

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 4

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, February 7, 2024

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend RYAN BASTRESS, of Wake Ministries, Hanover, offered the following prayer:

First, I want to thank Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill and staff for this wonderful invitation. William Penn, founder of our great Commonwealth, states, "He that has more knowledge than judgment, is made for another man's use more than his own."

Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that You bless this day, and may Your guiding presence be felt by those in this room. We come before You today, humbly asking You, Lord, for Your divine council and for Your truths to fill this room, lead discussions, and grab the attention of these precious ones who are here serving the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I thank You, Lord, for Your solutions that bring pure unity and true peace. I pray for discoveries in Your wisdom to preserve, serve, and protect this great State. May what is worthy of the celebration of morality and justice be present. And I ask You, Lord, that these conversations spring up like a wellspring to bless this great State of Pennsylvania. I pray, Lord, Your conviction grips hearts and leads the hand. I pray, Heavenly Father, that Your strength and might that purifies all be released over Pennsylvania. I pray for Your mercy to be felt; Your healing hand to be stretched forth, and blessings to be loosed over this land, this precious land. And I pray for judgments to be bound. And may You eradicate confusion and may differences be righteously settled across this great land. Lord, may You heal this land and restore and enhance the beauty this great State was founded on. I declare over this great State of Pennsylvania, Lord, what the prophet Isaiah declared in his writings, "The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Bastress, who is the guest today of Senator Phillips-Hill.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

**ANNUAL FINANCING STRATEGY REPORT
FY 2024-2025**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Community and Economic Development
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

February 7, 2024

Michael Gerdes, Secretary
Senate of Pennsylvania
462 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Good morning Mr. Gerdes,

The DCED Annual Finance Strategy 2024-2025 has been added to our website: <https://dced.pa.gov/library/?wpdmc2=annual-financing-strategy/>.

Let me know of any questions.

Leigh Walter, Director
DCED Legislative Affairs

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Mr. Omar Sabir as a member of the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors Advisory Board.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator ARGALL, from the Committee on Education, reported the following bill:

SB 801 (Pr. No. 1359) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for teacher support in the structured literacy program; and providing for evidence-based reading instruction.

Senator LANGERHOLC, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bills:

SB 915 (Pr. No. 1350)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for lost, stolen, damaged or illegible registration plate.

SB 1047 (Pr. No. 1334)

An Act designating a portion of Pennsylvania Route 31 from the intersection with First Street to the intersection with Yoder Avenue in the Borough of Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, as the Mayor Gerald D. Lucia Memorial Highway.

HB 73 (Pr. No. 2125)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, providing for Operation Inherent Resolve veterans plate.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Regan, and a legislative leave for Senator Judy Ward.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Anthony Williams.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Regan, and a legislative leave for Senator Judy Ward.

Senator Costa requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Anthony Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator PITTMAN asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator DiSANTO, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of November 1, 2023; November 13, 2023; November 14, 2023; November 15, 2023; and November 16, 2023, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of November 1, 2023; November 13, 2023; November 14, 2023; November 15, 2023; and November 16, 2023.

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

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

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

YEA-49

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuik	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Costa			

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

GUESTS OF SENATOR KRISTIN PHILLIPS-HILL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to introduce today's guest Chaplain, Pastor Ryan Bastress with Wake Ministries. Preaching the gospel since the age of 15, Pastor Bastress has continued his passion for ministries by becoming a full-time pastor while serving as the youth pastor and community life pastor at his church. In 2018, Pastor Bastress shifted the focus to itinerant ministry and founded Wake Ministries. Traveling across the United States and abroad, Pastor Bastress is spreading the gospel for people to hear and to discover their true identity in Christ. And I quote, our desire is to see the body of Christ achieved and stirred up with passion where they go and do what God has called them to do. We feel like God wants to create movements through us within churches and communities of all sizes and denominations as we follow where He leads us, end quote. Residing in Hanover with his wife and family, they are always up for an adventure. Whether he is traveling, eating at his favorite restaurant, Cracker Barrel, or spending time with his family, Pastor Bastress always leads with the Lord.

Thank you, Pastor Bastress, for your thoughtful prayer at the end of this very busy Session week. And seated on the floor today is Pastor Bastress's wife, Kirsten Bastress. Would my colleagues please join me, giving Pastor Ryan Bastress and Kirsten [pronounced Kir-sten]--I take that back, and Kirsten [pronounced Keer-sten], I am very sensitive to that, my name gets mispronounced often--our warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Phillips-Hill please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR CAROLYN T. COMITTA AND SENATOR KATIE J. MUTH PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta.

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today, together with my colleague Senator Muth, to welcome the Downingtown Young Whippets to the Senate to celebrate winning first place in

Division 2 during the 2023 Pop Warner Super Bowl. The Young Whippets won the 13-and-under national title by defeating the Oviedo Lions of Florida with a score of 34 to 20, and they further distinguished themselves by winning the eastern region championship. I want to congratulate each member of the team for all your hard work and remarkable achievements. And thank you also to the coaches, parents, and volunteers who supported the Young Whippets along the way, including Head Coach Doug DeLia; Assistant Coach Jonathan Arnold; Assistant Coach Casey Boyd; Assistant Coach Shawn Gatlos; Assistant Coach Marlowe Tooles Andrews; and Assistant Coach Sean Troop. With the Super Bowl coming up this weekend, I hope we all remember that the professional athletes we watch on TV and from the stands all started somewhere. They started in our communities on Pop Warner teams, club teams, and our high school teams. And they succeeded thanks to the support of so many coaches, mentors, donors, trainers, and loving parents and guardians. So, thank you, again, for welcoming the Downingtown Young Whippets. Please join me in extending congratulations and a warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Comitta please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Anthony Williams and Senator Haywood have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

GUEST OF SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce a young man who has done good, who has done really good work with us. I take pride in acknowledging the outstanding contributions of my intern, Joao Goncalves, a senior criminal justice major at Temple University, who will be graduating in May of 2024. Joao has been an invaluable member of my team for the past two academic semesters. During his tenure, Joao exhibited innovation by establishing novel lines of communication with incarcerated constituents. His efforts streamlined the engagement process and made essential resources readily available to them. With a focus on restorative justice initiatives within my district, Joao actively participated in community events, offering crucial resources to constituents navigating the criminal justice system. In addition to his criminal justice endeavors, Joao played a crucial role in providing constituent services in my district office. From addressing criminal justice issues to offering support in immigration services, Joao consistently delivers exceptional customer service to my constituents. As a first-generation African Brazilian and an award-winning Temple University student, recipient of the LAURA award, Joao's service to my community and office deserves special recognition. His dedication and commitment to the spirit of service have set a remarkable standard, always going above and beyond to assist the district in any capacity possible. Joao is with us today in the gallery. If I could ask Members of the Senate to rise and join me in welcoming Joao and congratulating him on his tenure as an intern.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Street please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR DEVLIN ROBINSON PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Robinson.

