COVID-19 emergency declaration, originally issued on March 6 and renewed on June 3. This termination action is within the purview of the General Assembly under the Constitution in Title 35. We do so because Pennsylvania cannot, and should not, operate under the orders of one person for unlimited lengths of time. Our Founding

Fathers and subsequent constitutional conventions saw fit to have co-equal branches of government to govern. Ending this declaration is not the end of the world as we know it, Mr. President. On March 13, the President issued a nationwide emergency declaration, and, to quote directly from information released by FEMA, "States, Tribal and Territorial governments do not need to request separate emergency declarations to receive FEMA assistance under this nationwide declaration." Any attempts by the other side to paint that in another way are disingenuous, at best.

It is important for us to end this emergency declaration because the purpose of it clearly is not for the sake of qualifying for Federal dollars, but rather it appears the Governor wishes to maintain his full control of the mandates and legislate unilaterally over the people of Pennsylvania. It is time we start working together to solve our Commonwealth's issues. I respectfully request support for this resolution from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have been just as frustrated with the Governor's closing of businesses, the lack of consistency and transparency in the waiver process, and now the random selection of counties to get to move to green. For example, in my district, Cumberland County, which has 672 cases of COVID-19 and had 57 deaths, we are going to green this Friday, Mr. President, while Perry County, Senator DiSanto's territory, has had 68 cases with 3 deaths. They remain in the yellow. None of this makes sense, none of it has ever made sense. I hope you can acknowledge that the time has come to regain the established balance of governing that our constituents are calling for and so richly deserve.

Mr. President, Pennsylvanians are smart, intuitive, and astute. You cannot expect people to continue to be satisfied with stay calm, stay home, and stay safe. It just does not work.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, in 30 years of active duty, every day wearing a uniform, being on a moment's notice call to defend this country, to fight for freedom, I never imagined a year ago--my anniversary of being sworn in was 1 year ago tomorrow--that we would be having this discussion here in the State of Pennsylvania on the rights and basic freedoms of our people. I stand in strong support of House Resolution No. 836, and it seems so obvious to me why. With the stroke of a pen back in March, the Governor chose winners and losers, essential and nonessential, life-sustaining and non-life-sustaining, and life and death. It is not hyperbole to say, looking back at the history of this great Commonwealth, that we have never had a more powerful Governor in the history of our State. This includes during the dark days of the Civil War when Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia marched across southcentral Pennsylvania with 70,000 enemy soldiers, even Governor Curtin did not have such power. During this process here, we watched painful times, dealt with thousands of constituents in need of money, a failure of our unemployment compensation office to deliver much-needed aid to our constituents, confusion, chaos, contradictory information en masse, who can be open, how you can be open, the fear of law enforcement shutting down businesses, and the fear of bureaucrats coming out of Harrisburg fining, seizing, and suspending licenses. I cannot imagine this is happening in our State, and I stand against this.

POINT OF ORDER

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, point of order.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I recognize that this is a resolution that deals with the declaration that the Governor lawfully enacted. However, I think we may be getting far afield with respect to the underlying basis of some of the charges and allegations with respect to some of the agencies and some of the other issues affected by this declaration. I ask that the gentleman and other speakers refrain from making this a broad-based criticism of the Governor and the departments, but rather focus on the legitimacy of this particular declaration and this resolution that is before us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The gentleman may proceed.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, are there any restrictions on my comments in this regard?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair reminds everyone to keep personal comments out of your remarks, but the gentleman may proceed.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, thank you. Well, for clarity's sake here, a few days ago, I was hosted by Senator Arnold at a restaurant outside of town and their license was suspended because they were exercising their constitutional right under the Fourteenth Amendment of our Constitution to run their business, and they have not had their chance in court. So, that is why I speak so freely. Within the confines, guidance, and purview of House Resolution No. 836, without hyperbole, then, indeed, winners and losers were selected, essential and non-essentials were listed, life and death for families, and without hyperbole, never before have we had a Governor wield so much power. It is a painful thing for me to say here. As a soldier, who has put aside his partisan politics for 30 years, I have trouble imagining anyone could stand against House Resolution No. 836, because so much is at stake. We are a free people here. The light of liberty was lit here in 1776, right down the road in Philadelphia, at great cost to so many lives and great sacrifice, and to see the light of freedom and liberty so easily snuffed out here with overreach from the government, House Resolution No. 836 is an endeavor to put the ship back on its course, to help correct the direction we are headed in.

There has been a lack of accountability, oversight, and checks and balances. We have had little input on this side of the aisle with the Governor's decision. I am cognizant that such powers are granted to him by previous legislation, but how long can this go on? We are on day 94 of this entire endeavor, and it is like a bad dream that I keep waking up to. When I say chaos and confusion, what am I talking about here? Whether masks are mandated or not. Just yesterday, the Governor came out, and this relates to House Resolution No. 836 because, should this pass, the requirement for masks and all of the other things will be up to the individuals to make up and decide what they should wear for their own protection. The Governor issued guidance on Sunday saying masks were required. He was asked by the media yesterday and he said, no, masks are not law and are not required. So, this has created an oppressive, suppressive environ-

ment for people here, and my heart breaks for them. How easily our freedoms and rights have been set aside and trampled on by overreach of Harrisburg. I had a gym in my own district, and the owner had nothing else to lose, so he reopened, and sure enough, law enforcement came--officers who I love and respect and know personally--to threaten him to shut down. So, where does it stop? Where does the emergency order end?

So, it is time for the Senate to rise up and reassert our constitutional authority with oversight and checks and balances of this entire process. How long is it going to go on? We have already lost Easter, Mother's Day, Palm Sunday, Passover, and spring. Are we going to lose our summer, too? There is so much chaos and confusion, all for what? Some say it is too premature. When are we going to be ready? The goalpost for the Governor, in regard to House Resolution No. 836, initially was to flatten the curve. Now it has gone to eradicate and vaccination. Where does the line stop? The goalposts are constantly being moved, and we just want to end this now. We cannot live underneath this oppression. We are going to destroy more and more lives, as my dear colleague from York County mentioned, so many lives are already being destroyed by the pressure that is put on them.

Right now, using the figures from our Secretary of Health, which we can dispute, but we will not, that is outside of the purview here, but in the context of House Resolution No. 836, using the numbers, it encompasses less than .38 percent of our entire population. If I subtract out the 70 percent that are within the healthcare facilities, as a result of a March 19 memo from our Secretary of Health allowing COVID-19 positive patients to return, we are down to about .15 percent of the entire general population who could, would, or may have recovered from COVID-19. That is a statistically insignificant factor to keep an entire State of almost 13 million in bondage.

So, what about flattening the curve? We did that. There was no spike. Thank God the predictions from our Secretary, from our Governor, from the CDC, and even from our President were wrong. Thank God they were wrong. Now it is time to take fate into our own hands, to empower the people of Pennsylvania to, once again, live their lives according to the dictates of their own faith and by the dictates of their own conscience. To live their lives and operate their businesses with the guidance and safety measures, they can do better than as dictated from Harrisburg. Are we a free people? I certainly do not feel like a free people. Are our constituents a free people? It does not feel like that when they are underneath uncertain guidance and changing goalposts. I feel like it is *1984* here.

That is why I rise here, as a soldier--30 years on active duty, starting off on the Iron Curtain, four combat tours, constant deploying on hundreds of exercises, maneuvers, and deployments--to defend these very rights that seem to be taken away or suspended from us. This is the first time in Pennsylvania's history, under this emergency order, that churches have been, in effect, closed because of limitations on the size of the congregations. We want to be left alone, we want the government off our backs and out of our wallets, and it is time for this emergency order to end now. It is time to let people in Pennsylvania decide how to live their lives, how to protect themselves, their families, and their businesses. We do not need a nanny State to tell us to do that. So, I highly encourage and want to support House Resolution No. 836 and, once again, to return the power to the people.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, yesterday, during the meeting of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, I raised serious concerns that prematurely ending the Commonwealth's disaster declaration would jeopardize substantial Federal dollars that are to aid Pennsylvania in responding to and recovering from COVID-19. I asked the maker of the amendment questions and was told that he personally received guidance from the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs that assured us that we would not lose those Federal dollars. I asked for that written White House communication. My office received the following in an email from the maker of the amendment this morning. (*Reading:*)

President Trump declares the national emergency: On March 13, President Trump declared a national emergency concerning COVID-19. The emergency declaration authorized direct Federal assistance, temporary facilities, commodities, equipment, and emergency operation costs for all States, including Pennsylvania, pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Pennsylvania's major disaster declaration: On March 28, Governor Wolf submitted a major disaster declaration request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). On March 30, President Trump approved the request declaring a major disaster in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, local, and tribal recovery efforts in the areas affected by COVID-19. For the first time in our nation's history, every State and territory has a presidential disaster declaration at the same time.

On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Sec. 501(b) of the Stafford Act to avoid governors needing to request individual emergency declarations.

Then a link to the FEMA Website that has the COVID-19 disaster declarations for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 4 territories. That Webpage has the last sentence I read word-for-word. My staff noticed that the font of the first two paragraphs forwarded to my office looked familiar. That is because those first two paragraphs are taken word-for-word from an attachment to a mass email that is regularly sent to legislators and their staff. The email was sent from William F. Crozer, Special Assistant to the President/Deputy Director for the White House Office on Intergovernmental Affairs on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 4:40 p.m. This is in no way official guidance from the White House. This is not a guarantee that if we were the first State in the country to end our disaster declaration that we could keep our Federal funds. I am a licensed attorney. I want a legal opinion. I want citations, statutes, regulations, and legal authority to justify that legal opinion. I do not want pieced-together, copy-and-pasted information that could jeopardize hundreds of millions of dollars in Federal aid, and my constituents do not want that either. They deserve to know what the actual impact of ending the disaster declaration will have on our Commonwealth.

According to 41 U.S. Code, section 5191(a): (*Reading*)

All requests for a declaration by the President that an emergency exists shall be made by the Governor of the affected State. Such a request shall be based on a finding that the situation is of such severity and magnitude that the effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government and that Federal assistance is necessary. As a part of such request, and as a prerequisite to emergency assistance under this chapter, the Governor shall take appropriate action under State law and direct execution of the State's emergency plan.

Termination of a disaster emergency in Pennsylvania signals to the Federal government that COVID-19 is no longer, quote, "beyond the capabilities of the State." Nothing in the cut-and-copied language that my office received this morning explains what happens if the Federal government acts to close the Commonwealth's disaster incident period based on our assertion that the emergency is over. There is no guidance or guarantee that any COVID-19 costs incurred after the end of the incident period will be eligible for reimbursement by the Federal government.

As my colleagues from Allegheny and Montgomery Counties described in the meeting on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness yesterday, it is not just the fiscal impact that we are facing. Prematurely ending the disaster declaration affects a host of regulations that were waived, the service of our Pennsylvania National Guard deployed to nursing homes, and food service to a vulnerable population, just to name a few. Prematurely ending the disaster declaration also severely hampers the ability of our Commonwealth to coordinate both between agencies and between States and the ability of our Commonwealth to conduct emergency procurement of needed supplies, such as PPEs and ventilators, in the event of a COVID-19 resurgence.

None of these three paragraphs that I received this morning speak to the specific, factual considerations in Pennsylvania and are not actual legal analysis. Therefore, I am a "no" vote, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Argall.

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, this has been a very difficult time for all of us and the 13 million people we represent. I suspect we all know people who have been sick and died during this terrible pandemic. I certainly do. We have finally made some serious progress in recovering from this disease. On Sunday, the pastor of the small church that I attend selected a very appropriate hymn as we returned to the pews for the first time in months. The third stanza included these words: "What troubles we have seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last." Now, Charles Wesley was probably not predicting the COVID-19 pandemic when he wrote those words with a feather pen in 1749, but today, regardless of our faiths, our beliefs, we can all celebrate that vision as our communities continue to recover from these difficult weeks. Let us hope that the very worst is behind us and we can all learn from this awful experience.

In the past weeks, many of us and our constituents have said basically the same thing, based on our experience during this pandemic. The Governor is not a thug, he is not a dictator, he is our Governor. He is not our king. The General Assembly never, ever intended to grant this Governor, or any Governor, the royal powers of a king. This legislation is an attempt to clarify our checks and balances, the very idea of limitations on the powers of each branch of government. A few weeks ago, Senator Mastriano, Senator Regan, and I joined some good folks on the Capitol steps who were very upset about the shutdown of our State's economy. At that time, I referenced a document which was signed by Benjamin Franklin and some of our predecessors from the General Assembly in Philadelphia almost 224 years ago. The third sentence in Thomas Jefferson's masterpiece, our

Declaration of Independence: "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

The people we represent did not consent to one man's orders to remain locked up in their homes, limited to government hand-outs for week, after week, after week. We have all heard from people who wanted to safely begin to return to work, small businesses wanting to reopen, just like their big business competitors down the street, and we have listened carefully throughout this ordeal to medical experts. The consent of the governed, that is what this legislation is all about. Who can protect the consent of the governed based on our experiences during these last 13 weeks? We can, the House and the Senate. The vast powers of this State should never, ever, again be concentrated in the hands of one individual, Republican or Democrat. That is the purpose of House Resolution No. 836. This resolution passed by a majority in the House, and it is my hope that we can also ask, in a bipartisan fashion today, to approve this much-needed legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, this is a very, very difficult issue. While I do not believe it is time to reopen Pennsylvania, I believe the basic issue of how long any one individual can be in control without the other branches of government, the whole issue of the balance of power, is one of utmost importance to this Commonwealth. I certainly support Senator Kim Ward's bill that it would have to be redone after 30 days. I certainly understand the concerns and, perhaps, what we need is a constitutional convention to take up this and other issues. My point is this: clearly, the criticisms are just and we do not have a balance of power that is appropriate, but I do realize we are still in this pandemic. I do realize that it would be short-sighted to end this right now. On the other hand, I want to say that the criticisms that we hear, the need for full government participation and consensus, the need for the legislature to have a say, are just constitutional issues. I believe that Senator Kim Ward's constitutional amendment is a good bill. I believe that we need to deal with this whole issue of the balance of power.

However, we are still in this pandemic, and I cannot bring myself to this particular vote with a "yes," because we are in the middle of something. Was this done in a perfect way? No. Was there confusion starting from the beginning with waivers? Yes. Were there directions one way and then the other? For example, in our area, when we were told it had to be 50 per 100,000, and then all of a sudden, it did not have to be 50 per 100,000. Yes, all of that is true, and, yes, it is true that we have to relook at the question of a balance of power. I think the best way to do this is not to vote on this in the middle of the pandemic, which is still going on, but it is to support the efforts of Senator Kim Ward, because that bill allows a full discussion of the public. There will be two times where it has to be voted on. We have to have this discussion of the balance of power. It is absolutely essential in terms of a free people to have such a discussion. I certainly think this, and many other issues, including our failure to really do anything about Section 27 of Article I, which deals with the environment, or Article I, the basic rights of people, has to be discussed at such a convention.

So, Mr. President, what I am trying to say is, the criticisms of the balance of power are just and the criticisms of how it was

done, whether it was perfect or not perfect. We certainly see what happened at the Southeast Veterans' Center, which is under State control, and more evidence has come in from my constituents with formal complaints. But, we cannot do this in the middle of a pandemic. I believe that we should support Senator Kim Ward's bill tomorrow, and I will be putting in a bill for a constitutional convention so we can take up this and many issues that we, on both sides of the aisle, know need to be addressed.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I rise today to support House Resolution No. 836 and an end to the Governor's disaster emergency declaration in relation to COVID-19. Pennsylvania's COVID-19 cases peaked 7 weeks ago, and yet, almost 2 months later, we are still living under an emergency proclamation issued on March 6, 2020, and the multitude of executive orders issued under that.

The Governor and the Secretary of Health have closed businesses, put people out of work, ceased productive education of our children, and kept people in their homes and away from their loved ones for the better part of 3 months. I get that, because at the beginning, the Secretary did and the Governor did what he deemed necessary to protect us. Looking at China and Italy, it was really scary. But the projected numbers, which were the worst-case scenarios, partially based on us not following any of the health protocols, thankfully, never materialized. The Governor's prolonging of the emergency for every Pennsylvanian has been deemed unnecessary under the Department of Health's own data. Remember, this was all to flatten the curve and insure enough hospital capacity and ventilators for the expected COVID-19 patients. Even at our peak of new cases in April, our hospitals reported 42 percent of their beds were available. Thirty-six percent of ICU beds sat empty, and 70 percent of ventilators were not in use. Most of the ICU beds in use at that time were being used by non-COVID-19 patients. Today, our statewide COVID-19-related hospitalizations are down, way down, and that has been consistent for the past 4 weeks. Of the 5,953 COVID-19-related deaths in our Commonwealth, 4,094, 67 percent, have been the loss of our loved ones specifically residing in nursing homes. By mid-April, the administration knew, and acknowledged, our most vulnerable Pennsylvanians, by far, from COVID-19 were in our skilled facilities. We mourn every single one of those deaths, and we also mourn the fact that they, many times, died without family at their side.

The consequences from this state of emergency have been catastrophic for far too many Pennsylvanians, and they continue to be under these restrictions. The Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office estimates that the COVID-19 virus reduced monthly collections by \$2.12 billion due to business closures, delayed payment processing, and the extension of some tax due dates. We have over 1.9 million unemployment claims in Pennsylvania, with 46,214 new claims filed just this past week. We have had over 630,000 claims during the first week of April, compared to 80,000 claims filed during the entire first 2 months of 2020. With the Governor continually stating restrictions could be reinstated depending on a spike in the number of new cases, which will happen as testing becomes mandated in some areas, there is no end in sight for Pennsylvanians. Restaurants still cannot operate at 100 percent, and what will happen to many of

them come this fall when they cannot offer outdoor dining? Concerts, festivals, and agriculture fairs, many of which provide vital funding for our service organizations and emergency responders, have been cancelled. Just yesterday, the Westmoreland Fair Board, which is in the district I serve, cancelled our fair scheduled for August because there were too many unknowns with this declaration. Our school kids missed almost an entire marking period. They missed proms, they missed graduations, and they are already considering how to accommodate social distancing mandates when they open schools in the fall, causing many to consider a hybrid of in-person and remote learning that will keep kids at home several days a week. What about working parents? We all would better understand these drastic measures undertaken for the schools if the data for COVID-19 in the general populations and the schools supported the need. Hospitals have plenty of beds, ventilators are not in short supply, and Pennsylvanians have done what they were mandated to do to mitigate the virus, but the Governor keeps moving the goalposts.

Mr. President, if you read through the proclamation of disaster emergency issued on March 6, the Governor repeatedly uses the threat of imminent disaster and emergency to rationalize the need for a state of emergency in order to contain and mitigate the COVID-19 epidemic. Imminent, by definition, means ready to take place or happening soon. The threat of imminent disaster and emergency from the spread of COVID-19 has come and gone, and so should the time of Pennsylvanians living under the state of emergency. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Collett.

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to express my grave concerns about House Resolution No. 836. House Resolution No. 836, as amended, would make Pennsylvania the first and only U.S. State or territory without an active disaster declaration related to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a reason no State has taken such an impulsive step: terminating a disaster declaration would jeopardize Federal funding to States to support emergency response and, most importantly, recovery. Our Commonwealth could potentially lose billions of dollars in Federal funding for State agencies responding to the pandemic and economic fallout; small businesses, the backbone of our Commonwealth, just as our economy begins to embark on the long process of rebuilding; county and local governments; school districts, reeling from the uncertainty of the full impact of lost revenue; and nonprofits, such as volunteer fire companies, hospitals, and nursing homes. This resolution would also nullify the many provisions that have been put in place over the past few months to allow first responders, healthcare providers, municipal governments, and other entities to function effectively in a pandemic environment. It would also nullify the temporary provisions put in place to administer unemployment compensation, which has become critical to supporting Pennsylvanians who have either lost their jobs or seen their wages diminished; employers would encounter more strain relating to their financial contributions to the program; the work registration, search requirements, and mandatory 1-week waiting period that were suspended early on would resume, placing an additional burden on claimants; and this would also endanger Federal funding for Pennsylvanians' extended unemployment benefits.

This resolution would put our financial fate solely in the hands of this country's President and his decision of whether and

when to end the Federal emergency declaration. Despite my colleague's request, Senator Mastriano has offered no proof or details of any conversation where an authorized representative of the Trump administration guaranteed that it would not, under any circumstances, end the Federal declaration or otherwise cut off COVID-19 relief funds to individuals or States in whole or in part. I am not willing to bet my constituents' livelihoods on the whims of this President.

Our Commonwealth is already reopening. Forty-five of 67 counties will be in the green phase this Friday, and the remainder are in the yellow phase. This measure is short-sighted. It is a distraction when we should be focusing on the urgent issues at hand, such as supporting working families and small businesses in their economic recovery; preparing for a possible second wave of the pandemic in the fall, though we all hope not; protecting residents in nursing homes and long-term care facilities; and pursuing racial justice and law enforcement reform that the public is, rightfully, demanding.

Pennsylvanians have done a great job doing their part to flatten the curve. The sacrifices they have made and the restrictions they have complied with have paid off, allowing us to be in the position we are in now in our reopening. House Resolution No. 836 would take us backwards and make us less prepared for what may lie ahead. We simply cannot afford that. I urge a "no" vote on this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Blair, Senator Judy Ward.

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, I rise in support of House Resolution No. 836. Most of us agree, and certainly my constituents agree, that it is time to end the COVID-19 emergency declaration. This declaration began March 6. It is now June 9. Medical experts here, and in our surrounding States, agree that we have not only met our objective, but they are also warning of the dangers of continuing the status quo and the awful effects of the economic shutdown, as well as social isolation. The people of Pennsylvania, the people the Governor has repeatedly been asking to remain patient, deserve better. They have dutifully stayed home; they have stayed away from friends and family members; they have been restricted, for months now, from attending weddings and funerals, being with dying loved ones in hospitals and nursing homes, and restricted from having proms and graduation ceremonies, as well as eating and drinking in restaurants and bars. Business owners have been fined and threatened with losing their State licensures for opening their businesses and trying to earn a living, as well as providing a living for their employees. Many folks have not been able to work and continue to wait for unemployment benefits that have not come through.

In the last few weeks, certain counties have gone green while others wait and suffer. We need to get all businesses back open. We need to get Pennsylvania back open, and that is why I stand in support of this resolution. It has become apparent that, for the entire State, these decisions are being made by one man, the Governor. How can we allow one man to continue to make poor decisions for millions? We should be very wary when our liberties and freedoms are taken away under the guise of keeping us safe. The emergency powers were granted by the legislature, and they should be reclaimed by the legislature. They were never meant to be open-ended or indefinite. Our duty, as a co-equal branch of government, is to serve as a check on that authority in

case that judgment creeps into overreach or violates the rights of Pennsylvania's citizens. I believe we have reached that point, and that is why I am voting "yes" to end this overreach.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Haywood.

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I rise to look, in part, at the many thanks that have been given during the comments, and there have been comments that we are thankful for the lack of dying. We are thankful that the hospitals were not overwhelmed and that millions or thousands were not forced to succumb. I, too, am thankful for all the same. But my thanks for those outcomes goes to Governor Wolf, not Jesus, or Allah, or God, or anyone other supreme being. My thanks goes to Governor Wolf. I say that, specifically, because a number of studies have shown that thousands of lives were saved by the stay-at-home orders, and millions did not go into hospitalization as a result of the stay-at-home orders - the emergency orders which some of us are currently seeking to lift. Drexel University did a study that said maybe up to 200,000 lives were saved. That is a very different ratio of lives saved than what we heard from a prior speaker. The same study indicated maybe 2 million hospitalizations were avoided as a result of the emergency decisions of the Governor. This is significant.

I, along with all the Members here, have had a lot of suffering. Not just from family, but people we know who have lost their lives, friends, or family members. A good friend of mine closed his business, and it will not reopen when we go to yellow, green, or any other color. That business is closed. I, along with other Members, are very clear about the pace of getting unemployment compensation benefits to individuals and the challenges there for them. Certainly, mistakes were made; certainly, lives were saved; certainly, hospitals were not overrun; and, yes, the economy is in bad shape. I understand that, Mr. President, but, at the same time, much of the Commonwealth has gone to this yellow phase of reopening, and the balance is even in green, further along.

The other thing I would like to end with, Mr. President, is that it was this body, on or about April 15, that passed legislation that would allow some businesses to reopen. The life-sustaining businesses using another standard. It was the same day we hit the peak of the virus that this body decided we should let more businesses operate. Now is not the time for the decisions of this body to overrule those of the Governor. Given any reasonable choice of the wisdom of trying to reopen businesses at the peak of the virus is clearly an unwise decision.

Thank you, Mr. President. For those reasons, I encourage a "no" vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I rise to offer my support for the provisions of the current resolution contained in House Resolution No. 836 and offer remarks in support. Mr. President, the people of Pennsylvania, the citizens of every sister State in our Union, and many local jurisdictions divested their sovereign power to co-equal branches of government for one fundamental reason: because they, rightly, were concerned and suspect of the potential excess of centralized authority. Centuries of experience gained during our collective human journey had led them to this conclusion. That is what fundamentally makes the emergency

provisions of our Pennsylvania law so extraordinary. It is the one area, similar to comparable provisions in other States, where the branch given power to make laws by the people delegates that power to the branch which enforces them. Because of the limits of the lawmaking branch to respond in the rapid fashion necessary, the executive is delegated power to advance an emergency declaration and act unilaterally under this declaration to achieve government's most compelling responsibility: to protect the health and safety of those who had given them the power to act on their behalf in the first place. But with one important qualification, Mr. President. Given that this power, by its very nature, is abhorrent to the basic tenets of a constitutional democracy, the legislature, in agreeing to delegate this power, formally and statutorily put an understanding or arrangement with the Governor in place to honor the coveted aversion to centralized authority, that the legislature maintained its prerogative to shift back the lawmaking authority whenever the facts and circumstances deemed it appropriate. Today, in regards to Governor Wolf's extended COVID-19 healthcare emergency declaration, I ask my fellow Members of this Senate Chamber to deem it appropriate through the provisions of House Resolution No. 836.

Mr. President, when the first Pennsylvania citizens were hospitalized with the COVID-19 virus, who would have ever foreseen the gargantuan maelstrom it would create? In a period of a few short months, Pennsylvania and its citizens, and, indeed, the rest of the nation, would be collectively consumed in a vortex of a healthcare emergency, the gravity of which was never experienced by anyone in our current Commonwealth family. Governor Wolf and his counterparts around the nation appropriately executed on their emergency powers, and we all collectively embraced for the challenge ahead. Emergency services and healthcare communities were mobilized, and families and communities bore down for the long haul to protect the health and welfare against an enemy invisible to the eye, yet potentially lethal to the body. With the determination and tenacity which has defined Pennsylvanians for generations, our communities and our citizens rallied to the cause to insure that the projected danger of the virus, the total breakdown of our healthcare system to manage it, was driven back, protecting and securing the health and safety of our families and fellow citizens.

Our citizens all knew and embraced what the emergency was and the imperative in responding to the emergency. They saw the enormous impact being experienced by the citizens of other countries, they listened to our State and national healthcare experts, and they responded accordingly. They knew the goal was to flatten the curve of infection and to insure that our healthcare system could handle the spread. They closed their businesses, kept their families at home, adhered to social distancing and disinfecting guidelines, and met the challenge head on; and they, after 3 long months, have prevailed against the stated emergency goal. The curve has been flattened, infection rates continue to go down, and our healthcare system is secure.

Reflecting on the real threat of COVID-19, its highly contagious properties, and the tragedy of thousands of lives lost, the initial execution of executive authority around the nation and the globe was appropriate. But I can also stand here today and say, with total confidence, that it was not the unilateral action of our executive which met this challenge, but together with the collective action of our citizens. They understood the threat to their loved ones, on their lives they had built, and the communities

they loved, and against the stated goals of the emergency, they have prevailed. In a public letter to the citizens of the Lehigh Valley, Brian Nester, CEO of Lehigh Valley Health Network, clearly expressed these sentiments. (*Reading:*)

As a hospital system that has seen far too many cases of COVID-19, we understand firsthand how to care for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients at the same time. And we appreciate the intellectual and human energy it takes to safely conduct business. In this regard, we have been forced to overcome obstacles that just two months ago we never would have considered tackling – but for the COVID-19 crisis. And, YOU have done the same. That’s why we would now like to give you, our patients and the citizens of the commonwealth, a HUGE shoutout!

Kudos to our elected leaders who made the right call, early on in this pandemic, to close nonessential businesses, to shelter in place and to aggressively promote social distancing. But, smart decisions such as these don’t mean anything if people don’t follow the rules. LVHN would like to take this moment to congratulate the remarkable citizens of our area for embracing these restrictions. YOUR smart adherence to these new standards flattened the COVID-19 growth curve in the region. Lives were saved because of YOUR actions.

As a result, while our systems were stressed, they were not overrun, and we were able to develop and execute unique treatment protocols to manage COVID-19 cases safely and with high quality – all while limiting the spread of the virus. While we are proud of our actions, the positive result is all because of the social distancing and other smart safety steps YOU took in your homes and at the grocery store and by sheltering in place and avoiding large gatherings of friends and family. While we mourn the lives that have been lost, many were saved by your actions.

For the last 90 days, Mr. President, we, of course, differed with the Governor on some of the decisions he had made to mitigate the infection risk. The economic actions he took, as documented by the Independent Fiscal Office in its most recent revenue report, were the most aggressive in the country, and we reasonably believed, given the overwhelming positive experience in other States, that alternatives could be pursued while maintaining safety protocols. But all the while, we still maintained consensus with stated and now achieved goals, as expressed by Dr. Nester, to take the responsible precautions seriously to flatten the infection curve and beat back the unsustainable spread of the virus. We all should be collectively proud, along with all of our outstanding citizens and local leaders, for this tremendous accomplishment.

Yet, as you are well aware, Mr. President, notwithstanding these extraordinary, collective actions to achieve these stated goals for which the Governor justifiably could execute on his extraordinary emergency powers, he is acting, once again, to unilaterally extend the COVID-19 health emergency, thus, extending the imposition of those powers for an additional 3 months. Given the gravity of these actions and the enormous implications they may have on the overall health and lives of our citizens and the long-term economic and fiscal condition of this Commonwealth, it is the imperative of this Assembly to consider and review the stated goals the Governor wishes to achieve during this extension period to insure he is conforming to the intent and the spirit of his delegated emergency authority. While the clearly stated objectives of the first 90 days was to mitigate the spread of the virus to insure sustainability of our healthcare infrastructure to manage it, I respectfully submit, Mr. President, that it appears comparable directives do not exist to compel and guide the executive for the subsequent time period.

We have been advised as to the threat of a potential resurgence of infection in the later months of this year, but in this regard, we lack any directives or guidance as to whether this is the basis for the emergency extension, what level of resurgence would rise to the level of an emergency, and how long our citizens and their communities would have to operate under executive action in anticipation of one. I respectfully submit, for the dramatic implications of emergency actions to be justified, especially given the economic, fiscal, and other health status implications of the initial actions on our citizens and their families, they cannot be an anticipation of our future threat, unless clear data indicates that such a threat is highly probable. No clear information or conclusions have been provided to this Assembly which could serve as such, especially in light of the continued due diligence expected of our citizens to follow appropriate virus mitigation protocols, notwithstanding ongoing executive mandates.

Furthermore, Mr. President, given the extraordinary achievement of healthcare protocols, method systems, and infrastructure over the last many decades, the use of historical references as a basis for these conclusions would be highly speculative, at best. The Governor confirmed yesterday that he currently adheres to no sustainable methodology to substantiate the extent of the ongoing threat. Substantiation, I submit, Mr. President, which is absolutely necessary to justify further delegated, unilateral executive action. He has abandoned his objective county-based infection rate for population approach to a newly developed, so-called infection score card, plus other variable unknown subjective criteria. He added that he expects the new standard to also change in the future without any guidance as to what the newest standard will be and when it will be promulgated and issued. Will it depend on the possible, currently unknown, prospects and timing of a vaccine? Will it depend on universal contact tracing and virus testing and limitation? If yes, how significant will these matters weigh on the Governor's directives, and for how long? We cannot expect, Mr. President, our families to plan their affairs, operate their commercial activities successfully, and look to the future for themselves and their children with no certainty as to the rules they will need to comply with, and for how long. I would, respectfully, submit that we, surely, cannot expect this.

The people of Pennsylvania have made, and continue to make, enormous sacrifices to secure the health of their families and their communities. They know the virus is still looming in their vicinity, and they will continue to act with prudence in their personal and commercial affairs. They have proven they understand appropriate action under the current circumstances and are currently developing, planning, and executing on the recommended health protocols in their businesses and institutions to protect the health and safety of patrons, workers, and citizens. They deserve no less from their government than clarity of purpose as to the rules imposed upon them; clarity of purpose, especially when those rules are imposed upon them under exceptional circumstances, outside the normal checks and balances of their co-equal democratic institutions.

The extraordinary power of the Pennsylvania Governor, Mr. President, delegated to him by this Assembly to impose unilateral rules on Pennsylvania citizens must be matched by the extraordinary burden to justify it. Continuing to execute on unilateral emergency powers when the emergency is no longer clearly defined, when the goals are no longer clearly stated, is only, in

substance, executing unilateral power and would be, Mr. President, a dereliction of our legislative duties, as the delegating lawmaking body, to permit this to continue as currently prescribed and defended. In concluding his letter, Dr. Nester set the stage for the days ahead. "We are most fortunate that our curve has flattened, thanks to YOUR remarkably smart behavior. Given the diligence you demonstrated...we have every confidence that you will use the same good judgment when you ultimately return to work" and get our lives back to normal.

In endorsing the provisions of House Resolution No. 836 today, Mr. President, I also stand here today to call upon the Governor to consider and seek alternative, more balanced, more justifiable approaches to honor the ongoing actions of our citizens in securing the health and safety of our Commonwealth during this most unprecedented time. I call on him to actively and consistently engage with the other stewards in this Chamber, the other stewards of health and safety, the Members of this General Assembly, to work aggressively through consensus, through collaboration, to offer a clear, consistent vision for the current and future infection mitigation and recovery in our great State. We can, Mr. President, in the ways most coveted by those who have empowered us, act collectively towards their well-being, the future success of all our citizens, all of their communities, and on our entire great Commonwealth. Mr. President, I, accordingly, ask my colleagues to vote in the affirmative on House Resolution No. 836.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Muth.

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today in strong opposition to House Resolution No. 836. This resolution is dangerous, it is impulsive, and it puts Pennsylvania in danger of losing access to vital resources and will be harmful to all of our constituencies in all 50 Senatorial Districts. Mr. President, let me emphasize why this resolution is harmful. It will eliminate our Federal funding, risking our Commonwealth from losing billions of dollars to help with our recovery related to COVID-19. I am very concerned about this. Our Commonwealth is in an extreme crisis from a budgetary standpoint, this is known. We know that the aid from the Federal government has sustained our Commonwealth during this pandemic.

Furthermore, any and all legislative initiatives created for the disaster emergency declaration to aid residents, like the unemployment compensation eligibility requirements and employer relief from changes during COVID-19, would be terminated. Repealing the emergency declaration would also result in contributory employers paying 100 percent of the charges for the COVID-19-related claims. It would also end the temporary suspension of work registration and work search requirements. Ending this emergency declaration will eliminate Federal funds for extended and supplemental unemployment benefits, which will leave our Commonwealth to foot the entire bill when we are already struggling with a budget deficit.

I would like to remind my colleagues that Pennsylvania is in the top 10 of States with the highest COVID-19 cases in the country, and we are a State that is still increasing in its number of cases. If the proclamation of disaster emergency is terminated, Pennsylvania will be the first and only State to not have an active disaster emergency relief related to COVID-19. The grave effects that this can have on small businesses, school districts, townships, and each and every resident of this Commonwealth are

unfathomable. Premature termination of this disaster emergency will cause a loss of life, not just a loss of livelihood from economic struggle, which we have already seen.

If we want to talk about the overreach of government or the overreach of the Governor, I think we need to talk about the inaction that happened in Harrisburg before COVID-19 and now. We have not put any significant efforts, except for recently, as the Governor announced grant money to assist small businesses across our State. There are things we could have done weeks ago, but instead, today we named bridges. So that inaction is unacceptable, and that is why people are begging to reopen, not because they think this pandemic is a joke. They have been cornered into picking between reopening and, hopefully, maybe, having an economic rebound to keep them afloat. Even then, we have not given them a cushion to operate in a pandemic with modifications that would save the lives of workers and families.

Talking about nursing home deaths, do not forget about the people who work there, because if they do not have adequate PPE, and that includes the Southeastern Veterans' Center, which I have yet to hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle bring up the fact that one of our veteran-run homes has struggled tremendously with COVID-19. Delivering masks is not enough. Insuring that every single essential and healthcare worker in this Commonwealth has adequate PPE is not a conversation we are having right now. But yet we want to end a disaster declaration. I do not know how many of your constituents have reached out about this, but it is not just in southeastern Pennsylvania that this virus has impacted people.

I am urging a "no" vote. I want our Commonwealth, I want our elected leaders in this Chamber to lead, to save lives. This is not about you. This pandemic is not just about your health and safety. It is about the others around you. Claiming cries of your freedom being attacked, your freedom does not give you the right to put someone else at risk, and unfortunately, with this virus, we do not have a vaccine. The stay-at-home orders that everyone had to follow were not because the Governor was trying to abuse his power, it was because he was trying to save lives. Wearing a mask is about respect. It is not about you, it is about the people who you are around, whether you know them or not. It is about respect. It is about doing whatever we can to protect ourselves and others from the spread of this virus.

So, instead of ending an emergency declaration, leaving Pennsylvania high and dry for funding, this Senate has the power to pass meaningful legislation that would help people during this economic crisis as well as this public health crisis. I urge a "no" vote, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator DiSanto.

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of House Resolution No. 836. When the Governor first issued his disaster declaration in March, Pennsylvania had just diagnosed its first two cases of COVID-19 and little was known about this virus that had begun spreading across our country and around the world. Public health experts were concerned about a surge in infections that could overwhelm our healthcare system. Many of us agree it was important for our Commonwealth to take immediate and decisive action, though we may disagree on the scope and the details. Pennsylvania law affords the Governor certain emergency powers in times of crisis to expedite State resources and to modify rules and regulations to aid the State's response.

While this Governor has made a number of difficult judgment calls during this unprecedented pandemic, it is long past the time for this General Assembly to reassert itself as a co-equal branch of government.

For months, Pennsylvanians have lived under stay-at-home orders, government-imposed closures, and many other restrictions previously unthinkable in our free society. As millions of Pennsylvanians were forced into unemployment, the Governor and his administration failed miserably to provide timely unemployment benefits for those struggling to make ends meet, even while paying thousands of fraudulent claims. The Governor, unilaterally, decided to reject Federal classifications for which businesses ought to remain open and instituted an unfair business waiver program cloaked in secrecy. This forced Senator Regan to file a subpoena for this information. At a time when communication and transparency was essential, this Governor closed down his offices of open records, indefinitely suspending the processing of requests for public records and refusing, for many weeks, to allow direct media involvement in his briefings.