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce public safety officials from southwestern Pennsylvania who are here today to support passage of my legislation, Senate Bill No. 792, to establish an urban search and rescue task force in Allegheny County. Joining us in the gallery are Brian Kokkila, assistant chief with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire; Scott Garing, chief of the Cranberry Township Fire Department and chairman of Western Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs; Tim Leech, vice president of the Pittsburgh Firefighters; and James Eaborn, with the Greentree Fire Company. These hardworking, dedicated individuals provide critical service to our communities every day, putting their lives on the line, responding to emergencies, and protecting our neighbors. I thank you for your service and support and ask my colleagues to please give my guests a warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Robinson please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

SB 792 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 792 (Pr. No. 1358) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 2 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator PITTMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 792 (Pr. No. 1358) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in emergency management services, providing for counterterrorism planning, preparedness and response; in Emergency Management Assistance Compact, providing for construction; and making repeals.

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

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, followed by a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, both meetings held in the Rules room, followed by a brief Republican caucus to be held in the Rules room.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, at the conclusion of the two meetings referenced by the Majority Leader, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a brief caucus.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of a series of committee meetings to be held off the floor in the Rules room immediately, beginning with the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, followed by the Committee on Appropriations, to be followed by a Republican caucus to be held in the Rules room and a Democratic caucus to be held in the rear of the Chamber, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Kim L. Ward) in the Chair.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Baker.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Baker. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 228 (Pr. No. 197) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for museum unclaimed loaned property.

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-49

Argall	Culver	Langerholz	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey

Comitta Kearney Rothman Yaw
Costa

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 269 and SB 346 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 375 (Pr. No. 905) -- 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 certification of teachers, repealing provisions relating to CPR instruction; and, in school health services, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators and providing for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, establishing the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program and providing for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators.

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

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 403 (Pr. No. 1187) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law, further providing for definitions, for general powers of board, for procedure for licensing as professional engineer, for procedure for licensing as professional land surveyor, for continuing professional competency requirements, for fees and for penalties.

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

YEA-48

Argall	Culver	Langerholz	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy

Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Collett	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw

NAY-1

Coleman

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 831, SB 832, SB 1058 and HB 1246 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 95 (Pr. No. 957) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in nuisances, further providing for the offense of scattering rubbish.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 219 and SB 259 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 265 (Pr. No. 228) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of January 24, 1966 (1965 P.L.1535, No.537), known as the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, providing for garage drains; and abrogating regulations.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 358 and SB 363 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Regan has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 365 (Pr. No. 975) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, in interpretation and definitions, further providing for definitions; and, in liability and compensation, providing for compensation for post-traumatic stress injury.

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 501 (Pr. No. 469) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in municipal authorities, further providing for definitions, providing for public safety authorities and further providing for purposes and powers.

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

SB 501 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that Senate Bill No. 501, Printer's No. 469, 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

SB 577, SB 667, SB 845, SB 975, SB 1014, SB 1017 and HB 1295 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 792 (Pr. No. 1358) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in emergency management services, providing for counterterrorism planning, preparedness and response; in Emergency Management Assistance Compact, providing for construction; and making repeals.

HB 1564 (Pr. No. 2568) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, further providing for definitions, for license required, for State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and

Professional Counselors, for powers and functions of board, for qualifications for license, for procedures for licensing, for reciprocity, for endorsement of out-of-State licenses and for reinstatement of license; providing for restrictions on use of title "Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist" and for restrictions on the use of title "Licensed Associate Professional Counselor"; further providing for license renewal and records and fees and for unlawful practice; and providing for effect of associate licensure.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1**

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 792 (Pr. No. 1358) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in emergency management services, providing for counterterrorism planning, preparedness and response; in Emergency Management Assistance Compact, providing for construction; and making repeals.

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 Allegheny, Senator Robinson.

Senator ROBINSON. Madam President, today I join my fellow colleague and good friend from Allegheny County, Senator Jay Costa, and a large group of bipartisan cosponsors, in support of Senate Bill No. 792, which establishes a second major Urban Search and Rescue Task Force in Pennsylvania. Following the 9/11 attacks, Governor Schweiker navigated the impacts on western Pennsylvania and recommended an additional task force to supplement the tremendous resources we have with Task Force 1, but on the western side of the Commonwealth. While a version of this was implemented, the teams that resulted are facing a rapid depletion of funds, and the burden has fallen on local municipalities and counties. This is unsustainable, and they will soon be unable to respond to disasters, whether they are natural or manmade. Every second counts on emergencies, which is why Senate Bill No. 792 is necessary to complement Task Force 1 with a second Urban Search and Rescue Task Force located in the western region of Pennsylvania. We all remember the recent disasters in this area, such as the Washington County apartment collapse, where a resident was trapped for 9 hours under the rubble; the East Palestine train derailment; and the Fern Hollow Bridge collapse.

With this bill, response times in the aftermath of disasters such as these will be drastically reduced with the well-equipped, properly trained teams in place. It is critical that we pass Senate Bill No. 792 and recognize that western Pennsylvania must be prepared with adequate and proper resources to respond to disasters. With the State recognizing and supporting a second task force in western Pennsylvania under this bill, it is certain that lives will be saved. And let me be clear, nothing, nothing in this legislation will limit the funding that other emergency

management entities within Pennsylvania currently have access to. We had many conversations; held a bipartisan, bicameral hearing; and consulted several stakeholders to come up with a strong piece of legislation that I present here today. It was important to me that their voices be heard, and their input was needed, and it was extremely valuable. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I am thankful for the support from all across Pennsylvania. I wanted to extend a special thank you to my guests seated in the gallery today, first responders from the Pittsburgh area who have been instrumental in this legislation and who have spent their careers keeping the residents of western Pennsylvania safe. We are so grateful for your service and dedication, and we look forward to supporting you and all our other first responders throughout the State. With Senate Bill No. 792 in the Senate today, we are more than ready to provide Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, and the rest of Pennsylvania the safety and protection that they need and deserve.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I am honored to stand and join my colleague from Allegheny County, Senator Robinson, in support of Senate Bill No. 792. Let me first state, I want to say thank you for the effort that he has put in and the folks who are here in the gallery today and so many other folks who have participated in this process, in this conversation, to get us to a point where we are able to enact this legislation and recognizing that it does not impact, as was previously believed, what we have in place in Pennsylvania--other parts of this Commonwealth. I think that is important to recognize as we go forward. Madam President, I also want to thank our chairs of the respective committees who advanced this legislation, Senator Mastriano, Senator Muth, Senator Hughes, and Senator Martin, for advancing this bill to the floor today, because it is an important piece of legislation that we need to talk about.

It is going to provide safety, again, as was mentioned, maybe referenced, as an Allegheny County search and rescue program. But let us be clear, it is one that is going to be encompassing all of western Pennsylvania, in fact, up to Erie, down to Greene County, and I am not quite sure how far east it is going to go. But it has got a significant footprint to be able to provide lifesaving services in a very, very timely manner, which, as we know, as was described by the previous speaker, very, very important in the process of saving lives. So, I am pleased to be offering this support. I ask my colleagues to join us here today. I want to say thank you to the men and women who are responding to these types of situations and crises all over this Commonwealth for the work that they do and their support in helping get this thing to the finish line with the appropriate language and support that we need. Our next effort is to be able to join our colleagues in the House. We were joined earlier today in the Committee on Appropriations by State Representative Dan Miller, Majority Whip in the House, and I know he wants to be part of this conversation as we advance it in the House of Representatives and on to the Governor's desk.

Thank you, Madam 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-49

Argall	Culver	Langerholz	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuik	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Costa			

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.