The Governor's three color phases to reopen our State has been equally confusing and convoluted for our constituents, as the metrics for progressing, at first undisclosed, now seemingly change without any real scientific or medical basis. This General Assembly, for many weeks, has pleaded to work collaboratively with the Governor in responding to this crisis. Unfortunately, this administration has acted alone and answers to no one. Our legislative efforts to safely reopen Pennsylvania and allow our small businesses to modify their operations and adhere to the same CDC public health guidelines as our grocers and big-box retailers have fallen on deaf ears. I just visited another one of my constituents this morning, a restaurant owner who could safely and responsibly serve his customers if only given a real opportunity. We, as a General Assembly, are left with no other recourse than to reassert our authority and order the Governor to withdraw his disaster declaration. His executive overreach has inflicted, and continues to inflict, needless harm on our general population, while his administration failed to protect our most vulnerable citizens in nursing homes, a population known to be at risk from the very beginning because of what other States have experienced.

While there is a continued need for a State response to this public health threat, it is our legislative duty to recognize this Governor's disaster declaration and rule by endless executive orders has deprived our citizens of their fundamental rights as Americans and Pennsylvanians. Our constituents have shared this message with us loud and clear, and we must make their voices heard. I ask all my Senate colleagues for an affirmative vote on House Resolution No. 836 to restore our system of checks and balances and work together in responding to this threat in a way that protects both lives and livelihoods.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Santarsiero.

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to House Resolution No. 836. As I have listened to the debate this afternoon, I have struggled to find reasons why I, or anyone else, should be voting for this resolution. I have heard a number of arguments about rights and about the Governor's alleged misuse of power or putting too much power in the hands of the executive, but, candidly, Mr. President, none of it is particularly per-

suasive. There are, however, three, I think, compelling arguments as to why we should not be considering this resolution, let alone voting for it.

The first is a practical one. Every county in Pennsylvania is likely to be in the green phase by June 19. Every county, in a little under 2 weeks, will be in the green phase. How do we know that? Well, on the Governor's Website, in describing the phases, and going from one to another, it says, "After a county transitions to the yellow phase, we will closely monitor for increased risk, such as significant outbreaks. If overall risk remains mitigated for fourteen days, we will transition the county to the green phase." Now, every county in Pennsylvania that was previously in yellow, and subsequently went to green, went through that process. Fourteen days. The last counties in the State to have transitioned to yellow, including my home county, Bucks, did so this last Friday, the fifth of June. Fourteen days later is the nineteenth. So, all of these businesses will be opened on June 19. Number one, why we do not need to consider this resolution at this point.

The second one, actually, is a direct result of an amendment to the resolution that we passed this afternoon, Amendment No. A6139. That was the amendment we passed this afternoon, which essentially makes this resolution undo the entire declaration. Not just parts of it, but the whole thing. So what does that mean, Mr. President? Well, if this resolution were to pass and ultimately become law, there would be no oversight over how our businesses reopen and how our society functions in the green phase, because there would be no green phase. We would be back to February of 2020. Now, some of you might think that is a good thing, but here is the reason why it is not a good thing: because every health expert across the country, not just here in Pennsylvania, but throughout the United States, has warned that if we are not careful over the next few months, if we do not continue to practice social distancing, if we do not continue to wear masks--as, unfortunately, very few in this Chamber, right now, are--if we just completely disregard everything that the health experts have been telling us--and that means that, for example, restaurants, rather than being at 50 percent capacity are allowed to just reopen at 100 percent capacity--and that everything just completely reopens, we risk this virus coming back in the late fall, and not just coming back, but coming back with a vengeance. Coming back with such a vengeance that, in fact, we will be back in a place where, to save lives, we have to lock down the economy again. I think there is not a single person in this Chamber, and I doubt there is a single person in the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who would want to be in that place. But by passing this resolution, and if this resolution were to become law, and we were to do away with any kind of regulation of the continued mitigation of this virus, we are almost guaranteeing that that is where we will be in the late fall. That, Mr. President, is reason, in and of itself, not to vote for this, let alone consider it.

The last point, Mr. President, is this: the Governor has made it clear that he will veto this resolution. He is going to veto this. Even if it passes, he will veto it. Lest you think he does not have that power, I direct your attention to Article III, Section 9 of the Commonwealth's Constitution which makes it clear that, in fact, the Governor has the power to veto this resolution. So this is going nowhere anyway. So why are we spending time on a resolution that really will not help many people at all because in less

than 2 weeks we are going to be in the green phase anyway; that would actually be a significant deterrent to our ability to control the virus and protect lives; and, at the end of the day, that the Governor is going to veto anyway? What are we doing? Why are we here at 5:10 on a Tuesday discussing this resolution?

Mr. President, I urge all Members to reject this resolution, to do the right thing to protect the people of Pennsylvania, and to keep us on the course of full recovery in voting against House Resolution No. 836. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Aument.

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I rise today in support of House Resolution No. 836, the proposal before us to immediately terminate the Governor's current emergency disaster declaration in Pennsylvania issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no doubt that these last few months have been incredibly difficult for each and every Pennsylvanian. Each member of this Chamber has spent hours communicating with constituents and hearing their heartbreaking stories. This pandemic has created struggle, uncertainty, grief, and frustration in the lives of residents throughout this Commonwealth. Indeed, the coronavirus pandemic and the Governor's subsequent response to it has created a set of circumstances for families, schools, businesses, and communities all across this Commonwealth that were unthinkable just a few months ago. While the challenges presented by this pandemic are innumerable, the many thoughtful and reasonable requests for changes to the shutdown and all the calls for a new approach have merged into one demand: Rein in the unilateral powers of the Governor and restore an appropriate balance of power between the branches of State government.

I have said consistently throughout this ordeal that I am incredibly disappointed with the lack of transparency and collaboration from the Governor and his administration. The Governor has shown time and time again throughout this crisis that the unilateral approach his administration has chosen to combat the coronavirus is arbitrary and unfair. This lack of transparency and collaboration has resulted in a number of avoidable missteps and unintended consequences that have unnecessarily disadvantaged hardworking Pennsylvanians. To add insult to injury, the Governor has repeatedly moved the goalpost of his reopening plan, a slap in the face to all of those who have been patiently waiting their turn, obeying the Governor's orders, and risking everything to do so, all because the administration told them it was not safe to resume normal activity quite yet. Livelihoods are being crushed. Businesses are shuttering, never to reopen again, and time is of the essence for many more.

We need a better approach to protect public health and reopen Pennsylvania, but Governor Wolf has made it clear that he has no interest in listening to the voices of the citizens of Pennsylvania through their elected officials in this General Assembly. He has vetoed numerous legislative proposals that would have made commonsense modifications and improvements to his shutdown orders. In some cases, he has vetoed bipartisan legislation, only to enact the same changes sought by the legislation, but he has done so through an executive order. This is a clear sign of disrespect and disregard for this institution and the legislative process.

It is our duty to insure that the voices of the people of Pennsylvania are heard. With this vote today, we say, we hear you when you say that you are tired of the countless executive orders, constantly evolving guidelines, and daunting uncertainty about

the future. We hear you when you say that your business cannot withstand even another week of this shutdown. We hear you when you say that you are concerned about the future of your children's education and the uphill battle you will face to bridge the learning gap created by widespread school closures. We hear you when you say you were promised financial assistance in your hour of need months ago, but it has yet to reach your wallet. We hear you when you say that rebuilding your small business in the long term, under the current guidelines, will barely allow you to break even. We hear you when you say that you are struggling. We hear you when you say you simply want to be treated as adults who are more than capable of making decisions to protect your health and the health of your friends and neighbors. We hear you. Let us trust the people of Pennsylvania.

It is time to move to end this current emergency disaster declaration. Let us reestablish the equal branches of government by supporting House Resolution No. 836. Let us end the suffering, the uncertainty, and the imbalanced concentration of power in the executive branch. Let us also take steps to insure that this unilateral overreach can never happen again in future emergencies. Let us insure that no governor, Republican or Democrat, can ever again have this much unchecked power over the people of this Commonwealth, regardless of the circumstances. Let us fix the problems of today by passing House Resolution No. 836 and protect the State for tomorrow by reforming the system together.

To reform the Governor's powers in the future, I have introduced legislation, along with my colleague, Senator Yudichak, that will reform the handling of future emergencies in Pennsylvania. I am pleased that tomorrow the Senate is scheduled to consider a constitutional amendment offered by my colleague, Senator Kim Ward. The people of Pennsylvania, through their elected officials, cannot and should not be ignored. We cannot allow any future Governor to forcibly impose his or her will on the citizens of this Commonwealth without any input from, and collaboration with, the other co-equal branches of government. These efforts are not partisan. They are not Republican attacks against a Democratic governor. They are essential to a properly functioning government. Balance of power in government is central to a free and civil society. We must protect this principle by insuring that the people assembled in the form of this legislature can operate as a co-equal branch of government. As James Madison wrote in the "Federalist Papers, Federalist No. 51:" (*Reading*)

It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices should be necessary to control the abuses of government. But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.

The bottom line is this: pursuant to Title 35, the Governor is granted extraordinary power to issue a disaster emergency declaration after finding that a disaster has occurred or the threat of disaster is imminent. The reason that the legislature, many years ago, passed this statute, granting the Governor these extraordinary powers to act independent and unilateral to the General

Assembly, was due to the extraordinary and imminent circumstances our Commonwealth faces when responding to a disaster. However, when granting this extraordinary power, the General Assembly reserved the ability to, by concurrent resolution, terminate a state of disaster emergency at any time. This was clearly a check and balance included in the language of the statute, reserving the ability of the General Assembly to terminate the emergency declaration. The only way to interpret that statute, without arriving at an absurd result, would be that a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly will terminate a disaster declaration.

I think everyone recognizes, in a true emergency, the Governor needs the ability to respond quickly and appropriately to a disaster and an imminent threat to our Commonwealth. However, we are now 95 days from March 6, the first date of the Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency. We have long since passed the necessity for this Governor to act independent of this General Assembly and the voice of the people. We have long since passed the need for this Governor to impose unequal and unfair restrictions on businesses that creates a system of winners and losers, albeit mostly losers. Senators and Representatives work for the people of this Commonwealth. We are not simply a rubber stamp for the whims of the executive branch. It is our duty to exercise due diligence and insure a sound system of checks and balances, especially when the people of Pennsylvania demand it.

My colleagues, my friends, when our Commonwealth faces difficult challenges, when our people are divided, lively debate over the great issues of the day in this institution can bring us together. I do not think that it is an accident that political polarization has increased as the unilateral power of the executive branch has increased. The legislative process requires debate and consensus, whereas a unilateral approach by the executive stifles the voice of the people, it stifles debate, and it sets aside the need for consensus and collaboration. This leads to greater disunity and polarization during a time of crisis, when we can least afford it. We must not allow the unchecked emergency power of the Governor to stifle the voice of the people. We are their voice. We must listen to them. Today, we must act on their behalf.

It is time to end the emergency declaration. It is time for the Governor to come back to the people assembled and work together, in collaboration with our local communities, to restore, rebuild, and reimagine a stronger Pennsylvania. I urge a vote in support of House Resolution No. 836.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Street.

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to urge a "no" vote on this resolution. There are those in the General Assembly who have suggested that the Governor acts unilaterally. This General Assembly has given him no such luxury. Even at its peak, this General Assembly has put forth legislation that would have ended his disaster declaration. The only reason the Governor's power persists is because over 40 percent of the Members of the General Assembly have voted consistently to continue to support his efforts. The Governor has not acted unilaterally, and this General Assembly has been able to speak. We have spoken consistently. In order for the General Assembly to override the Governor, you would need a two-thirds vote. We have not been able to muster a two-thirds vote. For Members who wish to say that

we should have collaboration, I urge those Members not to introduce measures that merely have a majority, but understanding that if you cannot build consensus with the Governor, then you must build consensus with enough Members of the General Assembly so that two-thirds of the General Assembly agrees with you.

Why do some of us continue to support the Governor? We support the Governor because 100,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. It is not a hoax, it is not a myth. This disease did not strike evenly across the Commonwealth. While it struck every county and there were deaths everywhere, that death was felt more acutely in areas that some of us represent. Areas in the southeast, where my district sits, were hard hit, and that is why we, as Members, consistently have voted with the Governor. I have spoken with and comforted countless, although I can picture every face, people who have had loved ones who have had loss. We have had Members who have mourned the loss of Mother's Day, while I have constituents who have mourned the loss of their mothers, and the lives of their mothers are more important than people wanting to celebrate Mother's Day in a festive manner.

We are still having new cases of COVID-19 infections in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is irresponsible for Members to suggest that we should move forward without any regulations at all governing the conduct of the people. The people expect leadership from us, and I applaud the Governor for providing a different caliber of leadership than what we receive from Washington where, as some have cited, we move forward with a national declaration. A President that failed to give us testing, a President that failed to recognize the disease, and a President that has called this disease a hoax. No, I will not vote to surrender our power as a Commonwealth to govern ourselves to a President who has acted irresponsibly and has yielded hundreds of thousands of deaths.

People are still getting infected. But the Governor recognizes that all areas of the Commonwealth have not been equally affected, and many areas of this Commonwealth have, in fact, moved into green with the least restrictions. But, understanding that there are some restrictions that are still needed, we should not have people congregating in stadiums by the thousands. We should encourage people to wear masks and social distance, and the Governor has given us a path to allow people to move forward with opening their businesses in a responsible way that will not yield death. We should understand that while the numbers of deaths have declined, there are no lives that are insignificant, no matter what some people's statistics might say. We need to understand that every life matters, and we, as a Commonwealth, should do what we can to make sure that we preserve the rights of those lives.

I applaud the Governor for his decisions, I applaud the Governor for being responsible in taking care of lives, and I understand that my constituents need us to act responsibly. We understand there is economic pain, but we understand that the pain of death is greater. We understand that we want to move forward, but we understand that we need to move forward in a responsible way. We understand that there are many who are concerned about getting out of the house and experiencing fresh air, but we want to make sure that, as we experience fresh air, we do it in a way that we do not poison others or ourselves. We understand there are many young people who have missed graduations, but there

are many other young people who are missing grandparents who are dead. I understand we need to move forward, but we need to move forward in a responsible manner.

Yes, I understand that the Governor must act in a collaborative manner as he understands it, which is why he has consistently made sure that he talks to us to make sure that these measures do not pass with a majority sufficient to override his veto. So, yes, we must act in a collaborative manner. The people of Pennsylvania have voted for a Governor and a General Assembly that must work together. But understand they have voted that, in order for the General Assembly to move forward in this manner, and those who believe we must act differently, you must either convince the Governor or convince Members who do not see things the way you do. We must understand that in order for us to move forward, we must figure out a way that it does not just work for rural areas that are already socially distanced, but for urban areas where people live close together. We must understand that we must work for every community, including those black and brown communities that we know have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. We must work together. The people need us to do it, and by the Governor consistently being steadfast in his vision, we will work together. We will work together to bring this Commonwealth forward, to do it in a responsible manner.

I urge a "no" vote on this resolution, and I urge us to have a real collaborative conversation in which we move forward with measures that are supported overwhelmingly by Members of the General Assembly, not just folks on one side of the aisle, and that we move forward in a way where we work collaboratively, all Members and the Governor, and only then will we be able to provide the caliber of leadership the people of Pennsylvania truly want. I applaud the Governor for protecting the people of Pennsylvania and for keeping down the number of deaths. I celebrate the Governor for the fact that we did not have the worst-case scenario occur, and I will support the Governor in him continuing to protect the members of Pennsylvania, and I urge other Members to do the same by voting "no" on this resolution.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from York, Senator Phillips-Hill.

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of the thousands of York Countians who remain out of work, who are struggling to feed their families, pay their bills, and protect their lives and their livelihoods, and to express my strong support of House Resolution No. 836. I commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Adams County, for his leadership in the Senate on this issue.

Mr. President, House Resolution No. 836 restores the checks and balances through the remainder of this pandemic. Voting to end this emergency declaration is not an action to be taken lightly. But for far too long, all of us, on both sides of the aisle, have had to explain mandates, closures, guidance, and executive orders issued by the administration that have lacked clarity and transparency. Meanwhile, I know I am not alone in receiving the hundreds of calls and emails asking for assistance with unemployment compensation benefits. In fact, just yesterday, ABC 27 had a story that highlighted that 16 percent of Pennsylvanians are still without their unemployment compensation benefits. With 2.2 million Pennsylvanians seeking unemployment assistance since mid-March, and just yesterday, 16 percent are still without any unemployment benefits. Mr. President, for nearly 3 months,

over 350,000 Pennsylvanians have been without a job, without a paycheck, and without unemployment compensation benefits. That is not only unacceptable, it is downright cruel. How do you pay your rent or mortgage? How do you pay for groceries or utilities? Think about it for a second. The population of one and a half of our Senate districts has been without pay for nearly 3 months. This is not hyperbole. This is not a what-if scenario. These are real lives, with one-third of our State's labor force out of work.

The administration's go-it-alone approach is not working. No one here can say it has been easy to explain the unilateral decisions of the Governor. But let us pretend that each and every one of us in this Chamber was included with those 350,000 Pennsylvanians without a job and without any unemployment benefits for nearly 3 months. Would our response be different? Because we are all collecting a paycheck to be here today. Some of us receive healthcare benefits, some of us have a retirement package through the Senate, but the same cannot be said for 2.2 million Pennsylvanians. They have had to dip into their retirement or their savings account just to pay bills. Yet, the Governor explains life-changing decisions through a press release, through late Friday news conferences that, up until a week ago, did not even include the media for direct and follow-up questions.

The notion that protecting public health and protecting our economy are mutually exclusive goals is absurd. We have heard testimony right here in this Chamber from healthcare professionals from all over the State that the curve has been flattened. We have seen a failure by the administration to protect one of the core missions tasked by the agency spearheading the fight of this pandemic. Roughly 70 percent of the deaths in Pennsylvania have occurred within nursing homes and long-term care facilities, as reported by the Department of Health. The administration is finally rolling out expanded testing to protect our most vulnerable, only after this Chamber raised the issue.

Now our economy is in shambles. We have a color-coded system that has not been transparent. The Governor has established an arbitrary and subjective process of picking winners and losers that is not in the best interest of anyone. Livelihoods have been destroyed, lives have been lost, and there is no end in sight. We are told, be patient. The latest example of the go-it-alone approach of the administration came just last week when they released guidance on the plan to reopen the schools this fall. In the materials, they review steps to sanitize and disinfect water fountains in two different sections. Then, in the same document, they outlined ways that we should prohibit the use of drinking fountains. This is just a small example of the directives and decisions by this administration that everyone in this room has to explain because of the administration's open-door policy that, quite honestly, resembles the vault entering Fort Knox.

We have always said that we are in this process together, but actions speak louder than words. Today, we are taking a stand to restore checks and balances because the people's patience has worn out. We are saying that we can protect lives and restore livelihoods. We are supporting the more than 2.2 million Pennsylvanians who find themselves without a job and the more than 350,000 Pennsylvanians who have been without a paycheck and an unemployment compensation check. Enough is enough. Let us work together as the co-equal branches of government that our founders envisioned and established, and then we will get through this together. Mr. President, that is why I respectfully

ask my colleagues to join me in casting an affirmative vote for House Resolution No. 836.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I have been a strong and consistent proponent for opening up Pennsylvania's economy much quicker, especially the Lehigh Valley economy, which went into lockdown on March 25. I have introduced bills and voted for bills that opened up businesses and some industries that I believed could function safely during COVID-19, during this crisis, industries like car dealers, real estate agents, construction workers, and even barber shops and hair salons. Just recently, on June 5, the Lehigh Valley entered into what I call its still-restrictive yellow phase of this reopening process, after having been shut down since March 25. If we are lucky enough to go to green in 2 weeks, it will now be 3 months.

There have been other counties which have been pretty much lucky in the amount of cases, the fewer cases that they have had. They might have been under lockdown for a couple of weeks and then went from red to yellow to green, maybe 7 or 8 weeks total, and maybe some of those businesses survived out there. But now, in the Lehigh Valley, we are going into 11 weeks, 12 weeks, almost 3 months. I am telling you something, it makes a big difference to small businesses. One or 2 weeks makes a difference. Some of these small businesses in the Lehigh Valley will not reopen. There were some that were announced last week. There are some being announced this week. In fact, today, there was an article in *The Morning Call* that said, "Lehigh Valley business casualties of coronavirus pandemic: 10 restaurants, stores." That was just the latest, and it is going to continue until we get into the green phase, and I do not know when that will be because the metric keeps changing.

So, on May 8, a month ago, I sent a letter to the Governor seeking to accelerate the reopening of the Lehigh Valley based on the opinion of two well-respected infectious disease doctors right here in the Lehigh Valley. I know I might sound like a broken record right now, but a month ago, they were saying that the Lehigh Valley was able to do more, open up more businesses with appropriate guidelines. I understand that both physicians did actually get to speak to the Secretary of Health, but, obviously, the conversations and the advocacy did not help expedite the speed to which the Lehigh Valley is reopening. For the record, on May 8, Northampton County had 221 cases per 100,000 when these infectious disease doctors said we could be doing more and opening more businesses. Today, we have 84 cases per 100,000, with significantly more testing being done, and we cannot even do much more. I call it red light. This yellow phase is like red light.

Here is the other point I want to make. My county executive in Northampton County, we have talked and we have said to each other, what more can we possibly do in the Lehigh Valley? We have been doing everything right. We did more testing. That is what you wanted. We did it with our own dollars. We voluntarily did it, and the county executive was criticized. They were saying to him, do not do more testing because that means there will be more positives and then we will never reopen. Then, here is the kicker, the county executive calls up the administration and they want to do contact tracing, which is part of the metric, right? Two weeks ago, calling the Governor's Office about contact

tracing, and they have the human service workers ready to do this. No response. We could do this in Northampton County, and no response. Well, they did sort of get a response, it was like, well, we are going to set up this COVID-19 corps. Well, it is not set up yet, and, yet, here we are in the Lehigh Valley trying to do everything right and we get penalized. It is frustrating, it is disappointing, and I know the Governor knows how I feel. It has hurt so many small businesses, some will never reopen, and I am a little perplexed at the lack of flexibility and adaptability to what we have learned about this virus.

Now, with that being said, despite my frustrations and my anger, it is still incumbent upon me to look out for all Pennsylvanians. This resolution has the potential to hurt too many Pennsylvanians, and a lot of those Pennsylvanians that have already sacrificed too much. I have seen the tears and heard the cries about the small businesses closing. I am still dealing with people who cannot get their unemployment checks, and it is heartbreaking. The version that did come over from the House prior to this amendment yesterday, I could have voted for, it would have garnered my support, because it was about opening up some more businesses. But this version is premature, it prematurely ends the emergency declaration and puts too many Pennsylvanians and their dollars at risk. Quite simply, Pennsylvania cannot afford to end this emergency declaration, and we should be looking at it this way: no other State has ended a declaration of emergency. There is a reason why. Even those States with the less restrictive restrictions, they call them the free States out there, even they still have emergency declarations in place.

So, Mr. President, our small business owners, our self-employed who have had to take advantage of the pandemic unemployment assistance, or PUA, that could be in real jeopardy, or hospital money, so many things, so much from the Federal government that we need right now. I cannot take that chance. I just will not do it. To be quite honest, I was more ready to vote for that other version. It challenged the slow approach to opening up Pennsylvania businesses, particularly small businesses, but I will not cut my nose off to spite my face. As frustrated as I am with the approach this administration has taken with the Lehigh Valley specifically, I am not going to put Federal dollars in jeopardy. I cannot do that, and I am going to set aside my personal feelings about how the administration's approach to the Lehigh Valley and handling of all this has gone, and I am going to vote in the financial interests, the best interests, of all Pennsylvanians.

I am going to continue to advocate to expedite the Lehigh Valley moving into that green phase, and I will also be pushing to understand what that next phase looks like, because I kind of call it no-go green, because it does not mean that you can do everything. Where is that other guideline after you are in green? I want to see that, and I hope I can work with the administration to work toward that goal.

So, thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, I rise in support of House Resolution No. 836 and would like to make a few brief comments about this. Never in the history of Pennsylvania, or even the United States or perhaps the world, have we quarantined the healthy in order to protect the sick. I do not understand that. That is an approach which, in history, has never occurred. We had the

Spanish flu, which we have talked about the Spanish flu, and, actually, the coronavirus is a derivation of the strain that actually was the Spanish flu. At that time, there were 500 million people affected by the Spanish flu. This was in 1918. That was, at that time, about one-third of the world population. There were 20 million deaths. Yet, we did not do anything like we are doing today. It might interest people to know that the Spanish flu, there is still no vaccine for it. How did we cope with it? We coped with it naturally by, over a period of time, the people, in their immune system, developed an immunity to it.

I grew up at a time when mumps, measles, and chickenpox were prevalent. The way they were handled then is that, if you got mumps, measles, chickenpox, or something like that, you were quarantined. You stayed at home. There was a health officer who came around and put a sign on your house. If you go on the Internet now, there are people selling these signs for the historical value of them. That was the way that we did it. We quarantined the sick. I also grew up in a time, most of the people here will not remember, during polio. Polio was a devastating disease that affected about 35,000 people every year with a crippling deformity. What did we do? We quarantined the people who had that disease.

It might be interesting for people to note that, in an average flu season in the United States, 60,000 people die, somewhere around that number. In the 2017-18 flu season, we had 80,000 people die in the United States. What is interesting about that time period is, we had a vaccine. Did we shut down the country? Did we shut down the State? Did we send everybody home to stay locked up? The answer is no. I do not understand, and we will never answer it today, why the publicity has gotten so great concerning this. There is no question about it. This is a devastating disease for certain people, and it is, perhaps, worse for some in some situations.

The time when we started this whole process, nobody knew what was going on. That is not the case any longer. We know where the disease occurs, we know who it attacks, and we know how to deal with it. The median age of a death in Pennsylvania is 84. Somewhere between 70 and 80 percent of the deaths or the cases come out of nursing homes. We know where to focus the problem. We expected a surge. Supposedly, we had to flatten the curve. That was why all hospitals had to be shut down. At least a month ago, or perhaps a month and a half ago, when UPMC finally said, look, we have 5,500 beds in our system, less than 2 percent of them, or around 2 percent of them, are all that are devoted to coronavirus. We have got to open up the system and get back to work.

I would also like to point out a couple of examples that occurred during the red phase. I have a manufacturing facility in my district that employs 500 people. They worked every day, 500 people worked every day, except they had to shut down for 2 weeks because their supply chain was cut off due to all of the other businesses being closed. The number of coronavirus cases they had in that facility: zero, none. That was during the so-called red phase. We have heard the statistics again of UPMC, which has 30-some elderly care facilities. They had zero cases of coronavirus.

Mr. President, this is no longer an emergency, this has turned into an endurance for Pennsylvania. The evidence no longer supports restricting the rights of healthy individuals to not be able to do what they would normally do in a free society. I think

the time has come for individual responsibility. By that I mean, if a business does not want to open, fine, do not open. If you do not want to patronize a business, then do not patronize a certain business that you do not like. If you are afraid to go out of your house, then stay home. But it is up to the individuals. My constituents tell me all the time, all we want is to be treated like adults. We have not been treated like adults in this entire process. We do not want babysitters. Do not tell us everything that we need to do.

I have great faith in the citizens of my district, in the citizens of Pennsylvania, and in the citizens of the United States to make reasonable, rational, and responsible decisions concerning this crisis and the sickness that is out there. I think we need to trust those people. I am not only asking for an affirmative vote on House Resolution No. 836, we cannot afford not to have an affirmative vote on House Resolution No. 836.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Farnese.

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, there has been a lot to unpack here from a lot of the speakers. But a couple of things that were said by the first two, who rose in support of the resolution, really struck me. I understand that there are folks who are missing birthdays; who are missing holidays, like Easter and Passover; and who, as one of the first two speakers mentioned, my God, the possibility of missing the summer and getting a chance to stick his big toe in the ocean because of COVID-19. I understand how upsetting and devastating these issues can be to some of those who rose in support of this resolution. But, Mr. President, the truth is that when you look at the statistics and what the data has shown around the country, not just here in Pennsylvania, we specifically see that study after study that comes out references--media outlet after media outlet references--that these lockdowns, like the one here in the Commonwealth, have averted 62 million cases of coronavirus worldwide. Without the lockdown, Mr. President, we would have seen 14 times the number of cases we did, more than 5 million nationwide.

Again, the fact that 60 percent of Pennsylvanians support what the Governor is doing, and a majority of the General Assembly does not, well, I would just chalk that up--I believe it says more about the gerrymandered districts than it does about health policy. Because, Mr. President, what this Governor has done is follow science and the data, science and medicine, that is what he has followed, not Lysol and ultraviolet light. He has been guided, our Commonwealth has been guided, by science and data. And by God, if you want to talk about a lack of leadership, Mr. President, what the hell is going on in the White House? Because leadership there, at one point, wanted us to consider injecting ourselves with disinfectant and sticking ultraviolet light where the light does not shine. That was what we got. That is the leadership that we got from the White House. That is what leadership is in D.C. That is not leadership here, Mr. President.

We talk about, how are we going to pay? I mean the concern--I am so happy, Mr. President, I really am happy, that finally we are talking about--we have people in this Chamber, other than people on our side of the aisle, who are concerned about how people are going to pay their rent, pay their mortgage, pay their employees, and put food on the table. How the hell did they do it with a living wage that you cannot live on? What about addressing those issues? Because, Mr. President, as we know,

they existed well before COVID-19. Where was the compassion and the concern about how people in Pennsylvania are paying their mortgage and paying their bills before March 16? Because, Mr. President, with all due respect, it was not in our Chamber, and it was not on the side of the Majority that control this Calendar and have the ability each and every day to bring up bills that can make people's lives across this Commonwealth better. What do we do? Like one of my colleagues said earlier, we waste it by naming bridges. That is not leadership. That is not what we have seen.

We talk about all the things that you say are wrong right now with the way the Governor has handled this pandemic. But the fact is that from day one, actually after a couple of days of Session, when we had opportunities to address some of the issues that some of the speakers stood about and talked about, we wasted those opportunities, once again, by sticking ridiculous provisions into bills that actually would have helped with telemedicine because we, in this Chamber, the Majority in this Chamber, have an insatiable desire to attack poor people and women's access to healthcare every chance they get; and by God, we did it again during COVID-19. Where was your compassion then to talk about the people who needed our help, who needed us to make ends meet?

That is what is wrong, Mr. President. We do not forget history in this place, we rewrite it. The fact is, there are people on this side of the aisle who will not let it go unanswered, who are going to call it out. You really want to make people's lives better? You want to talk about what a living wage is in this State? Well, let us do something about it, because you have the Calendar to do it. Do not talk about what we are not doing. Do not talk about why we have people who are on unemployment. We know, Mr. President, if Washington would have put money into helping people pay salaries and keep people on the payroll instead of putting money into unemployment, we would not be here where we are right now. But leadership matters, Mr. President. That is what it is about.

I sat here for, what, an hour and a half and listened to people, quite frankly, Mr. President, whom I have never heard speak about the issues that they spoke about. Specifically, about how people are going to pay their bills and about taking care of medical care. Medical care, healthcare, really? You are concerned about people in Pennsylvania getting access and paying their bills for healthcare? How can people pay for healthcare? I do not know, Mr. President, how can they do it on less than \$10 an hour? How the hell can they do it? Because, you know what, Mr. President? You could not do it before our Governor put an order in on March 16. No, Mr. President, I am sorry. That responsibility and blame, for same, lies with the Majority in this Chamber. I do not need you to vote "no" on this thing, because you know what I am going to do, and you know what you should do.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, I stand to ask for support of House Resolution No. 836, and I stand before this body in very trying times and still ahead of many challenges. This is a discovery moment. The vote you cast in this hallowed Chamber is a discovery moment. Do you stand in support and with the ideals espoused in the founding of this great nation and Commonwealth, that we all have the God-given right to life,

liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Or, rather, are you content to take a back seat and let one individual continue to dictate inconsistent, nontransparent, subjective mandates and orders?

This proclamation of disaster emergency was issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020. It was done at a time of great uncertainty. When done, we, as a co-equal branch of government, as an elected branch of government, expected transparency. We expected commonsense decisions and collaboration as a Commonwealth. We expected leadership. Sadly, what transpired was everything but that. I submit that we are more fractured than we have ever been before, more anxious, more angry, more confused, and rightfully so. A waiver process that was arbitrary and capricious, that led to little to no answers, and, until this body acted under our subpoena powers, completely zero transparency. Big-box stores garnering record profits, while mom and pop garden centers are forced to close. Small businesses calling it a day after putting their trust in this Governor. No clear metrics, no plan, and no consistency. Some businesses allowed to open, some not.

People are yearning for guidance, for leadership, seemingly at the end. I fielded the calls, as I am sure many of you have as well. People are unable to buy food for their families, unable to work or run their businesses. They came to us, the people we represent, and what do we tell them? We tell them, we passed legislation to allow real estate, vetoed; we passed legislation to allow auto dealers, vetoed; construction, vetoed; to open some businesses consistent with Federal guidelines, vetoed; to allow counties to choose when to open, vetoed. Well, this is our time, our duty, our government. Is it any wonder that we have come to this? It is time to end this power grab and get back to life safely.

We are Americans. We are Pennsylvanians. We can do this together. I know this will result in more conflict, more fighting, more legal challenges, but it is time to come together, to use this moment, not to fight, but heal; not for rhetoric, but recovery; not to ridicule, but to empower together. Let us do the job we were sent here to do, every single one of us in this Chamber. Today, we tell the millions of Pennsylvanians that your voices have been heard, that we trust you to make the right decisions for yourself and your family. Let me be abundantly clear. We are not walking away from this pandemic. We are not risking Federal funding. We are not claiming that this is not here. No, we will continue to address this pandemic. We will do it safely and responsibly. But the big difference is that we will do it not unilaterally, but collectively. This is about power, putting power back in the hands of the people. Let us pass this resolution. Let us begin the recovery.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, 365 days ago I stood on the floor of this Chamber and took the oath of office, and like all of you, I pledged to support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Constitution clearly defines three distinct and co-equal branches of government, with the idea being that competition for authority among the three groups will discourage any one entity from supremacy or tyranny. This idea depends upon checks and balances being actively employed by each branch to monitor the excesses of the other. Mr. President, this resolution is about checks and balances.

The constitutional crisis we are under, starting about 3 months ago, has actually been years in the making. For years, Democratic and Republican governors alike, administrations, have clawed away at our co-equal status as a branch of government. Through executive orders, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and even press releases, for years, the executive has overreached. I would argue, Mr. President, that that overreach has caused us to have a fourth branch of government, known as the bureaucracy - an unelectable, unaccountable bureaucracy that has invaded this Capitol, has invaded our homes, our schools, our places of work, our places of worship, and our places of play. Mr. President, this resolution is about the restoration of co-equal governance.

Now, let us be clear, Mr. President. The last 3 months, our Governor has been in charge by executive order. It was the Governor who told the people of Pennsylvania that they could not buy a home. It was the Governor who told the people of Pennsylvania they could not build a home. It was the Governor who told the people of Pennsylvania they could not leave their home. It was the Governor who told the people of Pennsylvania they could not buy a car. It was the Governor who told the people of Pennsylvania what businesses are and are not life-sustaining, told the people of Pennsylvania that there was a waiver process with no transparency and no accountability whatsoever. Mr. President, it was the Governor who told the people of Pennsylvania that they no longer had the right to work and to operate their businesses and to provide for their families and their loved ones. It was the Governor, Mr. President, and we have let it happen. For too many years, we have let it happen, and now is the time where we reclaim our co-equal status, as our Constitution has founded.

You know, Mr. President, we can complain and debate about Washington, D.C., but we are here in Harrisburg. If you want to fix Washington, D.C., then run for office in Washington, D.C., but we are talking about Harrisburg right now, Mr. President. That is why we are here. So, Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution to restore our balance of governance as a co-equal branch. You know, we have all had horror stories about our bureaucracy. We heard the gentlewoman from Northampton County lament the inadequacy of the response of the bureaucracy of the Department of Health. A few weeks ago, we heard the gentleman from Chester County lament how DEP is unaccountable and unresponsive to his constituents. All 253 of us have stories just like that. It has to end, and today we take a step in ending that.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Mensch.

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of House Resolution No. 836. I begin my comments today by referring to an article dated May 13 from *The Washington Post*, where the headline was, "Powell--**you know, our chairman of the Federal Reserve**--says 40 percent of American households earning less than \$40,000 lost jobs in March." The article goes on to say, "Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell gave a dire warning Wednesday that the U.S. economy could become stuck in a painful multiyear recession." It goes on to say: (*Reading*)

"The record shows that deeper and longer recessions can leave behind lasting damage to the productive capacity of the economy," Powell said.--**and this is important**--"Avoidable household and business insolvencies can weigh on growth for years to come."

Powell said he is concerned about a domino effect, where consumers lose jobs and sharply cut spending. That, in turn, can cause more restaurants, gyms and other businesses to close, hurting more jobs. Companies that go out of business also stop paying their suppliers, which can drag down other firms.

The unemployment rate surged to nearly 14.7 percent in April, the highest level since the Great Depression and up from 3.5 percent in February.--**In Pennsylvania, our rate is comparable, and we have more than 2 million people unemployed in Pennsylvania. Think of that, one out of six citizens in our State are unemployed**--More than 27 million Americans are now out of work. A growing number of companies are going bankrupt or closing permanently, a trend that economists warn will only intensify as the slowdown drags on. The economy contracted by 4.8 percent in the first three months of this year, and the economy is expected to perform even worse in the three-month span between April and June.

That article continues, not presenting very good economic news. More recently, in the same paper, there was an article, in fact, it is from June 4. Some of you may consider my comments here a little controversial. I am reading a report. It starts by saying: (*Reading*)

The coronavirus crisis hits blacks especially hard

The first economic victims of the COVID-19 crisis were the service industries that employ disproportionate numbers of black and brown workers. As a result, after the Great Lockdown this spring, fewer than half of all black adults had a job.

The latest Labor Department figures, from April, show that 48.8 percent of black adults were employed, tying two months in the early 1980s for the worst rate on record. The equivalent rates for white and Hispanic Americans have also dropped precipitously, but remain above 50 percent.

There is real potential for an economic depression--a deep and long-lasting downturn--among black and Hispanic workers, even if the rest of the economy rebounds somewhat, says Darrick Hamilton, executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell, one of the nation's top economic policymakers, has warned repeatedly in recent weeks that the pandemic is hitting low-income workers the hardest, especially minority females. It is increasing inequality, he said.

"The pandemic is falling on those least able to bear its burdens. It is a great increaser of inequality," Powell said in a recent videoconference with Princeton University. "It is low-paid workers in the service industries who are bearing the brunt of this."

It is a similar story among black businesses. An analysis of Labor Department data by University of California, Santa Cruz economist Robert Fairlie found that more than 2 out of 5 black small businesses and self-employed workers have been forced to shutter during the pandemic....Many could close permanently, Fairlie said.

It should not be surprising, then, that most black (and Hispanic) workers report that they have lost income since the crisis began. A special survey by the U.S. Census in late April and early May revealed how stark the situation is for African Americans.

That article, too, continues with rather grim news, given the effect of the pandemic on our economy. But, you know, it is not always grim news. On June 4, there was a headline that we have not really talked about. We have talked about death, we have talked about infections. But here is a headline that has gone missing in the conversation. From *Capitolwire*, June 4, "Nearly 70 percent of all PA COVID-19 cases have recovered as the entire state prepares to be in the 'yellow' or 'green' phases of reopening." Seventy percent have recovered. That is a wonderful thing. We are not talking about that. I have not heard one mention of that. The only mention I have heard is death, death, death.