SENATE AT EASE

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, may we be at ease for a moment?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes, the Senate will be at ease. [The Senate was at ease.]

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1 RESUMED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1564 (Pr. No. 2568) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, further providing for definitions, for license required, for State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, for powers and functions of board, for qualifications for license, for procedures for licensing, for reciprocity, for endorsement of out-of-State licenses and for reinstatement of license; providing for restrictions on use of title "Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist" and for restrictions on the use of title "Licensed Associate Professional Counselor"; further providing for license renewal and records and fees and for unlawful practice; and providing for effect of associate licensure.

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 Montgomery, Senator Collett.

Senator COLLETT. Madam President, today I rise in support of House Bill No. 1564. I would like to thank the maker of the bill, Representative Cerrato, whose district overlaps with the 12th Senatorial District, for offering this opportunity for us to increase access to appropriate mental health and counseling services by expanding the licensing of marriage and family therapists here in the Commonwealth. Expanding opportunities for these professionals to attain the credentials offered in this bill aligns with the recommendations of the Behavioral Health Commission for Adult Mental Health, which I was honored to serve on. While I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate and the House during the upcoming budget process to rededicate the \$100 million in identified funding priorities recommended by the commission more than 16 months ago, I am proud to see this bipartisan legislation making its way to the Governor's desk with today's vote. I urge my colleagues to join me in an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Madam 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-44

Argall	Culver	Langerholz	Saval
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Schwank
Baker	Farry	Martin	Stefano
Bartolotta	Flynn	Miller	Street
Boscola	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brewster	Gebhard	Pennycuik	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw

NAY-5

Brooks	Dush	Mastriano	Phillips-Hill
Coleman			

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.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will go at ease. [The Senate was at ease.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brewster, and a legislative leave for Senator Haywood.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brewster, and a legislative leave for Senator Haywood. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED
SENATE RESOLUTION No. 234, ADOPTED**

Senator PITTMAN, without objection, called up from page 5 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 234**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the President of the United States to secure our border and provide the needed policies and resources to protect American citizens and communities throughout this country from the effects of illegal immigration.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

BOSCOLA AMENDMENT A3447 OFFERED

Senator BOSCOLA offered the following amendment No. A3447:

Amend Resolution, page 1, line 1, by inserting after "Urging":
the Congress of the United States and
Amend Resolution, page 1, by inserting between lines 4 and 5:
WHEREAS, It has been 37 years since the Congress of the United States has passed significant immigration reform; and
WHEREAS, To date, the Congress of the United States has failed to perform its critical duty in providing the necessary policies and resources to secure our border and modernize our immigration system; and
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 2, by inserting a comma after "States"
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 2, by inserting after "and":
the Congress of the United States and
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 11, by inserting after "of":
inaction by the Congress of the United States and
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 18, by inserting after "urge":
the Congress of the United States and

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

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Madam President, my amendment is fairly simple. Every time this resolution references an action by the administration, we acknowledge that Congress has a failure to act, and the blame should be shared equally for the current situation we face on our southern border. You just cannot say that the administration is at fault. It is Congress' fault as well. Thank you.

BOSCOLA AMENDMENT A3447 TABLED

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move the amendment be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman moves that the amendment be laid upon the table.

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

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

YEA-27

Argall	Culver	Martin	Rothman
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Farry	Pennycuick	Vogel
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brown	Langerholc	Regan	Yaw
Coleman	Laughlin	Robinson	

NAY-22

Boscola	Dillon	Kearney	Schwank
Brewster	Flynn	Miller	Street
Cappelletti	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Collett	Haywood	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Hughes	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kane		

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Amendment A3447 will be laid on the table.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

SCHWANK AMENDMENT A3449 OFFERED

Senator SCHWANK offered the following amendment No. A3449:

Amend Resolution, page 1, by inserting between lines 4 and 5:
WHEREAS, Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States authorizes the Congress of the United States to establish uniform rules regarding the naturalization and immigration of individuals to the United States; and
Amend Resolution, page 2, lines 2 and 3, by striking out "and the Biden Administration has put our national security at risk"
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 4, by inserting after "WHEREAS,":
Dating back to several previous administrations,
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 6, by striking out "fentanyl"
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 6, by inserting after "deaths":
relating to drug trafficking
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 7, by inserting after "border,":
the treatment of unaccompanied minors
Amend Resolution, page 2, lines 9 through 13, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:
WHEREAS, It is settled law that the Federal Government, not any individual state, has legal authority to enforce border security and immigration; and
WHEREAS, On January 22, 2024, the United States Supreme Court granted the Biden Administration's request to vacate the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' injunction in a case that prevented the Biden Administration from removing razor wire placed along the Texas border with Mexico by Texas state authorities; and
WHEREAS, The United States Senate is set to consider a proposed amendment to H.R. 815, "The National Security and Border Act, 2024"; and
WHEREAS, The United States Senate's proposal is a bipartisan effort intended, in part, to overhaul the immigration system as well as provide humanitarian aid; and
WHEREAS, The United States Senate's proposal includes more than \$20 billion for security at the southern border to increase immigration restrictions and enforcement and implement new migrant policies; and
WHEREAS, The United States Senate's proposal will be the first major overhaul of the country's immigration system in many years; and
Amend Resolution, page 2, line 16, by striking out "therefore be it" and inserting:

and
 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, our duty is to follow the decisions of the United States Supreme Court and acknowledge the supremacy of the Federal jurisdiction, as enshrined in the Constitution of the United States, as ratified by the people of the United States; therefore be it

Amend Resolution, page 2, lines 22 through 25, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to enact bipartisan immigration reform as early as possible; and be it further

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Madam President, I am introducing this amendment because I do not believe the title of Senate Resolution No. 234, as depicted in our daily Calendar, accurately reflects what the actual language of the resolution says. I join my colleagues in urging that we need to have immigration reform, but my amendment reads that the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urges the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to enact bipartisan immigration reform as soon as possible. Thank you.

SCHWANK AMENDMENT A3449 TABLED

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move the amendment be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman moves that the amendment be laid upon the table.

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

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

YEA-27

Argall	Culver	Martin	Rothman
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Farry	Pennycuick	Vogel
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brown	Langerholc	Regan	Yaw
Coleman	Laughlin	Robinson	

NAY-22

Boscola	Dillon	Kearney	Schwank
Brewster	Flynn	Miller	Street
Cappelletti	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Collett	Haywood	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Hughes	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kane		

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Amendment No. A3449 will be laid on the table.

The question recurring,
 Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Madam President, I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 234, which calls on the Biden Administration to fulfill its constitutional duties to protect our nation's sovereignty. Within his first month in office, President Biden reversed successful policies such as Remain in Mexico and safe third country agreements with Central American governments. These programs had resulted in all-time lows for illegal crossings at the border by the end of 2020. The specific numbers related to that: in 2020, there were approximately 400,000 illegal border encounters; last year in 2023, about 2.5 million. That is as a result of altering of secure border policies. The welcome mat offered illegals the benefits, credit cards, housing, travel across the nation here has enabled and encouraged people from around the world to illegally cross our border to receive these benefits. Meanwhile, our own people are suffering. We have approximately 15,000 homeless. We should take care of them first. We have about 1,000 veterans living on the streets, mostly in our big cities. We should take care of them first. Our elderly need property tax relief, losing their homes as a result of paying, in effect, rent to the government every year. They should receive priority and help now above illegals, people violating our nation's laws. Coming across the border, receiving benefits, being rewarded for violating our laws is unconscionable.