I have a real concern, Mr. President, with the leadership, or perhaps, we might phrase it, the lack of leadership, that has been

exhibited during this entire pandemic. Yes, you know, we all rallied when we first learned there was a pandemic. We all wanted to be cooperative. We wanted to beat this disease. We did not want anyone to die. We did not want our economy to crater either. But more recent activities have called into question some of the leadership. There has been mention made of the epidemic in 1918 called the Spanish flu. I had a couple of constituents write me about this and suggest that legislation, like we are considering today, would reopen the 1918 phenomena. So, I did a little bit of research. In 1918, the United States government had just put out a new program to pay for the debt from World War I. They called it victory bonds or savings bonds, but they had a very active program to sell the bonds to be able to pay for the debt. They came up with the idea--and it was right at the tail end of the Spanish flu beginning to mitigate--they decided they were going to have a parade to sell bonds. Many cities across the country decided not to hold those parades on the advice of medical people. Philadelphia decided to have a parade. They had a couple hundred thousand people watch the parade. They had John Phillips Sousa leading the band, Boy Scouts, and military people participating. They had soldiers selling bonds through the crowd. Within 10 days of that event, there was not an empty bed in the hospital of Philadelphia.

I liken that behavior to what we have seen with our own Governor, participating in a parade. You know, we are all familiar with the axiom, do as I say, not as I do. Is that the kind of leadership we expect from a Governor? At the same time he says he supports, and I support the same cause, how can you not--I have the benefit of working 35 years in one of the most, well, most of my career of 35 years, with the most racially balanced corporation in the world called AT&T. I am proud of that. I learned a great deal about social behavior and racial behavior. I support what the Governor did in terms of him saying that he supports the movement. But I cannot support the hypocrisy that he exhibited by going to that event and saying, well, it is because I support their effort. What would he say to the restaurant owner who decides he supports the reopening of a restaurant and he is going to open it? Would the Governor say, well, okay, go ahead and do that? Of course not. How about a barber shop? How about a gym? Of course not. We cannot have this dual standard. It is hypocritical, and the people of Pennsylvania have witnessed that. They know that, and they are asking for new leadership. They are asking for new direction. This resolution provides that leadership and that direction.

Mr. President, I have a number of other comments, but I will stop here and ask my colleagues to give very serious consideration to some of the data that I have provided today about what it is doing to small businesses, to minority businesses, and to the working families, the people of Pennsylvania. Let us stop the political rhetoric and let us begin to deal with the realities of what this administration has done to the families and to the economy of Pennsylvania. For that reason, Mr. President, I encourage everyone to vote for House Resolution No. 836. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Arnold.

Senator ARNOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to support House Resolution No. 836, and I rise today to state that it is, in fact, possible for us to care about lives and livelihoods and save both of them at the same time. Part of the way we do that is by providing citizens with the information they need to live their

lives safely and to get back to work and be productive, and let them decide how to go about living their lives.

For 3 months now, my office has received pleas from the thousands of constituents who are hungry, who are tired, and who do not know how they are going to pay their bills. We have all heard stories of those constituents who do not even have gas money to get to the grocery store, much less buy the groceries that are at the store. They do not know how they are going to put food on the table for their families, and they have not been able to put food on the table for their families. We have heard from the families who are stuck in the middle of a real estate transaction and need to be back at work to receive the loan for their home.

Mr. President, my constituents have waited. They have played by the Governor's rules, and they have been largely ignored by an inept unemployment compensation system in which residents are still waiting for their money from the government. People should not be waiting for money from the government at all, but we are put in that situation now, and people are still waiting. As an example, I have a constituent, a salon owner, who applied for pandemic unemployment assistance on the very first morning the system was made available, and the computer system created an error in her work history. My office reached out to the Department of Labor and Industry immediately to rectify the situation and get the money she needed to survive. That was in the beginning of May when we did that, and that constituent has yet, to this day, to hear from Labor and Industry on her claim. She has been out of work since the middle of March due to the Governor's order, and now we are going on 3 months without a dollar from the State for that woman.

While our residents are suffering, the Governor violated his own orders, as has been mentioned, by marching in that protest with hundreds of other people. At the same time he is violating his own order by marching, he is threatening to revoke the license of any business that operates outside of his edict. That is the kind of leadership that has been displayed over the past 3 months. While recognizing his own disobedience, he stated that he felt it was too important to not be there at the march. Mr. President, what about the businesses and the workers who also think that it is, quote, "too important" for them to stay home from work because they need to put food on the table for their families? It is too important to pay their rent, it is too important to pay their mortgage so their family does not get evicted. What about those people?

Governor Wolf and his administration have dangled carrots in front of residents and lawmakers alike, trying to give us hope that each Friday our counties will make the cut and be able to reopen. Each week, constituents grow more angry and more distrustful of the information presented to them and the reasoning for the broad shutdown of private business. Think about these people who have worked their entire lives to establish their businesses, and then one individual, the Governor, tells them, I am sorry, but what you do is just not essential; your role in our community is not essential. Well, that is a level of disrespect to our citizens that is hard to fathom a Governor would say to them, because all jobs are essential. For one man, the Governor, he simply cannot pick and choose winners and losers the way he has done for the past 3 months.

Look, we have got to continue to be safe, but we must be able to insure every aspect of a person's safety, not just safety from

the COVID-19 virus itself. We can do this if we all work together and have consideration for each other, and if we do not have just one person making all the decisions in direct opposition to the system of checks and balances that our Framers have bestowed upon us in Pennsylvania. Because, we no longer need that one branch of government to make split-second decisions any longer at this point. We are capable of returning to some sense of normalcy in the way that our government operates and the way that our citizens live their lives on a daily basis.

The people of Pennsylvania are going to be better for it when we, in fact, pass this resolution and give them back their freedoms. The citizens have the right to make decisions for themselves. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution, end this declaration of emergency, and get our citizens back to living the lives they deserve to live.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I have been thinking of different aspects of this conversation while I sit here and listen to all of my colleagues. I do not want to keep repeating the same statistics, the same message, again and again, because I think it is falling on deaf ears anyway. There are a lot of different arguments here. One, we live in a Commonwealth. We live in the birthplace of what is supposed to be democracy in Pennsylvania. My ancestors came to this country in 1635. In the American Revolution, one of my ancestors, Samuel Wells, died. His son, Samuel Wells, Jr., was a captain, fought in the Revolution, later became a member of the House of Representatives in Kentucky, and became a Brigadier General after that. The legacy goes back a very, very, very long way in my family, as it does with many in this fine institution.

To see what has been happening in Pennsylvania, to see what has become of our democracy, of our freedom, is shocking. It quakes us to the core to see the freedoms that have been taken from the 13 million people who live in Pennsylvania. It is shameful. This should not be a partisan issue. Freedom is something that belongs to all of us, every one of us. It is something that we want to pass down to the generations to come, and we do not want them looking back on what we have done in what is now a pandemic and realize what we have given up. Is it something we are going to be able to get back? Are we going to be able to look our kids in the face as they grow up and ask us what we did during this time in history? What was it like? What did we allow to happen? How did we stand up for those who rely on us, the millions of people across Pennsylvania who are crying out for help, desperate? They are not Democrats or Republicans, these are people, families, and individuals who cannot pay their bills. These are people who are not just business owners, these are people who are entrepreneurs, people who put their life savings, their blood, sweat, tears, and treasure into trying to have a better life for themselves and their families. Yes, they want to get back to work, they want to get back to providing for their families, but they also want to get back to providing for their employees, the people who have become external family to them. They have been working side by side with some of these people for decades and decades. There may be nothing for them to come back to, nothing at all. That is terrifying for too many people. It is heart-breaking. It is soul crushing, and we can do something about it. We should have done something about it long ago.

In the very beginning of this pandemic, yes, we did not know much about the crisis. We did not know much about COVID-19, its effects, how fast it spreads, and who it kills. Does it affect just older people? Does it affect children? Closing all of our schools, is that going to protect everyone? The nursing home situation, it is absolutely despicable what happened in that instance. We should have been here to protect those people, and we were not. But do you know what? We are here to protect the people today. We can do something. We can move forward. We can actually make a difference today.

A lot of people are saying, no other State has eliminated their emergency declaration. Well, yeah, actually, some have. Arizona, I believe, was June 5. The emergency declaration evaporated, it expired. There are others that are going to be expiring in different States. June 27 is one date, July 1 is another. None of them have said, okay, well, it is going to expire, now we are going to have another one for 90 more days. That is not happening across the country, folks, it is not. Pennsylvania has had the most rigid, the most strict, control during this pandemic than any other State in the entire country.

As the chair of the Committee on Labor and Industry, I will tell you this: I have a conversation every single week with the Secretary of Labor and Industry, and the other chairs of those committees, and I have maintained from the very first day, the very beginning of the public health pandemic, that our goal should be to protect both lives and livelihoods. These goals are not, and should never be, mutually exclusive. Through the incredible work of our frontline healthcare workers and the timely support of this legislative body, our Commonwealth has achieved the first half of that equation. We have, indeed, protected lives. We have flattened the curve. We know that. The numbers show that. But, unfortunately, we are falling woefully short in the second half of that equation. This prolonged shutdown mandated by Governor Wolf is destroying livelihoods each and every day, many of them permanently. This executive order has caused irreparable harm to some employers in my district as customers have crossed the border into West Virginia, despite this region experiencing some of the lowest COVID-19 numbers in the State, and businesses willing to operate following the guidelines of health experts. Yes, real experts - CDC guidelines and Homeland Security guidelines - those are the guidelines we have been touting since the very beginning of this pandemic. The people of southwestern Pennsylvania are capable, creative, driven, and, most of all, compassionate.

Business owners, both large and small, want to succeed, but they have been hanging on by a thread. Statewide, our payroll employment has fallen by 17 percent from March to April, making our drop in employment numbers among the worst in the country. The restaurant industry alone has suffered a devastating blow, nine times worse than what happened during 9/11. I will give you a couple more numbers. The regular unemployment claims are over 2,032,000 unemployed individuals in Pennsylvania right now. The Department of Labor and Industry has issued payments to 15,787,646 people, totaling over \$7 billion. Let us think about that number. That is a "B." Seven billion dollars paid in unemployment compensation claims. Do you know what? There are a whole lot of people who have not gotten a dime from day one because the unemployment system is so overwhelmed. Not to mention the PUA, that is a whole other ball of wax.

A huge percentage of those losses could have, and should have, been avoided. From the very first day, our Governor said only life-sustaining businesses can operate. Well, to everyone who has a business and has invested their life savings, their blood, sweat, and tears, that is life-sustaining to them. But, instead of saying, let us be sure that anyone who is operating a business can do so safely, without infecting people who may come in contact with them--there are entrepreneurs out there who have ingenuity, and a lot of them were able to provide their good or service without ever having contact with a customer--but, nope, they were not life-sustaining, so they had to shut down, when through their windows, across the street, they could see Walmart, Lowe's, Home Depot, any of the big-box stores, staying open and providing those goods and services to the people that they used to have as their loyal customers for decades. Generational businesses are shuttered forever.

I just heard of a YMCA--we are not just talking about for-profit businesses, folks--let us think about all of those entities that are nonprofits that provide lifesaving services to our mentally ill individuals. How about all of our Alcoholics Anonymous meetings that could not go on? How about our Narcotics Anonymous, all of those therapy groups, all of those wonderful entities that desperately needed to remain open to help those individuals who so desperately need those kinds of services? The suicide rates are climbing. In California, their suicide attempts in one hospital were nine times higher than in the previous year. No, they had a year's worth of suicide attempts in 4 weeks, pardon me, I got the numbers confused, a year's worth of suicide attempts in 4 weeks is what they saw.

We have children who are in abusive situations, locked up behind doors, for going on 3 months now. Their teachers do not see them when they come to school because they are not going to school. They are not out in the neighborhood with their friends and neighbors because they are all shuttered at home. Horrific things are happening behind closed doors because of this lockdown. Domestic violence, abuse, is soaring. Imagine being locked in a home with your abuser--who, before now, you could get away from by going to work, to church, the market, seeing your friends, somehow defuse the situation--but because of this lockdown, being forced to be behind closed doors 24/7 with an abuser for going on 3 months. That is horrific. Those scenarios are horrific. I know what that is like because I have had horrific abuse happen in my family with my family members, I cannot imagine what it could be like for some of these people who are out there today. It is disgusting.

For some individuals who are saying, we just want to open up for our beauty shops or barber shops or to stick our toe in the ocean, that is insulting to the hardworking Pennsylvanians who have been hanging on by their fingernails, hoping and praying to God, please let me open, let me try to scrape together the crumbs that are left of my family business that has been in my family for three generations. Please, God, do not let this be the end of it. Those people cannot send their kids to school now because they have used every penny in their savings to try to pay those employees to keep them hanging on, to pay their bills, to pay their insurance, and to pay their overhead when they have nothing coming in. Many of them could have done it safely but were not allowed to because of the dictates of a Governor who never once consulted with the stakeholders, not once. He did not meet with

the Leadership of the House and the Senate moving into this, did not meet with those in the know, and did not meet with the Chamber of Commerce president or the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association or the head of the automotive association, no one. No expert was consulted moving into this. As far as I know, no expert has been consulted on how to move out.

You want to rely on numbers? You want to rely on science and medical data? Fine, let us do it. I am hoping some of you actually read the article written by Dr. Cyril Wecht, very famous Dr. Cyril Wecht. He said that in his 63 years in practice, he has conducted over 21,000 autopsies. He knows about pathogens, disease, and disease control, but he also knows about suffering. For the people who are in this situation, he knows about the suffering of people who are locked behind closed doors who cannot go to the hospital for an elective procedure, and who will not go to the doctor or emergency room for fear of catching COVID-19. They are terrified, so they ignore heart attack symptoms, and they ignore stroke symptoms. They do not get that colonoscopy or that mammogram. The increase, the tsunami of medical disasters that we are going to experience because of this emergency declaration, that is the real disaster. That is the disaster we are waiting for.

We cannot do this for another 90 days. We cannot do this for another 90 minutes. We know how you catch this disease, we know how you spread this disease, and we know how to mitigate it. We have been doing it for months. Let us allow the people of Pennsylvania, who are responsible, who are compassionate, who are smart, let us let those people free. Let them out from under the boot of a Governor who is ignoring all the stakeholders, who is thumbing his nose at the General Assembly, at the order of law, at the Constitution, and what this country was built on.

My ancestors back to 1635--those who fought in the American Revolution, the French and Indian War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, all of those in defense of liberty for this country--they are rolling over in their graves at what we are allowing to happen. I encourage, I implore a "yes" vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, so, the notes just keep popping up throughout the course of these presentations. Governor Wolf is the only defense that we have in this situation, and the problem is, context is important, and people are forgetting the history. This was totally preventable. COVID-19 was totally preventable in terms of coming to the United States of America. When the gentleman occupying the White House was briefed by President Obama that a pandemic is your biggest crisis, second to North Korea, he threw it away. He eliminated all of the people who had the responsibility of dealing with a pandemic. He ignored the information, he got rid of the office, he ignored the guidelines to deal with a pandemic. So, context is important, because the only defense that the State has against President Trump is Governor Wolf. That is the only defense we have. Why it is so important is because the Majority in the House and the Senate refuse, time and time again, to speak up. And we are to allow them to be the guideposts of how we deal with the recovery from this pandemic, when they have been completely silent on the individual who is the principle cause of having the most deaths of any nation in the world?

We have these deaths in Pennsylvania because of the failure in the White House, and the only defense we have is Governor Wolf, because the Majority will not speak up against what is going on in Washington, D.C. Silent, all you have been is silent, which means you are complicit in this travesty. You are complicit in what has occurred in Pennsylvania. Your silence against what has happened in Washington, Governor Wolf is our only defense. We cannot turn over the handling of this pandemic to the Majority in the House and the Senate because they have proven incapable of addressing the matter.

This is a pandemic. Mind you, what has just been reported in Arizona, opening too soon is the thing that caused the surge in Arizona. Opening too soon all across the world is the thing that has caused these surges in each and every circumstance. You want a failed economy even worse than what it is right now across the country? Open too soon. Ignore the science. Ignore the research. Ignore the really smart people who say take it slow, do not go too fast. Ignore them. Here, to turn over the handling of a pandemic to the Majority in this body and in the House of Representatives who chooses to be silent on the failure, on the entity that has caused nursing homes to negotiate against one another for PPE, we are to turn this over to you all? The silence?

Governor Wolf is the only defense that we have against a President who has said that bleach will cure this disease. Governor Wolf is the only defense we have against a President, or rather I should say the person occupying the White House, who said that light will cure this disease. Governor Wolf is the only defense that we have against the person who said—who allowed, rather, his family members to get in the payoff line for the contracts that deal with the PPE. You want the control? You are expecting we should allow you the control of the circumstance of this situation? Extremely interesting.

Once we got a little clarity on where COVID-19 is settling, senior citizens all over the country, not just in Pennsylvania, but all over the country, nursing homes, senior citizens, older adult facilities, once the research started to become real about that, then everybody wants to start talking about opening up. Once the information, the data—science is important, fact gathering is important—started to come in that the virus has a particular negative impact on black and brown folks, everybody wants to start talking about opening up. I am just saying, just an observation. Once folks have gotten into the breadline of winning the major contracts for PPE and testing, vaccines, and things like that, now, people want to start talking about opening up. You want to protect people? You want to open up? Make sure that every frontline worker, every restaurant worker, every bus driver, every person who you will wind up depending upon when you open all of this back up, okay, has the appropriate protections necessary to protect themselves from your cavalier attitude.

Are we concerned about the 30 percent who are dying? Yes, we are. Who are infected and dying, yes, we are concerned about them, because do you know what? They are getting infected and they are dying. So, we must be concerned about them. Somebody needs to be concerned about them, because it might be one of our parents, it might be one of our uncles, it might be one of our family members. If we cannot care about the broader public, it might just be someone in our own family. So, yes, we should be concerned about them. That is our right and responsibility. Yes, this has been hard for everybody, but do you know what is harder? Bringing back somebody from death, after they die. Try

that. I only know of one dude who could do that, and he did it real well, as far as I am concerned. That is a whole other conversation.

You want to talk about the Spanish flu and how people marched in Philadelphia, and what have you? Think about this reality: 3 million to 5 million people died in the first wave of the Spanish flu. But when it was not handled appropriately, when people did not think, when folks were relatively cavalier about how to manage that situation, there was a second wave. In case you did not know, there was a third wave on top of that. The total number from the second and third wave was between 20 million to 50 million people who died. So, you want us to be cavalier? You want us to turn this mission over and take it away from Governor Wolf, who has led us down the right path? A difficult one, no doubt. But it has got us in the situation where we are almost there. Then you want to snatch that victory away, and you want control of the situation, when you have been embarrassingly silent on the context and why we are in this situation that we are in right now. You want control of it. You want to audit, have oversight, and put the hammer on Dr. Levine. You want to put the hammer on all of the healthcare professionals who, time and time again, tell us that is the way we need to go in this. That is the way we need to handle this. Then you want to be thoughtful or concerned about black and brown folks.

Frontline workers should have had the protections they deserve to have before this pandemic occurred. They were not provided then, as Senator Farnese said earlier, they are not providing it to them now. How should we anticipate that they will be taken care of going forward? Try to see this as a big picture. We have to look at all the information that is being provided to us from all across the globe, which informs us and instructs us to go slow. Take your time. In spite of all the pressures, be very careful and very cautious about how you reopen. Or, if you do it wrong, cases in Arizona; do it wrong, cases in Europe; do it wrong, cases in China; do it wrong, cases in South America; do it wrong, in State after State, county after county, and municipality after municipality; if you do it wrong and open up too fast, then you are threatened with another wave. I do not think we want to go through that again. I do not believe we should go through that again.

But I know this: you cannot repeat the failures of the past in dealing with this pandemic. We must replicate the performance that has got us in the position where county after county is moving down the path to opening up. We are at that point to snatch that win for all of us. That is our win. That is Pennsylvania's people's win, for all of us. To put us in a position where we adopt the health policies, or the lack of concern that comes out of the White House, huh? You think Pennsylvania people want that? They see that that failure was overwhelming. They do not want to go back to that. It was tough. It was hard. But this is where we get paid, to make these hard and tough decisions. It is about saving lives, saving people, from a global pandemic that did not have to reach our shores and, certainly, if it got here, could have been squashed early on. Follow the dictate of the person occupying the White House. Silent on that.