Every State has become a border State. It is just not a bumper sticker. Pennsylvania is directly affected by this. If you consider about 5,000 fentanyl deaths annually in our Commonwealth; this is a tragedy. We are looking at about 15 of our beautiful citizens every day losing their lives, mostly from drugs illegally trafficked across our southern border from China. We are a border State. Those 5,000 citizens should be taken care of and protected from these vile drugs. Sex trafficking is now affecting most of our cities, no matter how small, across the Commonwealth. Innocent women and children trafficked and being used as sex slaves in our State. That needs to end. And it is enabled by this flood across the border.

According to a recent study, we are looking at about 260,000 illegal immigrants residing in Pennsylvania receiving annual checks, accounting worth about \$1.6 billion of a burden on our taxpayers. We heard at the budget address yesterday, and all the programs and ideas that our Governor has to benefit our State. That is one area, \$1.6 billion, that should stay in Pennsylvania, rather going to and rewarding illegals. That amount of \$1.6 billion accounts more than what is being allocated to our Department of Agriculture, Community and Economic Development, Conservation and Natural Resources, Drug and Alcohol Programs, environmental services, Health, Military and Veterans Affairs, Transportation, Labor and Industry, and our Department of State altogether.

Many of our schools on the receiving end, and this is an unseen cost, cannot keep up with the increased resource demands. Having teachers with English as a Second Language, and it is not

just Spanish. It is languages from around the world, including Russian, Chinese, Middle Eastern countries requiring Arabic. This is having a devastating impact on our schools. The increased burden on the teachers, the student body, the housing impact, as well as affordability. It is driving down cheap labor now; it is driving down the benefits of our skilled labor force. A report by Valor Capital [Group] released just this week concluded that in regions experiencing a significant influx of new residents--illegals--have resulted in a tighter housing inventory, leading to increased prices, et cetera.

So far, 14 States have responded to the border crisis and deployed personnel and resources to assist Texas, and I call upon Pennsylvania to become one of those; to be the front line of freedom, to protect our people in our own State. More than 276 years ago, Benjamin Franklin founded what is now our Pennsylvania National Guard, the second largest Guard in the nation, and I would say the best Guard in the nation. Now is the time to mobilize those forces and send them where they could be used to directly protect our people; more importantly than going overseas on faraway missions. The danger and threat is here; it is now. In conclusion, in retrospect, let us put it in perspective: over 5,000 fentanyl deaths in Pennsylvania as a result of an open border. Let us take care of our own people first.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Madam President, I rise today to voice my opposition to Senate Resolution No. 234. Look, as we all know, the U.S. immigration system has been broken for many years. It is ineffective, it is outdated, and it badly needs to be reformed to address the ongoing issues that we have seen at our southern border. That is not a secret; we all know that; and I am not breaking any news with that statement. We all know there is a problem, yet elected officials in Washington have not been able to reach a compromise on how, at the very least, we can make our immigration system function better. Year after year, Congress after Congress, and President after President, nothing seems to happen in Washington. You ever wonder why? This resolution provides insight into why the two major parties in this country cannot come to an agreement on immigration.

The actual language in this resolution urges Governor Shapiro to support Texas Governor Greg Abbott's interference with the Federal government's authority over border security. Governor Abbott is brazenly defying our nation's highest court. The same court, mind you, that multiple Members of this body, who are signed on to this resolution, have heaped praise onto for decisions they have made in the past few years. Now, in the face of one of the few decisions that this court has made that the Majority does not like, it is perfectly acceptable to throw it away, to ignore it. But what was it that the U.S. Supreme Court asked Texas to do that was just so terrible that they are openly defying the Supreme Court? Texas was asked to remove barbed wire that is interfering with the work of the U.S. Border Patrol agents. Putting aside for a moment the blatant cruelty of advocating for barbed wire, which is what this resolution effectively says, how does what Texas is doing in any way address the longstanding systemic issues at our southern border? Does it reform the asylum process? Does it do anything to fix overcrowded detention centers? Does it do anything to reduce the number of migrants that cross the

border each day? Does it do anything to reduce the number of individuals in major cities and in some of our cities who are coming with no place to go? The answer to all those questions is "no."

The U.S. Senate--and I wish this were different--has seemingly failed to make a bipartisan deal that would actually address some of these issues. To be clear, no deal on immigration is going to be perfect, but we should be doing something. We need to have a system that is humane, that can process visa applications in a timely fashion, and that addresses very real and serious security concerns of millions of Americans. Maybe I am naive, but I would like to believe that we all share this goal. I would like to think we can work together to overhaul the system so it works better and addresses the major concerns that both parties have in regards to the border.

There used to be a time--they tell me--when elected officials in Washington and in State legislatures, like this one, people actually came together to the respective Capitol buildings with the idea that they were going to make some progress on the big issues of the day, and even more novel, they were willing to work with the other party and build consensus to do so. This means compromise. This means both sides being able to live with not getting everything that they want. But this resolution just drives us further away from that bygone time. Instead, it lays all the blame for a decades-long problem at the feet of a single President. And perhaps more importantly, it cleverly warps what has been a salient political issue for the Majority into a statehouse issue as we enter what is sure to be a very contentious election year. I know the community I represent, and your communities too, are tired of the games and the politicization of this issue and many other issues. And I know Pennsylvanians and people across this country feel the same way. Unfortunately, I cannot help but feel like this resolution is more about providing fodder for mailers and social media graphics to be used against other Members of this Chamber in the upcoming election than a deep-seated desire to fix our nation's broken immigration system. And that is a real shame. Pennsylvanians will see this resolution for the sham that it is. They are tired of the game playing. They want real resolutions. They want solutions to the problems we face. I ask for a "no" vote on this resolution. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the Chair.

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 234. And as a former competitive swimmer, I have long believed that we need to stay in our lane and focus on State policy and State issues, but absent Federal action that is now impacting States, we cannot sit by on the sidelines and wait for the Federal government to act. We have waited too long for Washington, DC, to act, and they have failed. My constituents have reached out so many times on this very issue, and they have shared with me stories on how illegal immigration impacts them right here, southern York County, despite being more than 1,600 miles away from our nation's southern border. After watching videos of hotels in cities across the northeast taking on illegal immigrants who arrive from border States, I received this message from a constituent in Dallastown, and he rightfully noted that our

country cannot take care of our veterans who need help when they come home from their duty overseas or the homeless people in our country, but our nation rolls out the red carpet for those who entered into our country illegally.

Another constituent from New Freedom emailed me and voiced her frustration with how the President's administration is using taxpayers' money to house, to feed, to provide free medical care to those individuals who are illegally crossing our southern border while we have homeless citizens, including veterans, who are denied housing and benefits. What is our priority? A nation that puts up red tape in front of people who are here legally; a nation that is prioritizing people who broke the law and entered our nation illegally while disregarding people who put on the uniform to defend our nation? You want to fly on a commercial flight? You need an identification. Pretty soon it will be a REAL ID, thanks to the Federal government. You are vetted to make sure you are on a do-not-fly list. There are checks in place for safety and security reasons. However, if you are here illegally, you will be taken at your word using a Customs and Border Protection app without a thorough vetting, and you will be placed on a flight. This border crisis impacts us all. As Texas and other States, they run out of capacity to handle this influx, these individuals who are here illegally will head elsewhere. And as I cautioned yesterday, our State cannot print money when it is needed like they can in Washington, DC. Those politicians, they just print money in Washington, DC, to pay for their spending. Without a vetting process of who is crossing our border, it is very concerning for the safety and security of Pennsylvania and our nation. And absent Federal action on this effort, we need to do what we can to protect our Commonwealth and stand with Governor Abbott in Texas in their resolve to address this crisis.

Putting up barriers to prohibit illegal crossings is common sense. We saw barriers amassed out on the Capitol steps just yesterday as we sat in the Rotunda for the budget address for the safety and security of our Governor and all of us, as well as our colleagues in the House. What about similar protections for everyday Americans by encouraging people to go through the proper vetting and immigration process? The problem grows worse as Washington, DC, idles. Blame can go around to both parties at the Federal level for not taking the time and tackling this issue before it became a crisis. December of 2023 was the busiest month on record for illegal border crossings. So, while Washington, DC, fails, we can act here in Harrisburg to stand with another State that is acting, because while it is Texas's problem today, it will be our problem soon enough. I respectfully ask my colleagues to cast an affirmative vote for Senate Resolution No. 234.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to oppose this resolution. On the first day of his administration, President Biden sent a comprehensive reform bill to Congress, and congressional Republicans failed to act. President Biden, in October, asked for \$14 billion for border security, and congressional Republicans failed to act. President Biden worked to convene Members of the United States Senate, from both Chambers, both Republicans and Democrats, and work together. And then, when former President Donald Trump found it to be inconvenient for his political purposes and demanded that it be killed, congressional House

Republicans, led by Speaker Johnson, declared the bill dead on arrival even after U.S. Senate Republicans, even after Senate Democrats spoke up in a bipartisan way, asking the U.S. House and Leader McConnell in the U.S. Senate, who himself said it is because Speaker Johnson said the bill was dead on arrival that we do not have comprehensive reform.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that what Governor Abbott is doing is unconstitutional. Moreover, floating barges of barbed wire are barbaric and inhumane. It is not the way to deal with this. Congress needs to move forward with responsible, comprehensive immigration reform. An emergency matter that was organized in a bipartisan way was presented by the U.S. Senate, and Speaker Johnson and the Members of the U.S. Republican House caucus killed the bill, and that is why we are in the situation we are today. We need to be focusing here on what we can do to keep Pennsylvanians safe with all of the measures around gun violence and things that Governor Shapiro has proposed--of work for us to do. This is a distraction for us and a failure of leadership of Speaker Johnson and congressional Republicans. I therefore urge a "no" vote.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Coleman.

Senator COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 234. My constituents in Lehigh County are concerned with the number of undocumented migrants who are entering the Lehigh Valley through the Lehigh Valley International Airport and the Commonwealth. This is not only a national issue, but an issue that is impacting our State. We face a crisis on our southern border, and I do not use the word "crisis" lightly. Last December, Border Patrol agents reported over 300,000 encounters with migrants at the border. To put that into context, that is roughly the population of Pittsburgh. Think about that. Border Patrol agents are dealing with millions of illegal crossings every year. No system that is currently in place can accommodate that many people. The Governor of Texas is facing an impossible situation and is exercising his constitutional authority to defend his State by taking steps to secure the border. Today, I urge the President of the United States to take immediate action to secure the border and encourage the Governor of Pennsylvania to join with governors from across the country in voicing support for the Governor of Texas. I ask that my colleagues join me in casting an affirmative vote. Thank you.

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, let me be clear, I am for secure borders. I am very disappointed that the administration and Congress have failed to act on border security, and so are the voters. This resolution, though, does not really move the conversation forward. Everyone in this room knows that this just is not a Biden problem, and it is just not a Trump problem. This resolution sidesteps the undeniable truth. The issue we face today is not solely the fault of any one administration, but rather the culmination of nearly 4 decades of inaction by Congress that resulted from an unwillingness to find compromise. Since the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, Congress has failed to act in any significant way on immigration reform, leaving our laws and border enforcement mechanisms woefully outdated. This failure is jeopardizing both national security and community well-being. Despite numerous bipartisan efforts, including

President George W. Bush's comprehensive immigration reform plan in 2001 and the Gang of Eight's initiative in 2013, meaningful reform has remained elusive due to political gridlock. Even now, promising a bipartisan bill in the U.S. Senate, it struggles to gain traction due to the prevailing political climate. I will say it: this resolution is purely politics. Well, that is what we do in this building sometimes. Drafted to call out Biden and ignore the decades-long inaction of Congress. What I do not like about it, too, is that it calls out Governor Shapiro to act. Can you imagine if we got a resolution from Texas telling us what to do, right? What would we do with it? Let us be real. It goes in the cylinder file. It is evident the issue with solving border security is really political, especially now in this election year. Even today, a bipartisan bill was introduced, like I said, in the Senate, and it seems dead on arrival just because the politics are not right. Mr. President, we cannot let this issue persist for another 40 years. We just cannot. We all know that. And while I would have written the resolution--I would have written it very differently, because I do feel we need border security; the way this resolution is written, in this manner, it ignores--it really does ignore--the decades-long failure of Congress to act, and that is what brought us to this point. And as I said at the outset, I support border security. And as the Senator of the 18th Senatorial District, this resolution, unfortunately, is my only opportunity to express my support for border security, right? So, I am going to support this resolution because I do want to make a vote about border security. This is the only opportunity I am going to get, I gather. So, you are going to get my support on it. However, it is kind of a flawed resolution, but everything in this building is never perfect. So, you got my support on it. Unfortunately, I would have worded it a little differently. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Senator Rothman.

Senator ROTHMAN. Mr. President, that makes me happy. Thank you, my dear friend, the gentlelady. Eighty-five thousand children, 85,000 children, the last 2 years, came across the border that the current Federal administration has no idea where those children are. Eighty-five thousand children were brought across the border with an adult, that the Federal government has no idea where they are. How can you not have compassion when someone is bringing children into this country, and nobody knows who those children are? The Migrant Protection Protocols, they were put into place by the President, the administration, in January of 2019 and immediately had an effect on our immigration crisis. Because what it did is it said: if you are seeking asylum or you are trying to come to the United States--and we welcome those who are being persecuted around the world, we are a nation of immigrants; my family; all of your families; most of your families all came here, but they came here legally--so, if you are seeking asylum, you stay in Mexico. It is referred to as the Remain in Mexico policy. So, if you do not think that the President of the United States can do something about this, it was a President who put that policy in place, and it was a President, in February of 2021, by executive order, that ended that policy. It was also that same President who said we were going to stop building the wall. I appreciate my friend from York County pointing out two things I noticed this week in this beautiful building: the barriers, the police, the guards, our great State Troopers protecting us and the Governor, IDing people coming into this building; and a day before, arresting people who were disrupting this building. Why do

we not expect the same thing for the country that we expect for our own building, our own houses? We do not leave our doors open. And we certainly do not let someone break into our home and let them stay there until we figure out whether or not they are there illegally, right? Five thousand. Five thousand. The bipartisan agreement--which certainly is not bipartisan in DC--would have still allowed 5,000 people to come here illegally every day. Five thousand Pennsylvanians died in 2022 from fentanyl overdoses, fentanyl that is coming through our southern border. As someone recently said: we are all border States now.