Again, Governor Wolf is our only defense against that, against whatever decisions you would make. Contextualize in concert with the person occupying the White House. We cannot trust you with that. You have to follow the dictates that got us in the position that we are in right now, about to open up in a dra-

matic fashion, and also take care of the healthcare of the most vulnerable, and, in truth, all of us across Pennsylvania.

This is an absolute "no" vote, Mr. President. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Anthony Williams has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Anthony Williams.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I almost do not know where to start, but let us start with a little civics lesson, because people keep talking about the Governor as if he has taken over the government. Somebody cited there are three branches of government, all co-equal. Okay, let us assume that is accurate, but let us be mindful of, we are the legislative branch which writes the laws, appropriates the money; there is the judicial branch, which interprets the laws; and there is an executive branch which executes the laws. Now, some of you may be uncomfortable with that reality. There was an election, he won. He gets to drive the car, you do not. We have been in a similar situation where you all get to drive the car and we do not, but he is the chief executive.

Now, as to whether he is dividing or unifying, I have been here under Democratic and Republican governors, and I will tell you that I would love to have his numbers at this point in time of anyone's tenure who has been governor this long. Extraordinary in a pandemic, but look to the surrounding States. Now, I know that some of you will come to the mic and complain and bitch about all their constituents, who rightfully complain to you, but that is just not the majority of Pennsylvanians. By the way, Clearfield County, Butler County, Greene County, and Forest County all believe that this Governor is handling this set of circumstances extraordinarily. They have confidence in him. That is not our numbers, that is not your numbers, that is just independent folks who are measuring these numbers every single day. By the way, compared to surrounding States, we are the leader in this; the leader.

For those who keep talking about the economy, we are not doing great, but we are doing just about the same as Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. We are the safest State, economically about the same, and we will be an example after this is over. So, I am not quite sure why we are spending 3 hours talking about a civics lesson that we all understood a long time ago. It is his job, and he has done it well. He has protected us and, yes, there are frustrations in all of our districts, currently, as it relates to that.

You know, I was struck by the gentleman who talked about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I am glad we are reminded of that. We all like to talk about that, and I was even more affected by the gentleman who chose to talk about African Americans. He described it as controversial, and I am not sure why. I do not think there is anything controversial to say black, or Italian, or Polish, or Irish, or Jewish, nothing. It is appropriate. I do not think it is even controversial to talk about the fact that it is affecting one community more than another. That is how you provide policies that prevent others from being overwhelmed by it.

Now what is confusing, though, is that for those who keep bringing these things up, when they had a chance to do something about it before this pandemic occurred, they did not do anything about it. Disparities in healthcare, death, homicide, unemployment, and poverty were there before the pandemic. I am glad the gentleman brought that up. I am glad black lives do matter to some people, finally. I am glad that we are talking about the context in which this virus is taking over the State and dividing us. I am glad we are raising up the issues in ways that we do not ever talk about. So, let me tell you something, if you open the door--as my grandma said--trust me, I will shut it for you. So, talk about this issue sincerely, objectively, and truthfully with transparency. Do not get in the Governor's seat, get in yours.

We have a budget every single year. By the way, some of you who stood up and spoke, trust me, this year I will be measuring you on education, healthcare, delivery of reforms, and are you tone deaf? We are here 4 hours on the floor talking about a resolution about overriding the Governor's powers when we are in the middle of unrest in this nation, globally, around one man, George Floyd, and you have not said one word about it. There is almost no place in this State, black, white, Democrat, red, blue, or purple, who are not talking about George Floyd, in humane ways. Yes, in places where we would not expect, where there are protests, in humane ways. If George Floyd was here today, he would tell you, why are you wasting your time on this trivial excuse of a debate about something we know will be vetoed when we have real people's business to do to unite this Commonwealth and this country? We need to appropriate money in ways that really do give a consciousness of it, because after this pandemic is over, I hope the same gentleman comes to the mic and says, you know what, black lives still matter, and we need to do something about the disparity in terms of healthcare and mental health. For the gentleman who talked about what do we do about those families who cannot eat, cannot pay their rent, cannot afford to open up their business? I do not know, guess what? Join my folks. Get in line.

I am a bit upset. I apologize. It has been a long time coming. Frankly, I did not plan to waste a bit of oxygen talking about this nonsensical resolution that means nothing in the context of a Democrat, Republican, conservative, moderate, liberal, child, adult, senior, veteran, handicapped, disabled, mentally impaired human being in Pennsylvania. It is a waste of paper. What they want to see is immediate action on fairness, removal of barriers, attacking institutions of discrimination, inclusion, because guess what that will do? It will drive an economy. The fact that you allow, for the first time, everyone to really have a chance at getting a job, it will rise an economy. People will have more revenue to spend in the Commonwealth without raising taxes.

So, for my fiscally conservative friends, give us a chance and follow the process. To me, this is not about whether you open up or do not open up, because, frankly, we are going to do what we need to do to protect Pennsylvania citizens because Governor Wolf has shown us how to do it. But what we are not going to do, at least while there is oxygen in my body, is we are not going to spend time talking about things around the arena and sort of inciting a conversation of compassion which has not been there since I sat on the Senate floor. Be very clear, I have friends who

are Democrats, I have friends who are Republicans, I have friends who are white, and I have friends who are black, but I am not going to allow somebody to come to that mic and talk about black lives matter, those who are most suffering, and not have a budget that they support that does not speak to that. If you raised it, you will have to follow those words as long as you and I exist on this floor. Because trust me, my friend, I am going to repeat this speech every single budgetary cycle.

Look, Governor, you are doing a wonderful job, sorry we are bothering you. We really are. For those who are listening, sorry we are wasting your time. For my colleagues, interesting evening, wonderful verbal joust back and forth. Do not trivialize these issues that we are facing as a nation that divide us. Do not trivialize any human being's existence. If you want to talk, speak truth to power, then do that and be a part of that solution that we will be driving and running out in the next several weeks. I hope you are on that train and participate. That has nothing to do with the nonsensical behavior of questioning whether a governor is a governor, whether a judge is a judge, and whether we are legislators. It has to do with a single understanding of humanity and the policies which will reign down from this Commonwealth across all parts of Pennsylvania to do that.

I hope that you will take my words for what they are meant to be, not angry but passionate; not dismissive but, frankly, hopefully, inclusive. The fact that somebody has vision enough to raise Black Lives Matter in the context of this conversation, and for those small business owners, black and white, across Pennsylvania who are trying to survive, I have them in my district like you have them in yours. They knock on my door every single day and ask, when are we going to be able to cut hair, when are we going to be able to have our salons open, when are we going to be able to have people come back and eat in our eateries? I understand the frustration and the pain of talking to them, no matter where you are, but this conversation has nothing to do with that. I am grateful that we have had this conversation, but as most of us have said, we cannot support this because it does not mean anything in the context of what it means to move Pennsylvania forward.

So, thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to speak and vent my feelings, my frustrations, my passions, my hopes, and my beliefs. God bless you, and God bless Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Martin.

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of House Resolution No. 836 and to say, I believe the time we have spent here debating one of the most critical issues facing Pennsylvania and to the people who have elected all of us has been much more than a waste of time. You see, Mr. President, when I get a call from a family who brings up the fact that the Governor acknowledges his inconsistencies in violating his own order, yet they wonder why they could not get their grandmother out of a nursing home after her knee surgery to rehabilitate, as she was stuck there, and then she died; that certainly is not a waste of my time. When I deal with a mother who has a 2-year-old child who is trached, who is technology dependent, who calls me the day after they see their Governor acknowledging the willful disregard to his own orders, but she has been forbidden to see her own child, to hold her own baby since March. Is that a waste of my time? When you have families who call you who have spent every

penny and ounce of their life building a business only to see their competitor still open, only to see a big-box store still open, realizing they are losing everything and the bank just says, no more money to loan. Boy, that is not a waste of my time fighting for them.

Everyone across this Commonwealth agreed that, in the beginning, to flatten that curve, we would all take drastic steps. Our healthcare workers stepped up, our first responders stepped up, everyone bought into that. But over time, inconsistencies and favoritism started to rear its head. I am sorry, I was not elected to work for the executive branch of Pennsylvania. I was elected to represent the people of the 13th Senatorial District, no different than all of my colleagues have been elected to represent theirs. They expect me to fight when things do not seem fair. They expect me to push back. That is our job, and when I sit here and I hear things about Governor Wolf, the only defense—I would like to remind everyone that in 67 counties across this Commonwealth, you have county emergency management operations who have been training for years in every type of scenario, including long-term radioactive emergencies, training with counties all around them, training in counties in Maryland, Ohio, and New Jersey. Where was the collaboration with them? There could have been a heck of a lot more people who were part of the defense.

If you want to talk about defense, let us talk about the defense of our most vulnerable. Shortly after this pandemic began, as we started to hear from nursing homes and long-term care facilities all across the State, they could not get answers. They were not getting responses. They came to us to hold hearings, to find out what was going on, and all of Pennsylvania heard their stories. What was wonderful is, at that moment on May 7, we got a commitment for universal testing of residents and staff members. Well, I hate to tell everyone this, but as of today, the new timeframe for implementing testing with our most vulnerable citizens is now July 24. It is not acceptable.

I hear a lot of discussion about the phases and the colors. Yellow, based on some model put together by a professor in western Pennsylvania, and, still, we cannot find out what scientific basis it is built on. Some got to yellow. It gave us a little bit. But do not worry, they say, we are all going to be green soon. Under green, in Lancaster County, the largest indoor sports arena in North America, Spooky Nook Sports, will cease to exist under the current guidelines. Sight & Sound Theatre, the largest theater east of the Mississippi River, under green and that guidance, will exist no more, thousands of jobs. The list is endless, Dutch Wonderland, the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, and that is overlooking every mom and pop small business that still cannot open.

We are here today in response to the voices of the people who put us here. We are done with the changing of the goalposts, the lack of scientific justification of metrics, and the hypocrisy of not even following the same guidelines. If it was not bad enough that we were the only State not to do real estate, the only State not to have construction for a while, and the list goes on and on, it was beyond the ridiculousness of the thought process of having a thousand people gather at a Lowe's instead of allowing people from all across your county be able to go to a small mom and pop store. It makes zero sense. What do you tell the people of Pennsylvania? You cannot just keep giving them "at-a-boys" and "hang in there," as their bank says no more money. What do you

keep telling folks from nursing homes who keep wondering, how are things going to improve and what is being done to protect their loved ones when still there really is not anything happening?

I have yet, in today's 3-hour conversation, which I find great value in, to hear anyone talk about the fact that between the CARES Act funding that came directly from the Federal government to seven counties in Pennsylvania, along with the CARES Act funding that we put forth through our appropriations process in a whole litany of ways, including money for nursing homes, has anyone acknowledged the emergency declarations that exist in our counties across the Commonwealth? Has anyone acknowledged when they think that everything is going to end, because we are not going to trust Governor Wolf anymore, that the work going on in every single county is going to stop? Because I have news for you, in my county, it is that collaboration of all of the people around the table, the health systems, the business community, that came up with a plan, Recovery Lancaster, and to implement it. I have not heard anyone talk about that yet. Ironically, they are the people who are best positioned to make those decisions, and they do it in every other type of emergency. The people of Pennsylvania, at least where I am from, the voice has been loud and clear. They want to see a safe reopening of our economy, and they want our most vulnerable protected. That, along with the guarantees that come from the Stafford Act put out by Homeland Security to guarantee our Federal assistance. We can do it.

Finally, I will end with this. Mr. President, when this first began, there was trust that was put into life-sustaining industries. There was trust put into all the businesses out there which were the recipient of the lucky waiver. There is absolutely zero reason for us to assume that the people of Pennsylvania, moving forward, do not want to take that same element of responsibility, knowing that we have trust in them to do the right things on behalf of themselves, their employees, and the customers they serve. That is all they want. They want no more winners and losers, and by supporting House Resolution No. 836, the counties will continue to do a wonderful job of implementing plans like they do for every other type of emergency and will afford the people of Pennsylvania the trust that they absolutely deserve.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Brooks has submitted remarks for the record. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator BROOKS:)

Mr. President, I rise to support House Resolution No. 836, which will immediately end the Governor's emergency order, which is rapidly approaching day 100. This resolution will restore our democracy's fundamental system of checks and balances, and ensure that our most basic liberties are restored to our lives, livelihoods, and loved ones.

When this new virus first dawned, it needed to be taken seriously in order to save lives, protect public health, and prevent our hospitals and healthcare workers from being overwhelmed. Now, after 3 long months, the rate of COVID-19 cases is, mercifully, dropping, and we are at a crossroads.

It is clear that one man, and one man alone, should not be continuing to make high-stakes, life-altering decisions for more than 12 million Pennsylvanians. "Government by executive order" is not "government of, by, and for the people." We are in uncharted territory, but the unilat-

eral, unbridled power that has been wielded by these executive orders has led to chaos, with so many unintended consequences: confusing and inconsistent waivers that hurt hometown, Main Street businesses that could have safely met everyday needs, while big-box stores posted record profits; confusing red-yellow-green color phases that lack clarity and continually move the goalposts; unemployment compensation snafus that include crashed Websites, weeks of delay, and fraud; food bank lines that last for a mile; and on and on.

Throughout this pandemic, there has been a disturbing lack of transparency, collaboration, consistency, and clarity. The Governor has unilaterally picked winners and losers. Thank you, Pennsylvanians, for all you have done, together, to combat this crisis, but now is the time to end this declaration and return to a representative democracy.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, it has been a lengthy and interesting conversation over the course of the past 3 hours or so, and a lot of remarks were made with respect to the Governor's ability to enact the declaration that we are discussing today. I think it is pretty clear to everyone here, I heard it mentioned several times, that the Governor has acted within his authority and power to exercise these extraordinary powers that have been granted to him. As we know, the Governor's authority, his extraordinary powers to do what needs to be done in this emergency, were upheld not only by our courts in Pennsylvania, but by the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused to hear the underlying case that made its way there, along those lines. To that end, Mr. President, I have a couple of documents to introduce into the record. The first one is a letter from the Governor to all of us dated June 9, 2020. I ask that that document, supporting the comments I just made, be introduced into the record for our purposes today.

Mr. President, there was also a lot of conversation about the separation of powers and the right of us, as a legislature, the judiciary, and the executive branches to be able to function. I believe that is what we should be doing, and I think we are doing that. We are exercising our right under the Constitution to question whether or not we should continue the Governor's declaration. That is wholly appropriate. I question, however, why it has taken this long for us to get to this time and place to have that conversation. As was mentioned earlier in other remarks by the Members, there were a number of efforts that were undertaken that dealt with trying to open up very particular segments of our economy. Some folks referred to winners and losers and, in fact, winners and losers were very specifically what was being recommended when we were trying--I should say you all were trying--to open up, for example, to allow realtors to work in this Commonwealth. It was an effort that spurred debate on this Senate floor for a long period of time, with full knowledge that the Governor was not going to permit it because he was going to veto it. To me, it was a back doorway to end-run the Governor's lawfully executed and authorized declaration.

So, that is what you all were working on. What we would have preferred to work on were many other things, along those lines, and using that time and space to be able to talk about, for example: gun violence prevention measures that we think would have been appropriate to be part of that conversation at that point in time; emergency risk protection orders, which I know, if given the opportunity to be on this Senate floor, would pass overwhelmingly; and universal background checks, I know, if given the opportunity, would pass on this Senate floor overwhelmingly.

But, yet, we took time to work on legislation that we knew the Governor would veto as an end-around to what he was trying to do with respect to his authority, and we exercised that.

We then moved one step closer to another issue, we started talking about car dealerships, and we went through the same exercise, full well knowing that the Governor was going to veto it. There are a number of things that we tried to inject into that conversation, given fair votes, and have a discussion along those lines. Certainly, we talked about many of the things, like PPE for our frontline workers, who my colleague from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes, talked about. Those folks who are working in our healthcare delivery systems, the food processing centers, and in a variety of capacities where they are the frontline. But, yet, we did not find any time to worry about insuring that they had the PPE or insuring that they had protections from retaliation, as my colleague from Bucks, Senator Santarsiero, has been talking about, protecting those employees from retaliation and termination. We could have been talking about other things like climate change, things that are also important to the people of Pennsylvania.

As my colleague, Senator Anthony Williams, talked about, we chose to talk about other issues to do an end-run around the Governor's lawfully executed authority to do what needed to be done. But, Mr. President, we are here today talking about ending a declaration. A good bit of the conversation and debate that took place on this floor which, by the way, I think this is what we should be doing, and I appreciate everyone's comments and respect what people had to say and their beliefs. But we need to be clear, what is being proposed is an end to this particular declaration that has been enacted, lawfully by our Governor. There has been a lot of talk about folks going back to work, opening businesses up, and all those types of things. The fact of the matter is, this order does none of that. If this resolution would pass and get to the Governor's desk, depending upon what your view is, and I will address that issue at a later point in time, but this House resolution does nothing, Mr. President, as it relates to the ability to open up businesses. If it passes, and whether you believe that the Governor has no input on it, the Governor does something with it, or does nothing and lets it become law, it does not impact the order that was executed by Secretary Rachel Levine under her authority. That is where the closure issues come in. That is what guides and governs whether or not businesses can reopen, not the Governor's emergency declaration.

More importantly, the emergency declaration is not a precedent to her being able to make sure that she can do the order. Let me state from her authority and provide you the authority that talks about that. *(Reading:)*

Secretary of Health may order general control measures, including, but not limited to, closure, isolation, and quarantine. This authority is granted to the Secretary of Health pursuant to Pennsylvania law. See Section 5 of the Disease Prevention and Control Law as well as the Administrative Code of 1929 and the Department of Health's regulations at 28 Pa. Code Sections 27.60 to 27.68 relating to disease control measures; isolation; quarantine; movement of persons subject to isolation or quarantine; and release from isolation and quarantine.

So, the Secretary of Health has the authority to execute the order that is now in place with respect to opening our businesses. That, Mr. President, I would submit to you is what controls that aspect of it, not this declaration.

I also recognize that there are other things that occur, as many of my colleagues said, and I would incorporate everything they have said, but particularly as it relates to some of the consequences, and it is important that we recognize them as negative consequences to how we are conducting and dealing with this Commonwealth crisis. Whether it be statewide or whether it would be, as the previous speaker from Lancaster County mentioned, as it related to what the counties can do through their emergency personnel. Mr. President, for example, the Governor's executive order on immunity for healthcare practitioners, it goes away. There is no longer any immunity for those healthcare practitioners as outlined, because this executive order is premised on the declaration. So, all those healthcare professionals who today, under this executive order, have protections and have immunity granted to them, that ends and goes away. So, by voting for this resolution, you are saying to the healthcare professionals that you do not have that protection going forward from the day this is passed and signed.

Secondly, there is a provision about telemedicine, and by the way, one of things that we wanted to do in lieu of dealing with some of the issues about car dealers and realtors and opening up all kinds of other folks and businesses, we wanted to talk about telemedicine as you all did, but we wanted to talk about it without these anti-choice measures as part of that conversation. We did not get a chance to be able to do that. So, what happens under the executive order? This goes away, the telemedicine conversation goes away as well, in our opinion. That is how I see these things playing out. Those are critically important consequences to what the action is going to be here today.

So, I ask my colleagues to recognize that as they think about voting along those lines. Conversations about the loss of Federal revenue and all of the other things that my colleagues mentioned, I would incorporate them as part of my comments here today.

Mr. President, before I close, I have a question for the Majority Leader, if he would stand for brief interrogation regarding House Resolution No. 836.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Costa requests interrogation of the Majority Leader on House Resolution No. 836. Will the Majority Leader stand for interrogation?