And finally, to those who think that Washington, DC, is the answer, this is a nation that was started by the States coming together to create the Federal government, not the other way around. This is a Federal government that cannot do anything right. Thirty-four trillion dollars in debt, dysfunction. We are going to ask them to fix our problems? No. We as States fix our problems, and Texas has a problem, and we should come to their aid. Please, I ask you, 8 million people have come into our country in the last 2 years. Support Senate Resolution No. 234. Let us support a State that is trying to protect their own borders just as we would with ours. Thank you.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I really find this conversation that we are having to have today confusing. We all can acknowledge that this country is built upon immigrants. We also can acknowledge, at this particular time, that this country is in crisis as it relates to folks who come here undocumented. Be very clear that I approach this floor as the way I approach most of my life, and that is, I am a registered Democrat, but my responsibility is to all Pennsylvanians--Republican or Democrat. And many of you know that on occasion there are issues that I identify with on the other side of the aisle that I get lambasted for. I do not do it because I choose to be in a partisan conversation, I choose it because I think it to be fair and objective. And my hope is that people understand that people like me are not in opposition to this issue of undocumented workers. Everyone in this country who comes here, who wants a better life, should be a part of this country. But just as in when my grandparents during World War II, we had a flood of immigrants to this country from Europe who mostly were documented, but many were not documented, became a part of the American dream in this country; that is the moment which we are confronting here in this country. And the fact that those of us who sit in a space who understand that Pennsylvania's economy--look, I have been here long enough to know that during harvest season, at a certain period of time in Pennsylvania, we depended upon many of those folks who were undocumented to pick the fields in Pennsylvania and made jokes about it, had time off with it. That is the truth of Pennsylvania. And, by the way, many of those people led to the Angel Act in Pennsylvania because they went through the school system, they were productive members in our communities, which frankly were not like mine. They were rural Pennsylvania, and they stood up and became distinguished individuals as a part of this country.

I am not lost on the fact that an African American mayor of a northern city, one of the biggest cities in America, New York City, has said to the White House for over a year, we have a crisis in this country as it relates to that. There are Democrats who feel it was unfair for Governor Abbott to send busloads of folks from

that State to other northern States. I do not frankly agree with that. I thought that was fair game because it is an American problem. What I do not agree with is that we are signing on to a resolution about the manner in which a particular person, who is the Governor of Texas, has treated those people. There is nothing humane about putting barbed wire for a mother who is fleeing South America because their family will be ransomed if they do not take their children out and are confronted in America with barbed wire. We are not going to skate over this today, pretend like it is something that it is not. It is a crisis. And by the way, my dear friend, who is a friend of mine who stood up and said, you know, Congress needs to know we are serious. Well then let us do something about it because this is just another resolution that we are sending to Washington, DC, that they are not going to pay attention to.

We are playing politics to the most base element of Pennsylvanians, and we are doing partisan politics to not the core part of a Democrat or Republican, to the fringe part of a Democrat or Republican. That is what we are doing. Governor Abbott is fine with treating human beings as nonhuman beings and using the crisis as a backdrop to do that. That is not American. That is not the values that my friends on the Republican side of the aisle or Democratic side of the aisle who I have interacted with stand for. And I understand for some of you, you have to do it. But if we are going to sit in the Chamber of leadership, we should not even have drawn this up. And if we drew it up, it should not mention Governor Abbott. If we are concerned about illegal immigrants, talk about quote, unquote, illegal immigrants, which I am not quite sure what that term means, but undocumented workers, because that is who they are. They are not a drain to the systems that I have talked about. And by the way, I am not sure where the gentleman got the numbers from, because if they are undocumented, by definition, you do not have a number.

This is not about anything other than a limited perspective being spewed on the Senate floor in a time period that this country is in crisis. We are being attacked by China, by Russia, by other states and other places in the Middle East. We should be rallying as a country, understanding that we need to get our children who are suffering academically to a place that they can defend our country. That economically, we are places in poverty that do not need to be, but they need to be a part of an economy. We should be rallying as Democrats and Republicans, understanding that this country, its basic premise is under attack. But yet, we stand here talking about a governor from a State who is doing inhumane things to people who are simply trying to find liberation. I find it to be very disappointing. I am not going to suggest that anything is going to change because politics and optics dominate the moment, not substance. But I am disappointed that some of the Members who I am working with would sign on to something like this knowing full well that Governor Abbott's actions--not about the issue, because I think [Mayor] Adams from New York City is absolutely right: the White House needs do more; Congress needs to do more; Washington, DC, needs to do more--but Abbott's actions need not be copied, mimicked, nor supported in the manner that he is doing it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, I intend to address the issues. This is not an immigration issue for one thing. Immigration is a controlled inflow of the people whom the people of this country have said we want to have here. What is going on in our southern border is not that. When the comments were made that the people of Pennsylvania will see through what we are doing, the people of Pennsylvania and the people of the United States across all demographic groups say this is now the number one issue across the board, and it is not because of politics. Let me tell you what it is about. Article IV, Section 4 of the United States Constitution reads this: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government--**and the relevant part here**--and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence."

Let me address the first, invasion. Ships that are flagged under the stars and stripes are considered to be flying under the sovereignty of the United States government. When the Barbary pirates flying--flying and sometimes not--other flags of the Islamic nations or belief, they were attacking American-flagged ships. Then-President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon and the United States Marines to go into North Africa to take care of that. Although they were not a nation State, the President and the Congress went to war against those individuals. Let us leap forward to 2004. Under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, Ismael Elbarasse and his wife were arrested for taking photographs of the critical infrastructure holding that Chesapeake Bay Bridge up. An executed search warrant at their home in Virginia came out with 84 legal boxes, 84 legal boxes of documents from the Muslim Brotherhood on how they plan to infiltrate the United States of America, our government, and starting from the smallest governments right up through to the top, as well as install people to take direct action whenever it became necessary. Again, those people who were flying under those Islamic flags in 1804, they were not a nation State, but they were acting against the interests and the sovereignty of the United States. The people who are actively working to infiltrate this government--and it is not just the Muslim Brotherhood, it is the Chinese, it is others--they are the ones coming across our border. We have got a number of people who have already been detained who are on the terrorism watch list. Those people have been actively attempting to invade the sovereignty of the United States. Under that clause, Governor Abbott has not only every right, he has got the responsibility--when the Federal government does not do its constitutional responsibility--to protect itself and its sovereignty, Texas' sovereignty, against that invasion.

On the second half of this against domestic violence, everybody in this Chamber knows where I am on human trafficking, and the fight against it. At the Juvenile Sex Trafficking Conference down in Washington, DC, I met a woman who works with customs and the Border Patrol, clearing the people who are coming in. Children are being sent in with a phone number on a piece of paper. They have to call the phone number, and when somebody answers it on the other end fully expecting: do you have my little so and so? Those children are being put on a bus without having cleared that individual. We do not do that in domestic cases here in the United States. We do not turn children over to people who we do not know have a lawful authority to have possession of a child, and yet, our Federal government is doing just

that. Our Federal government is aiding and abetting in the human trafficking right now. That is an abomination, and that is domestic violence. And more domestic violence, what we saw on the streets of New York City, when two police officers--

POINT OF ORDER

Senator COSTA. Mr. President.