Senator CORMAN. Yes, I will.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Majority Leader indicates he will so.

Senator Costa, you may proceed.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, the question I have is, if House Resolution No. 836 should make its way out of this Chamber in an affirmative way and to the Governor, is it the Majority Leader's opinion that the Governor has the right to exercise a veto of this measure, or is it the Majority Leader's opinion that the Governor simply has to accept it as it is written and has no power to make any changes or veto this measure?

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, after this resolution passes both Chambers, the Governor will be notified of our action. This triggers language under the statute which says that the Governor shall issue an executive order proclamation ending the state of disaster emergency. Also, the resolution will be transmitted to the Secretary of the Commonwealths as an official action of the General Assembly, be transmitted to the director of PEMA, be transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, and public notice of the resolution's

adoption will be provided by publishing a summary of it in the newspapers in general circulation within 5 days of the adoption.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, very briefly, a further question. I believe that the Majority Leader did not reference any acknowledgment or any addressing or reference to our Secretary of Health receiving a copy of this House resolution. Is that correct, sir?

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, it does not call for a copy to be transmitted to the Secretary of Health.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, finally, I want to be able to put into the record, in addition to what I provided as part of the June 9 letter, the balance of my remarks that I have put forth. Again, I rise and ask for a negative vote on this particular resolution, for all the reasons that my colleagues on this side of the aisle have articulated so very well, in my opinion. Recognizing that, while the premise may be that we are going to be able to open up businesses in this Commonwealth, I think that is a flawed premise. I think, at the end of the day, the Secretary of Health will continue to exercise her power and her authority, through the order that she implemented, and I think that is going to continue to stand despite that fact that this resolution may make its way to the Governor's desk at some point.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the documents will be spread upon the record.

(The following documents were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator COSTA:)

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 9, 2020

Dear Members of the Senate:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, my Administration has worked tirelessly to protect the health and welfare of all Pennsylvanians. Most actions taken by my executive agencies in the COVID-19 response have come directly from authorities granted solely through the execution of the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency (COVID-19 Proclamation), which I signed on March 6, 2020, and recently renewed on June 3, 2020. House Resolution 836 (HR 836) would terminate the COVID-19 Proclamation and end the disaster emergency prematurely, therefore stripping away the ability of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Commonwealth) to continue providing services to citizens and communities where COVID-19 has spread, and continues to spread, throughout Pennsylvania. Further, HR 836 threatens to close the door on federal funding needed to provide Pennsylvania businesses and families with resources to restart their lives once the pandemic has ended.

Pennsylvania's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency

Currently all 50 states and the District of Columbia are under a state disaster emergency. If HR 836 were to become law and terminate the COVID-19 Proclamation, Pennsylvania will be the first and only state in the United States without an active disaster emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. See <https://www.nga.org/coronavirus-state-actions-all/>. Currently, Pennsylvania has the sixth most cases of COVID-19 in the country. We have succeeded thus far in flattening the curve, but a decline in the number of new cases does not mean that COVID-19 is eliminated. Pandemics tend to come in waves, new cases are still occurring, and the total number of cases are still rising. More Pennsylvanians are unfortunately dying every day.

The COVID-19 Proclamation activates the Commonwealth's Emergency Operations Plan. Activation of the emergency plan in accordance with a proclamation of disaster emergency authorizes the Commonwealth to utilize all disaster response and recovery aspects of the Commonwealth and local disaster emergency plans applicable to the political subdivision or geographic area declared a disaster area. The COVID-19 Proclamation also serves as the authority for the deployment and use of any forces to which the plan or plans apply and for use or distribution of any supplies, equipment and materials and facilities assembled, stockpiled or arranged to be made available to respond to the disaster emergency.

In addition, a proclamation allows for the transfer of unused appropriated funds to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for expenses authorized and incurred related to the Commonwealth COVID-19 response. Further, the COVID-19 Proclamation allows for the quick procurement of systems and supplies, as it suspends the Procurement Code for disaster related services and items. If HR 836 ends the COVID-19 Proclamation, it would cripple the Commonwealth's ability to procure resources quickly and decisively to respond to the evolving pandemic, which has consistently made supplies difficult to obtain, particularly for testing and critical containment needs such as personal protective equipment. As we begin to reopen Pennsylvania, many of the necessary containment strategies to safely reopen depend on enhanced contact tracing and testing efforts; the funding to continue those efforts may be jeopardized if HR 836 succeeds.

If HR 836 terminates the COVID-19 Proclamation, all Pennsylvania specific statutory and regulatory suspensions and waivers outlined above will cease. Housing protections for the most vulnerable individuals will end. Immunity protections will no longer be in effect. Licensure portability for medical professionals from other states and disciplines will no longer be able to practice under the emergency. HR 836 eliminates the ability for long-term care or other facilities to use military or Department of Defense personnel to supplement staff. Practitioners with overdue license renewals will be forced to cease practicing in medical facilities with COVID-19 patients. Recently retired medical professionals currently assisting in COVID-19 medical response will no longer be able to help citizens afflicted with the virus. The removal of the COVID-19 Proclamation re-establishes practitioner and facility licensure requirements, including those related to scope of practice. This will create a professional drought of health care professionals available to fight COVID-19 and protect our citizens, including those in long-term care facilities, where both residents and staff have been affected by COVID-19.

Federal Disaster Declarations (FEMA)

The Commonwealth was awarded two types of federal disaster declarations. On March 13, 2020, an Emergency Declaration was awarded to the entirety of the country pursuant to the President's national emergency declaration. On March 30, 2020, a major disaster declaration was awarded to Pennsylvania.

Under the Emergency Declaration, FEMA may provide assistance for emergency protective measures including, but not limited to, the following, to the extent the emergency protective measures are not otherwise covered by HHS/CDC or other federal agency funding:

- Management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety.
- Emergency medical care.
- Medical sheltering (e.g. when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near future and cannot accommodate needs)

In addition to the Emergency Declaration, the Commonwealth applied for a major disaster declaration for Public Assistance. The Commonwealth was awarded a major disaster declaration to reimburse eligible costs associated with COVID-19 emergency protective measures. This assistance is provided at a 75 percent federal cost share and required execution of a FEMA-State Agreement and execution of the Commonwealth's emergency plan.

As a general matter, to receive a federal disaster declaration (emergency or major) a state must certify that the disaster is "of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments and that supplementary federal assistance is needed." See generally OMB Form Control Number 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13.

If awarded, reimbursement of eligible costs associated with disasters by the federal government correspond with a disaster incident period. Pennsylvania's incident period began for both declarations on January 20, 2020. It is true that the Commonwealth will be eligible to receive reimbursement for eligible costs associated with the COVID-19 response to date. What is unclear however, is if the Commonwealth acts to terminate Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Proclamation, then the federal government may act to close the incident period associated with Pennsylvania's disaster declarations.

Termination of a disaster emergency in Pennsylvania signals to the federal government that COVID-19 is no longer "of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments." More importantly, if the Commonwealth acts to end its disaster emergency, it signals to the federal government that supplementary federal assistance is no longer needed. If the federal government acts to close the Commonwealth's disaster incident period, any COVID-19 costs incurred after the end of the incident period are not eligible for reimbursement by the federal government. This include *[sic]* reimbursement to state agencies, county and local governments, school districts, authorities, and certain private-non-profits, such as volunteer fire companies, hospitals, and nursing homes. Finally, the Commonwealth risks losing additional federal funding for hazard mitigation. Hazard mitigation is funding dedicated solely to projects that will reduce or alleviate future disaster related risks based on the Commonwealth's all hazards plans which includes pandemic related planning efforts to mitigate effects of a pandemic outbreak.

Passage of House Resolution 836, and the resulting premature termination of the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic, will be disastrous for the Commonwealth. It will potentially undo all the progress made to combat the spread of COVID-19 and to save the lives of Pennsylvanians. For the safety and welfare of all Pennsylvanians, I urge you to vote against the passage of House Resolution 836.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF
Governor

PA SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Resolution 323 - OPPOSITION

Premature termination of the disaster emergency will be disastrous for the Commonwealth. It will undo all of the progress that has been made in combatting *[sic]* the spread of COVID-19 and saving the lives of Pennsylvanians and put the Commonwealth in a poor position to address a resurgence.

The Governor's Disaster Declaration is CONSTITUTIONAL

Article II of the Pennsylvania Constitution grants the General Assembly the power to write laws for the Commonwealth. The General Assembly exercised that right in 1978 when it passed Act 323, granting extraordinary powers to the Governor when he or she issues a declaration of disaster emergency.

The separation of powers and the system of checks and balances in our Federal and State governments provides that the proper venue for determining the constitutionality of an act of the legislature or the executive is in the judiciary branch. To that end, a political committee associated with a current state legislative candidate petitioned the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for relief from the business closure portion of the Governor's order. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania denied the request.

The petitioners appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, through Justice Alito, and the request was denied. The constitutionality of the order is thus confirmed.

The resolution is POLITICAL

The Governor claims the power to veto the concurrent resolutions and has asserted his intention to do so in this case. While the ability of the Governor to veto is an open question, HR 836 has already been

amended in committee to make its contents different from SR 323. The Cutler amendment would further differentiate the two Concurrent Resolutions, putting them in conflict should both chambers pass their respective resolutions, likely nullifying the effect of their passage. In short, passing HR 836 as amended and SR 323 as introduced would not terminate the declaration, either because of the Governor's veto or because of their incongruent contents.

Further, the Cutler amendment incorporates in several places the name of a Republican state legislative candidate by virtue of his involvement in a court case regarding the declaration. This insertion of a partisan political campaign in official legislative material reeks of political opportunism.

Public Health

- If the proclamation of disaster emergency is terminated, Pennsylvania will be the only and first U.S. state or territory to not have an active disaster emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pennsylvania is in the top ten of states with the highest COVID-19 cases in the country.

- A decline in the number of new cases does not mean that COVID-19 has been eliminated. New cases are still occurring, and the total number of cases is still rising. More people are dying every day.

- Cases in congregate care settings and in food packaging plants are still increasing.

- Terminating the disaster declaration would be shortsighted. A declining number of new cases in parts of the Commonwealth does not mean that a resurgence could not occur in those areas. Pandemics tend to come in waves. Although the Commonwealth may be in the declining phase now, predictive modelling *[sic]* shows that case counts for COVID-19 may begin to rise again in the fall.

- Many of the necessary containment strategies to safely reopen parts of the state depend on enhanced contact tracing and testing efforts.

- The disaster declaration allows for the quick procurement of systems and supplies, since it suspends the Procurement Code for disaster related services and items.

- Without the declaration emergency procurement provisions, it would become severely difficult to respond quickly and decisively to the evolving pandemic, which has consistently made supplies difficult to obtain, particularly for testing.

- Without the ability to utilize any available provider and purchase whatever equipment is available, which is not permissible under the Procurement Code, it would be hard to quickly obtain and maintain supplies to support critical containment needs, like personal protective equipment (PPE).

- All the statutory and regulatory suspensions and waivers will cease upon the end of a proclamation of disaster emergency, i.e., the immunity protections, licensure portability for medical professionals, housing related waivers, etc. These suspensions also include:

- Practitioner and facility licensure requirements, including those related to scope of practice, creating a dearth of health care professionals available to fight the virus, including in long-term care facilities, where staff as well as residents have been affected by the virus:

- Elimination of the ability for long-term care or other facilities to use military and department of defense personnel to supplement staff.

- Elimination of the authority of practitioners to provide services with overdue license renewals.

- Termination of the return of retired practitioners to practice. This would eliminate the ability of facilities to utilize a wider variety of staff to respond to COVID-19.

- Elimination of the changes in staffing requirements for long-term care facilities.

- In-person certification of medical marijuana patients and dispensing within the facility, and persons needing medical marijuana would be required to choose between obtaining their medication and subjecting themselves to the risk of transmission of the disease.

Fiscal Impact Talking Points

Major Disaster Declaration Funding (FEMA):

- The Commonwealth was awarded a federal disaster declaration to reimburse costs related to emergency protective measures. Emergency protective measures include:

- Management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety.
- Emergency medical care.
- Medical sheltering (e.g. when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near future and cannot accommodate needs).
- Household pet sheltering and containment actions related to household pets in accordance with CDC guideline.
- Purchase and distribution of food, water, ice, medicine, and other consumable supplies, to include personal protective equipment and hazardous material suits movement of supplies and persons.
- Security and law enforcement.
- Communications of general health and safety information to the public.
- Search and rescue to locate and recover members of the population requiring assistance.
- Reimbursement for state, tribe, territory and/or local government force account overtime costs.
- The Commonwealth risks losing federal reimbursement of any and all costs associated with the COVID-19 response following the Commonwealth's termination of the disaster emergency in Pennsylvania.
- The federal government can end the major disaster declaration incident period as soon as the Commonwealth terminates the disaster emergency in Pennsylvania.
- All eligible applicants in the Commonwealth have incurred approximately \$851 million in unbudgeted disaster related costs to respond to this global pandemic.
- Current projections indicate that the unbudgeted costs will soar to upwards of \$1.9 billion.
- The potential loss would be from current estimated costs of \$490,738,475 if the disaster period ended today to the projected costs of \$1,922,519,659 or a potential loss of \$1,431,781,194.
- Eligible applicants that risk losing funding are: state agencies, county and local governments, school districts, authorities and certain private-non-profits, such as volunteer fire companies, hospitals, nursing homes.
- The Commonwealth risks losing an additional \$22 million in additional federal funding for hazard mitigation. Hazard mitigation is funding dedicated solely to projects that will reduce or alleviate future disaster related risks based on the Commonwealth's all hazards plans (which includes pandemic related planning efforts to mitigate effects of a pandemic outbreak).

Other Impacts:

- Upon the end of a proclamation of disaster emergency, PEMA will lose the legal authority to mission assign other agencies to respond to the disaster, i.e., the National Guard to support long term care facilities and food banks.
- If there is a resurgence of COVID-19 later in the year, costs related to that response may be ineligible unless the Governor issues a new proclamation of disaster emergency and then requests another major disaster declaration from the federal government. There is no guarantee that Pennsylvania will be approved for another major disaster declaration related to the same incident if the Commonwealth unilaterally ended the disaster emergency in Pennsylvania prematurely.
- Numerous legislative initiatives have been recently enacted regarding the disaster emergency declaration. These emergency legislative enactments would expire upon the termination of the declaration or shortly thereafter. These include:
 - Unemployment Compensation eligibility requirements and employer relief from charges during COVID-19 under sections 1602 (relating to emergency eligibility rules) and 1603 (relating to relief from charges) of the Unemployment Compensation Law.
 - Extension of local taxation during the disaster emergency declaration under Section 103-A (relating to the Department of Community and Economic Development) of the Fiscal Code.
 - Property Tax Relief under 35 Pa.C.S. Chapter 57 (COVID-19 Disaster Relief), Subchapter B (relating to property tax relief).
 - Educational Tax Credit waivers under 35 Pa.C.S. Chapter 57, Subchapter C (relating to educational tax credit).
 - Local Government meeting requirements during the disaster emergency declaration under 35 Pa.C.S. § 5741 (relating to response to COVID-19 disaster emergency).

- Remote Notarization under 35 Pa.C.S. § 5731 (relating to remotely located individual).
- Certification requirements under the Public School Code and Child Protective Services Law under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6387 (relating to pandemic of 2020).
- USDA waivers that impact food and nutrition feeding school children. Meaning the extra efforts to ensure kids get meals would expire.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, it has been about 4 hours now and coming to a close, finally, and just a few remarks. I think the Members on both sides of the aisle have spoken eloquently to the issues of the day, and I want to do a couple of housecleaning things here.

First of all, I know there was a lot of concern about, as mentioned by the previous speaker as he submitted the Governor's letter into the record, the Governor's concerns about certain things that will go away, whether it be immunity, his flexibility to react, or some of the other things he can do through the disaster declaration that he would not be able to do if this is ultimately ended as we are attempting to do here and, ultimately, the declaration comes to an end. First of all, there is nothing that prevents the Governor from declaring an emergency again the next day. Just because we are ending it, he certainly has the power to redo another emergency. He can put all of these things back into another emergency declaration, which we probably will not have any problem with. So, this is not the end of this discussion. If the Governor still wants some of these flexibilities for procurement that he has talked about in his letter, we are fine with that. If he is talking about adding immunity, we are fine with that, too. We will be happy to work with the administration, as we have said from day one, to work with him to achieve some of the things that we think he needs to achieve, during this process. So, that is an important part.

The other issue that the gentleman just mentioned previously about the Disease Prevention and Control Law and the Secretary's power for closure, isolation, and quarantine, it certainly is our belief that she has the ability, as the Secretary of Health, for closure, isolation, and quarantine of the sick, not of the healthy. We certainly would challenge the authority of the Secretary of Health to quarantine the healthy. We do believe that this resolution, once passed by the House and submitted, and ultimately goes into law, will end the trafficking that the Governor has had over our daily lives.

Now, look, as I have said, there are many things in this declaration that he can reinstitute, and we will work with him. Where we run into trouble and problems is the Governor's executive orders that control people's everyday life. We stopped people from getting an education, we stopped people from receiving healthcare, we stopped people from congregating, we stopped people from practicing religion, and we stopped people from supporting their families and communities financially, by going to work.

Now, look, when this first happened, there were a lot of questions about what we were facing with this virus. I think a lot of people were sort of okay in the beginning with this because it was an emergency. There was a lot of unknown, and there was fear. When you have fear, people will tend to be okay with maybe giving up some of their civil liberties, even though I

would argue it is probably never a good idea. But when there is fear, you saw it after 9/11, there was fear so Congress quickly enacted the Patriot Act, which I think today many of us look back and say that was not a good idea. The CIA came up with an enhanced interrogation program out of fear, which I think today we look back and say that is not really a good idea. So, initially, out of fear, the public's great unknown of this virus, we were, okay, maybe we will stay home and do what we have to do. So, as this transpired over the last 90 days, the people of Pennsylvania obviously got more and more frustrated as it went on, as our healthcare facilities were empty, unemployment went way up, and so the frustration level grew. But we waited to allow the 90-day emergency to come to its conclusion. Prior to the Governor extending it, I said to the Governor, are you planning to extend this? His reaction was, yes, we do. I said we will have a concern with that, we will have a problem with extending this past the 90 days. So that is why we are here now.

Something that the Governor said at his press conference, when he announced that he was extending the declaration for another 90 days, is something I want to mention here today. *(Reading:)*

We suspect that we're moving into a new normal in the post-infectious disease world, that this won't be the last infectious disease we face....We're probably going to have to act differently, we're probably going to all be wearing masks, we're probably all going to be exercising social distancing and being a little more careful in terms of touching other folks. So, we're trying to figure out what the new world looks like. We will do everything we can to make it as comfortable and as much as the old normal as possible, but I think that we recognize that the reality is that we're probably in a new phase--something new here.

When I read that, I submit to you that it shook me to my core, and it should shake you to your core. That the government, I will say it again, the government is going to do everything it can to make you comfortable with giving up your civil liberties. You will become comfortable with this.

You know, we sit here in this beautiful Chamber--and since people are talking about Pennsylvania as the first State out on this resolution, I do not know if that is accurate or not, but that has been discussed--while you look up at Violet Oakley's great mural of the constitutional convention in Philadelphia where they established these inalienable rights for us, and many of those signers of the Declaration were tortured and murdered fighting to establish these rights for us. We are going to become comfortable giving them up? Not on my last breath will I become comfortable in giving up my civil liberties. As the Senator from Lycoming said earlier, you do not quarantine the healthy, you quarantine the sick. You do not take people's rights away from them, because if you allow it--we have allowed it for 90 days, if you allow it for another 90 days, maybe we are used to not having those rights anymore. Maybe we become comfortable with not having those rights, and people become comfortable taking those rights from you.

I have said this many times. I submit the Governor is a good man. He and the Secretary of Health are doing absolutely everything they possibly can to fight this virus, and although we have disagreed on many occasions on what some of his orders mean and their impact, and we do not think they should necessarily happen all of the time, it is not about his interest and desire to keep the people of Pennsylvania healthy. But this is a free soci-

ety where our Founding Fathers fought and died. The other mural of the Civil War at Gettysburg, the Senator from Franklin County's district, where they solidified those rights, a government of the people, by the people, for the people. If we become complacent and we allow our civil liberties to go away because of fear, they may never come back because they just may become comfortable in giving them up.

Well, we are not comfortable on this side of aisle with giving up our civil liberties. So, this declaration is to reclaim. It is time. We have cooperated. The people of Pennsylvania have flattened the curve, and the people of Pennsylvania have done everything that has been asked of them. It is time to restore their civil liberties. I do not want to hear anything more about red, yellow, and green. The Senator from Lancaster County made a very articulate argument about even in green, there are limitations that will have devastating impacts. I do not want people telling me what I can do and when I can do it in a free society, my government. This is what we are doing here today. We are reclaiming our rights. It is time. The fear is over. It does not mean we do not have more challenges and it does not mean we do not stand here ready to work with the Governor to continue to fight this virus. We know it can spike up again. We know that as we test more, we are going to get more cases. We know this.

So, we are here every day, as the Governor needs us, to work with him to solve the problems and the challenges. But no more telling us we cannot go to school. No more telling us we cannot get that hip replacement, we cannot get the procedures that we may need to improve our health to extend our lives. No more telling us we cannot practice religion. No more telling us we cannot congregate in groups. I think all of these people who are out protesting should be allowed to be out protesting. I think the argument and the things they are out fighting for are important, and they should be allowed to have their voices heard. That is democracy. I do not want to be arguing whether they are violating a Governor's order or not. They should be out there marching in the streets. That is how change happens.

Do not become comfortable. When you become comfortable, you become complacent. Government will take over, and it will not be a pretty picture. I encourage an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator CORMAN and were as follows, viz:

YEA-31

Argall	Corman	Mastriano	Stefano
Arnold	DiSanto	Mensch	Tomlinson
Aument	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Baker	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Bartolotta	Killion	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Langerholc	Scarnati	Yaw
Brooks	Laughlin	Scavello	Yudichak
Browne	Martin	Schwank	

NAY-19

Blake	Farnese	Kearney	Street
Boscola	Fontana	Leach	Tartaglione
Collett	Haywood	Muth	Williams, Anthony H.

Costa Hughes Sabatina Williams, Lindsey
Dinniman Iovino Santarsiero

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR
REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

Senator AUMENT, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following nominations made by His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

**MEMBER OF THE ARCHITECTS
LICENSURE BOARD**

May 26, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, William J. Bates, 57 Marlin Drive West, Pittsburgh 15216, Allegheny County, Thirty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Architects Licensure Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice John Hill, Allentown, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, David Morgan, 2319 Addison Court, York 17404, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

**COMMISSIONER OF PROFESSIONAL
AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS**

January 8, 2020

To The Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Kalonji Johnson, 2150 Queens Drive, Apt. A2, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial Dis-

trict, for appointment as Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, vice Ian Harlow, Harrisburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I request that the nominations just read by the Clerk be laid on the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The nominations will be laid on the table.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Senator AUMENT,

That the Senate do now resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of considering nominations made by the Governor.

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I call from the table certain nominations and ask for their consideration.

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

**MEMBER OF THE ARCHITECTS
LICENSURE BOARD**

May 26, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, William J. Bates, 57 Marlin Drive West, Pittsburgh 15216, Allegheny County, Thirty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Architects Licensure Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice John Hill, Allentown, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, David Morgan, 2319 Addison Court, York 17404, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

COMMISSIONER OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

January 8, 2020

To The Honorable, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Kalonji Johnson, 2150 Queens Drive, Apt. A2, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, vice Ian Harlow, Harrisburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

On the question,
Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator AUMENT and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	Dinniman	Leach	Stefano
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator BROWNE, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bills:

SB 430 (Pr. No. 1719) (Rereported)

An Act providing standards for carbon monoxide alarms in child care facilities; and imposing penalties.

SB 1125 (Pr. No. 1759) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of May 25, 1945 (P.L.1050, No.394), known as the Local Tax Collection Law, further providing for application of act and for discounts, penalties and notice.

SB 1166 (Pr. No. 1753) (Rereported)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in the executive, providing for disaster emergency duration.

HB 617 (Pr. No. 612) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in hunting and furtaking licenses, providing for a volunteer instructor license.

HB 632 (Pr. No. 3656) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for odometer disclosure requirements.

HB 2502 (Pr. No. 3774) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of State and its departmental administrative board, providing for report on implementation of 2020 general primary election.

Senator MARTIN, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following bill:

SB 1188 (Pr. No. 1767) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act, in local taxes, further providing for tax limitations.

Senator K. WARD, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bills:

SB 793 (Pr. No. 1765) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in commercial drivers, further providing for requirement for commercial driver's license; and, in size, weight and load, further providing for restrictions on use of highways and bridges and for conditions of permits and security for damages.

HB 364 (Pr. No. 3908) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for enforcement of failure to stop for school bus with flashing red lights; and, in other required equipment, further providing for visual signals on authorized vehicles.

HB 1597 (Pr. No. 3909) (Amended)

An Act designating the highway interchange of U.S. Route 222 with Mohns Hill Road, Cumru Township, Berks County, as the Corporal Mahlon L. Fink Iwo Jima Memorial Highway Interchange; designating a portion of State Route 1015, the 11000 block of Knights Road, in Philadelphia County, as the Sergeant James O'Connor Memorial Highway; designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 57213, carrying State Route 1036 over Six Mile Run, Broad Top Township, Bedford County, as the Sergeant David Leon Barber Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 52785, on that portion of State Route 4027 over Bald Eagle Creek, Snyder Township, Blair County, as the Cpl. Donald L. Westley Memorial Bridge; designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 48976, on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 669 that crosses the Casselman River at the west end of Ord Street, Salisbury Borough, Somerset County, as the Sergeant Stephen M.

Minick Memorial Bridge; designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 31586, on that portion of State Route 2004 carrying Broadway Street over the Casselman River, in Summit Township, Somerset County, as the Airman Michael L. Menser Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 15279, on that portion of State Route 2025, also known as Morton Avenue, over Stony Creek in Morton Borough, Delaware County, as the Captain Michael Malinowski, Sr., Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of State Route 2012 in Monroe County as the Reverend Dr. Bishop William Earl Lee Highway; designating the bridge on I-70 in Westmoreland County over the Youghiogheny River as the Matthew Smelser Memorial Bridge; designating the portion of County Line Road (SR 2038) between N. Warminster Road and Newtown Road in Bucks County as the Captain William J. Ahlum Memorial Highway; and designating the portion of County Line Road (SR 2038) between N. Warminster Road and Jacksonville Road in Bucks County, as the Specialist 4 Harold E. Cashman Memorial Highway.

Senator PITTMAN, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following bills:

SB 940 (Pr. No. 1766) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 20, 2000 (P.L.724, No.99), known as the Municipal Code and Ordinance Compliance Act, further providing for definitions and for compliance requirement.

SB 1045 (Pr. No. 1550)

An Act amending the act of April 8, 1982 (P.L.310, No.87), referred to as the Recorder of Deeds Fee Law, further providing for county demolition funds.

HB 896 (Pr. No. 2087)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in neighborhood assistance tax credit, further providing for definitions, for public policy and for tax credit.

HB 1860 (Pr. No. 2940)

An Act amending the act of May 24, 1945 (P.L.991, No.385), known as the Urban Redevelopment Law, further providing for definitions, for formation of authorities, for dissolution of city authorities and for eminent domain; and making editorial changes.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from committees for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 655, SB 764, SB 793, SB 940, SB 1045, SB 1186, SB 1187, SB 1188, HB 21, HB 364, HB 896, HB 1032, HB 1033, HB 1061, HB 1597 and HB 1860.

And said bills having been considered for the first time,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

9:30 A.M.	INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 119, 251, 252 and 253)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
10:30 A.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bills No. 1193 and 1170; and House Bill No. 288)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 1195; and House Bills No. 629 and 1457)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Tartaglione has remarks for the record. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator TARTAGLIONE:)

Mr. President, today marks 5,084 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is almost 14 years, and it is far too long.

Mr. President, whenever advocates for raising the minimum wage address the issue, it is very common and natural for us to speak in macro terms. We discuss trends and conditions on a national scale and a statewide scale. We often cite complex economic calculations. But at its heart, minimum wage is a very local and very personal issue. It is about whether a worker can afford to buy a loaf of bread from the corner store, and about whether he or she must sacrifice certain necessities, like education, to pay for others, such as shelter and prescription medications. The fact is, a satisfactory minimum wage for one town or county may fall far short of a fair, living rate for other municipalities. Unfortunately, in Pennsylvania, State law ignores this fundamental disparity.

Since 2006, we have banned cities and towns from choosing to raise the minimum wage within their own jurisdictions, regardless of the needs of the residents in each community and the will of their lawmakers. A study published just last month by The Pew Charitable Trusts, systematically and expertly demonstrates why a repeal of Pennsylvania's minimum wage preemption law is long overdue. My legislation, Senate Bill No. 12, proposes to eliminate preemption while raising the minimum wage to a family-sustaining level.

The 20-page Pew report is titled, "How Philadelphia's Minimum Wage Compares With Other U.S. Cities" and is accessible via PewTrusts.org. It is packed with data and charts that mostly point to one overriding conclusion: Philadelphia has what is effectively the lowest minimum wage of any major American city. Allow me to repeat that. Among 31 of the nation's largest cities, Philadelphia's real minimum wage ranks dead last when accounting for local factors including a relatively high cost of living and the relatively high median hourly wage within the surrounding region. Seattle has the highest nominal minimum wage among the nation's large cities, while west coast cities hold four of the top five positions on that list. More than half of those 31 cities have minimum wages above \$7.25 an hour. Closer to our region, they include New York, Washington, D.C., Boston, Baltimore, and even Columbus, Ohio.

Also referenced in the Pew report is that Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate among the nation's large cities. This dubious distinction falls right in line with what researchers found regarding minimum wage preemption around the nation. They wrote, "the poorest cities within this comparison group – those with poverty rates higher than 20%,"

which includes Philadelphia – are all states with minimum wage preemption, and almost all have a \$7.25 minimum wage." Mr. President, time and again, prevailing scientific and academic research has shown that raising the minimum wage in a measured, systematic way benefits the economy. This Pew report shows that we must also consider local factors and needs when establishing and reforming minimum wage law.

Repealing preemption is a key component of the reform that Philadelphia needs and our Commonwealth needs. I urge the Senate and the General Assembly to advance and adopt Senate Bill No. 12 to serve the needs of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, about a week ago, I read a moving editorial from a graduating high school student in my district entitled, "Our cities are burning, and so is the mental health of this African-American teen," published by *PublicSource*. William Generett speaks openly about his feelings and reaction to watching the murder of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd. He explains that he is in a, quote, "constant state of rage, sadness and hopelessness." What Mr. Generett wrote is powerful, and I will submit it with my remarks for the record. There is one paragraph that I talk to you all about today. Mr. Generett said: *(Reading)*

I live in Fox Chapel, a predominantly white community outside of Pittsburgh. Most of my white peers are not capable of having a real conversation regarding race and police brutality. It is very lonely to be smart and Black in Fox Chapel. In a school that does not actively try to fight racism, kids of color constantly have to defend ourselves and what we stand for.

I, personally, grew up in a predominantly white community in northeastern Pennsylvania, and I will tell you that at the time, I was also not capable of having a real conversation regarding race and police brutality. I did not know what white privilege was or how I benefited from structural racism. I did not know what structural racism was, or that there was such a thing as red-lining. We barely spoke or learned about race in school. We spent maybe a day or two on the civil rights movement and heard about Dr. Martin Luther King's *I Have a Dream* speech.

I have spent time since then educating myself, reading black authors, and listening to black leaders and community members. I have tried to understand all the ways that I benefit from white privilege, and I have tried to be an ally in the fight to dismantle structural racism and end police brutality. I have learned that there is a difference between not being racist and being actively antiracist. I am by no means perfect. I see this as a constant process of learning and listening.

The problem is that this Chamber is similar to what Mr. Generett described. The Senate is predominantly white, and we are not having regular conversations regarding race and police brutality. We are not actively trying to fight racism. Sure, it is my understanding that we will finally have a joint hearing next week, the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Law and Justice, to discuss some of the bills introduced by my colleagues. I do not know what the agenda of the joint hearing will be or who will be invited to testify, but I am happy that we are having a hearing. Versions of many of these bills have been introduced for years. It is disappointing that it takes protests across the State for us to talk about some of these bills.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have spoken a lot over the last few weeks about how the Governor's emergency declaration order is an unconstitutional attack on their freedoms to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I have not heard anything from them about the lives of black men and women who have suffered at the hands of police brutality. I have not heard anything about the liberties of the peaceful protestors who police have shot with rubber bullets, pepper spray, and tear gas for exercising their First Amendment rights over the past few weeks. I worry that we will have this one hearing and then we will not do the hard work of getting to a place where these bills are sent to the Governor's desk for signature. I hope that I am wrong. I hope that we continue to have these challenging conversations.

I hope that we talk about the disparate impact COVID-19 has had on the black community. The Senate Democratic Policy Committee had a hearing last week and heard from experts on this topic, but we have not heard that expert testimony here in this Chamber and how those experts suggest that we respond to help those communities heal. Citing statistics on the impact of COVID-19 on black and minority communities is meaningless without action from this Chamber. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on meaningful solutions that will protect the health and lives of our black neighbors.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following document was made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator L. WILLIAMS:)

Run, by William Generett

The news cycle shows the men and women storming the state building. Guns in hand, they are demanding the reopening of America. They stand in front of police officers yelling and waving weapons, unafraid of retaliation. They have no reason to be afraid.

They have the backing of the President and the support of their white privilege. In an odd sense, I agree that the country should try to get back to work as soon as possible. Some individuals need the paycheck they receive from their 9-5 to cover the bills and put food on the table. If I needed to feed my family and the government wouldn't let me, I would be angry too. Shoot, I would even storm the statehouse with a few of my buddies as well. Hold on, though: that wouldn't be an option. A group of black men standing on the steps of a statehouse with guns in hand would be deemed the black panthers 2.0. Our "protest" would last all but five minutes before the tear gas and riot shields joined us.

Every time I want to sympathize with one of the protestors, I think of the thousands of people dead from the coronavirus. In a country where quality healthcare isn't available to everyone, people of color have been disproportionately affected by the virus. Social distancing in my family is a must because both my mom and dad have underlying health conditions that could make them more susceptible to Covid. As an escape from all of this, I have been keeping up with my running.

As I put on my shorts and white tee to get ready for my run, I check my twitter account. The very first post I see is from the President. Another President Trump "REOPEN AMERICA" Tweet. I smile because I think of all the people who don't take this man seriously, but then my smile quickly disappears because I am reminded of all of the people who worship him. I cringe every time I see one of his tweets and I regret that I follow him. He is pure comedy, but it's the type of humor that makes you giggle but then tremble in fear. He is a symbol of hate and a constant reminder that America still has a long way to go.

Today feels like a three mile day. Not too short, not too long. I'll run for two and then I'll visit the new construction project along the way. I'm curious to see the new progress from the last visit. As I set off for my run, I instantly regret it. The Georgia heat is unbearable and under the scorching sun I have a bad feeling about my ability to finish the three miles today. I'm committed to these three miles, however, and I am determined to finish what I start. Running is a release from reality; it helps me clear my head and forget what is happening in the world. On my run there is no Covid -19 -- just the road and the trees. On my run I can escape the burden of being a black man in America. On my run I can leave my mistakes in the past. On my run I can continue towards progress and a goal without interruption. On my run I can forget.

I am now far from home. The houses look the same but the atmosphere is less familiar. There is a new vibe, one that I cannot explain. I don't know anyone in Satilla Shores, but for me unfamiliarity does not breed contempt. America is going through this pandemic together and I hope the people in this neighborhood are doing well and staying healthy during this crisis. As I round the corner to the street with the construction site I see an older woman watering her plants. I smile gently at her as I enter the construction site.

The house has changed a lot since the last time I was here, but it still has a long way to go. They put up a new wall and what appears to be a staircase. A sink! God is on my side today. Lord knows I needed that drink. As I sip the uncomfortably warm water I looked around at the unfinished house. It will be a beautiful house. There is so much potential for growth, and it is not even close to the finished product. As I look around the barren site I succumb to a moment of self-reflection. At the age of 25, I am also an incomplete product. I am the unfinished house. The sky is the limit.

One more mile to go. My feet are sore and my calves ache, but both pains are a small price to pay for the runner's high I will receive after mile three. My head is clear, and the sun is bright Like Kendrick said, we're gonna be alright. I chuckle. Kendrick needs to drop another album ASAP. I've been fiending for the goat. I used to listen to music while I run, but my mom said I should not wear headphones when I run because I always need to be aware of my surroundings. She always claimed that I wouldn't be able to react or hear a car if I needed to. She was probably right, and I agree with her -- being in the moment and listening to my surroundings isn't a bad thing. I am able to get a sense of the mood around me. Today, this neighborhood feels different. Usually Satilla Shores is very quiet and peaceful, but I feel a strong sense of fear. Something is awry. More people were outside than usual.

The light buzz of chatter turned into yells. Multiple house doors opened simultaneously as if it were coordinated. Out of the corner of my eye I see a man hop into the trunk of a white pickup. More yelling. Wait. Why is the-- is that a gun? Why are they armed? This is Georgia, so seeing a shotgun or two isn't out of the ordinary, but the men entering the truck reminded me of the armed protestors. They were angry, determined, white, and ready for some type of conflict.

The man in the truck yelled in my direction. I wanted to distance myself from whatever situation is brewing, so I continue to run. The white truck pulled out of the driveway and came down the road in my direction. A tinge of fear crept into my body as I realized that something wasn't wrong --somehow, I was wrong. The yelling was directed at me. I am the only one on the road. The two armed men are after me, and I don't know why. What do they want? The truck made a left on a side road, and the comforting thought that maybe they weren't after me floods my brain.

Relief overtakes my body. Georgia is notorious for bigotry, but I cannot let those men ruin my run. The Apple Watch my mother gave me as an early birthday gift says I've run 2.23 miles. My goal of three miles is in sight. Further down the road I could see that my path was blocked off --the same white truck. My stomach twisted into knots as I watched them stare at me. It was a trap, and they were waiting for me. I'm only running, I reassure myself. I don't have to stop. I know how to conduct myself with police; every black man has the talk with their parents about how to handle getting pulled over. However, this situation is one I am not equipped for. This situation is new to me. I know I am allowed to run. I have done nothing wrong.

"Stop," the man yells near the driver's side door.

"We are making a citizen's arrest."

"Stop running."

The *[expletive deleted]* is a citizens arrest? I keep running in the direction of the truck. I plan on minding my own business and finishing

my run. They were between me and my three-mile goal. Who are they to stop my progress? I am allowed to run on this road. As I reached the truck both men were yelling at me, but I could barely understand them. My newfound stress depletes any energy I had left from my run. My t-shirt is drenched in sweat from the Georgia sun, but the only heat I felt came from being racially profiled. As I ran around the truck, the shotgun was pointed to my head. The man with the shotgun showed no emotion in his face as he pointed the gun at me. He had the look of a hardened soldier who believed so much in a cause that he is willing to risk his life. His face showed his conviction that what he was doing was right.

I never thought that the gun pointed at the state building would be pointed at me. The same white Americans who so desperately stood on the steps of the state building and protested for their freedoms are the same Americans who are quick to place the job of the judge, the jury, and the executioner into their own hands. The average white American is so blinded by their own quest for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that they trample on the basic rights of the person standing next to them. A million thoughts ran through my brain. But the one that rose above the rest was FIGHT.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 7:55 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.