Senator DUSH. --were attacked by 15 individuals.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, point of order.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman will suspend. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I think we are way off the course here where we are talking about child custody matters and things of that nature. I think we have given great leeway to the speaker and ask him to confine his remarks to the resolution that we have at hand. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair asks the gentleman to restrict his remarks to the underlying Senate resolution. This is not debatable. The gentleman may proceed.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, I will go back again for the sake of this--that domestic violence, the items that I have brought up, are applicable under the U.S. Constitution and under this resolution for the U.S. government to start fulfilling its responsibility to protect these children, to protect the people of this State and other States against domestic violence and against invasion.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Cappelletti.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my opposition to Senate Resolution No. 234. This resolution, as many of my colleagues have mentioned, was so clearly drafted to take aim at the current presidential administration during a presidential election year without acknowledging any of historical--

POINT OF ORDER

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. --context of the situation.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, point of order.

The PRESIDENT. The gentlelady will suspend. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I believe these remarks are suggesting motive, which is not permitted in the course of debate.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair asks that the speaker refrain from attacking motive and restricts her remarks to the underlying Senate resolution. The gentlelady may proceed.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, well, then, this resolution was drafted without acknowledging any of the historical context of our current situation, without acknowledging Congress' role. And while many of my colleagues have cited data from the previous administration--2020, former President Trump was at the helm. Perhaps we should consider blaming him as well. We have this moving so rapidly through the legislative process, and it reveals that we seem to have some skewed priorities around here. While we are doing nothing to enact proven policies that will make our communities here in Pennsylvania--which is what we have been elected to do here in Pennsylvania--to make them safer and healthier, we are ignoring the crucial and immediate needs of Pennsylvanians. The Senate leadership has rushed this

resolution through on one of the few days we have had Session this year while legislation to raise our minimum wage, address healthcare access and affordability, protect our environment, and so many other good bills that have been passed out of the House, or even introduced here in the Senate, are waiting. They are ignored because this resolution is what those who set the Calendar have chosen to focus our time and resources on. So, to simply put it, I object. Not only does this resolution serve as a reminder that we are out of touch in this Chamber, but it creates another distraction that wastes our time, efforts, and energies, all of which we could use to better spend addressing the priorities that have been laid forward by both the Senate Democratic Caucus and our Governor yesterday to create a better life and a future for every Pennsylvanian. I will be voting "no" on this resolution, and I encourage my Senate colleagues to do the same.

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

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, I rise to ask for support for this resolution. Does the safety of our residents matter? Does the safety of our communities matter? The amount of fentanyl that has been trafficked over the border, human trafficking, increased violent crime, the list goes on and on. And at the outset, I would like to just clarify that this resolution, the first line in this resolution, is pretty plain. This resolution urges the President of the United States to secure our border. That has not been done. Yes, immigration is broken; yes, immigration has been broken; yes, something needs done. But if you look at what could be done in the interim and what has happened to get us to this point, the facts do not lie. The fact, in 2020, there were 640-some thousand enforcement actions at the southwest border. In 2021, that number rose to 1.7 million; 2022, to 2.3 million; 2023, to 2.475 million; and 2024 to date is at 785,000. Those facts do not lie. That number is drastically up. Why? This President has failed our country. This President has undone executive orders, issued his own executive orders which have made it attractive for people to come here illegally. Under this administration, there is a 40 percent increase, millions have entered, and those are ones that we have documented. How many more have entered that we cannot ascertain? We are not playing politics with this resolution. We are wasting money; we are wasting resources; and more importantly, we are endangering the lives of not just Pennsylvanians, but Americans. This President has failed our country. He can undo this, at least stop it in some manner, through an executive order. That is not in dispute. Do something. This resolution urges the President to secure our border. He could do something tomorrow with the stroke of a pen. He has failed to do it. I ask for support of this resolution. I ask that something be done.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I rise to support this resolution. I went to the border. I was there last March in Arizona--not in Texas--and it was a really scary thing to see because what was happening is people from all over the world are being flown in by the cartels to Mexico, and then they are being driven to a point by the wall--around the wall--where the cartels have built a bridge so these people can walk across the bridge; they came up a hill and around the wall. And I will say, with the exception of one mother and her young daughter, these people were

not from Mexico. They were being brought here by the cartels. I went back the next afternoon and picked up all kinds of pieces of identification that they had thrown out--plane tickets, credit cards--because they have multiple, multiple identifications. It is very scary. We have no idea who is crossing. But, you know, this really is not about all of that right now. It is about asking our Governor to support the Governor of Texas in fighting what is happening in Texas. It is happening all over the country. Mayors in blue cities all over the country, in big cities, are asking for relief. This happened by executive order. This border was opened in 2021 by President Biden with executive order. And, yes, we need immigration reform, but for the immediate time, President Biden can retract that executive order. It is simple. It is with a stroke of a pen. He can fix this. And so, I would really ask our Governor to consider supporting the Governor of Texas and what is happening to that State. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Monroe, Senator Brown.

Senator BROWN. Mr. President, so we are State government, and why are we getting involved in what most believe is the Federal government's responsibility? Because this is about States' rights and understanding that States have a right to protect their people. The Governor of Texas, like us, has the right and responsibility to protect our people. And it is my job and our job to speak up for you. How often do we all watch the news regardless of our political party? And we say, why; why do we have people dying from fentanyl and drug overdoses and more? Why do we have people attacking our police officers? Why do we have human trafficking? And the list goes on and on. Drugs are coming over our border and getting into the hands of our children at alarming rates. Five people a day, at least, die in Pennsylvania from fentanyl overdoses. We cannot offer our veterans, our children with disability waivers, what they need and they deserve. Our country, our very own family, is not being protected, and we cannot handle this type of illegal immigration even if we wanted to. This is about caring for and protecting all Americans. It is time for Pennsylvania to be a voice on the very impacts of illegal immigration has on our country and on Pennsylvania. I support Senate Resolution No. 234 and Texas' efforts on protecting their border and preventing illegal immigration.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, you know, I always find these debates to be very interesting when we are talking about things from different perspectives, and sometimes there is a truth in what people are saying, but often it does not really tell the whole story. You know, as someone who has seen firsthand in my time in county government, our immigration and naturalization ceremonies, it is one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen, of people who have gone through the process that has been established by law and are so absolutely proud of what they have done. I also am blessed to come from an area in Lancaster which is known as the refugee capital of the United States. People who are seeking political asylum, places of war, all who have gone through a process, who have been vetted and are so grateful for the opportunities that they have in our community. And, yes, I would agree that there is a lot in our system that needs to change to make it better, to potentially expedite it to work on workforce

visas as well. Yes, I am sure that there are people who are coming across the border seeking those opportunities.

However, to think that that is only what is coming across our border is grossly misleading. But when you have a border in a situation that it is in now: chaos; it is called chaos by the administration's own Border Patrol; it is called chaos by FBI director Christopher Wray, who claims it is a huge national security risk. But we do not need to go too much further than that to talk about the dangers that are faced here in this State. Just within the last year, Danilo Cavalcante--here illegally, terrorizing neighborhoods, wanted for murder in Brazil--found safe haven in the United States. Four million dollars later, he is finally taken into custody. Fresh off the presses from Norristown, Pennsylvania, 22-year-old man who went to the United States illegally from Mexico on May 5, 2023, charged with two counts of homicide by vehicle in Upper Merion crash January 13 that killed a 20-year-old woman and her 3-year-old daughter. When I hear terms like "inhumane," how is it not inhumane that we look in the faces of parents who have lost their loved ones to fentanyl, some who even work here, and us not doing anything about it, knowing from every single part that it is flowing through our southern border after being manufactured in China. Quite frankly, I find it inhumane that we do not have better control of our borders when there is tractor trailer-fulls of young children and adults found dead in the sweltering desert as cartels left them there.

So, when I think about what is happening down there, and I think about what occurred within weeks of the new administration. And let us be clear, by executive order, ending the Remain in Mexico policy, pausing deportations, funneling away the money that was going to secure and create physical security barriers along that wall; that all happened by executive order. But what really gets me as I think about the number of people coming across, is thinking about those border towns and their size and hearing the numbers of individuals that are flowing across, and I think about our Commonwealth then. If this were the shores of Erie and nonstop boatloads of illegal immigrants, on a daily basis, thousands and thousands on a daily basis flowing into Erie, a city of 60-some thousand people, would we have a problem with that? Do we think that the citizens of Pennsylvania would want us to address that? And when we did try to address that, how would we feel if the Federal government sued us to stop us from trying to get control of the chaos to protect our citizens? That is exactly what is going on. And whether it would be in Erie, whether it would be in the ports of Philadelphia, our citizens would expect us to act, and we should have every right to act to protect our citizens. See, this is so much more than just about Texas. It is so much more than just about our southern border. No one in this Chamber would deny the scourge of fentanyl. No one would deny the scourge of human trafficking, especially with our children. No one would deny that as we sit here today in various States across the nation, they are closing school buildings, making their kids go online so they can turn the schools into shelters for illegal immigrants. No one would deny that just last week in Boston, Massachusetts, they started shutting down their community centers, some of which in some of their most disadvantaged areas to keep kids off the street, give them activities. They are showing up to barriers and it is no longer accessible to them because they have closed the community center and they have converted it into a shelter for illegal immigrants. Hotels, you name it, this is going

on all across our country. We have a duty to act, and yes, we absolutely need reform. I will not disagree with that. But there is absolutely nothing, just like the actions that were taken executive that have ballooned from 400,000 contacts in 2020 to over 2.5 million this year, he could take executive action to support not only the State of Texas, but the entire country in making sure our citizens are safe. This resolution is demanding that action. This resolution is asking our administration here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to stand for State's rights; the impacts that are occurring here even in our State; and yes, that hopefully someday Washington, DC, gets its act together to get more done on this subject.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, what I think I am going to do is introduce my written remarks for the record. I will do that when I am concluding, but I wanted to sort of move this conversation into another space. I think the gentleman who spoke previously about Washington get its act together, which we recognize that something needs to be done. But let us be clear, everyone in this room knows that there is one reason why that the immigration reforms that have been put together by Senate Republicans and Democrats is being rejected by individuals in Washington, DC: they did not want to advance them. That could be done today. We do not need an executive order. We do not need our Governor to send troops to--the National Guard folks--to Texas to assist what needs to be done. But that is work that can be done today. And, but for one person who is asking us, asking not us, but asking Representatives in Congress and U.S. Senators to not to do anything at all until after the election. Let us wait, let us let the crisis as was described, let us let it continue until maybe I get reelected. That is the message. That is a narrative that we hear in Washington that is resonating across this country with respect to elected officials along those lines. We believe on this side--and I want to thank my colleagues who stood up here and advocated against this resolution because we think it is inappropriate, obviously, but quite frankly, I stand in firm opposition to this because I do think it flies in the face of justice, face of the law. We know what our Supreme Court has said to the Governor of Texas. What our U.S. Supreme Court said to the Governor of Texas, do not do what you are doing. And let us remember, let us remind ourselves, this is the same Governor Abbott, ladies and gentlemen, who wanted to throw out Pennsylvania's election a number of years ago and went to the Supreme Court to do that. That is what you are asking our Governor to support, the Governor who tried to throw out the votes cast by every one of you in this Chamber, and every one of the Pennsylvanians who voted in 2020. That is what is being asked to be done here. And as I listened to the comments that were made, the reason why I want to deviate a little bit, because I find it interesting that while everyone--a number of folks have indicated their willingness to protect their residents, to protect the Commonwealth, to protect and look out for the National Guard, look out for children. You know, I look and think of the work that has been done here over the course of the past 3 months, I think, outside of a couple of budget matters, we have really not advanced any policy matters. In fact, our folks tell me that in more than 200 bills that came over from the House, approximately only

185 or so of really substantive measures still need to be addressed.

When we think and we worry about people looking in the mirror or looking at the faces of families who have lost loved ones, what are we doing to take care of those folks who have lost loved ones to gun violence? Well, we have advocated for a number of times, and every time we bring up a gun measure on discharge petitions, or on an amendment, it gets tabled. That is the latest fashionable way to be able to avoid casting votes on those issues. Tabling motions. A couple of years ago, it was the constitutional amendment process to avoid doing legislation. What we have to do is ask the question in this building here today, why is it that we are not addressing the concerns of the people who lost family members to gun violence? Why is it when we are looking at people who are dealing with crisis--

POINT OF ORDER

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President.

Senator COSTA. --mental health crisis.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, point of order. With respect to my friend and colleague from Allegheny County, I believe some of the remarks are far afield of the resolution at hand.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, if I could respond.

The PRESIDENT. It is not debatable. The Chair asks that the Leader contain his remarks on the underlying resolution and the Leader may continue.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, the question was, what are we doing with respect to protecting our children? I am asking the same question here in this Chamber. Why are we not taking steps to be able to do that on legislation that has been pending in this Chamber that does exactly that? Why are we not taking steps in this Chamber to address those families who have loved ones in a mental health crisis that have weapons in their home? Why are we not addressing the Red Flag laws, things of that nature that need to be done? Why are we not looking at lost and stolen guns, when the guns are on our street corners across this Commonwealth?

POINT OF ORDER

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President--

Senator COSTA. Why are we not protecting our children in those instances?

Senator PITTMAN.--point of order. Point of order.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman will suspend.

Senator PITTMAN. I admire and appreciate the gentleman from Allegheny County's passion on all of these issues, but I would again point out that he is far afield of the subject at hand.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the point. The Leader is asked to contain his remarks to the underlying Senate resolution that is on the floor to debate now. If the gentleman can do that, the gentleman is free to continue to proceed.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, in a number of instances, the resolution encouraged our Governor to govern this Commonwealth. The specific request of this Governor to join with and send troops and the like to Texas and support Governor Abbott of Texas to be able to support those measures. Our question is, why are we not asking the same thing of our own legislature, our own body here, to be able to do the same thing? It is within the realm

of what we are asking our Governor to do. We did not write the resolution that says, asking the Governor's specific request. What I am saying is, the remarks that I have made and will continue to make center around the authority of the Governor of what we should be able to do and give him the opportunity to sign legislation that allows us to be able to move those measures forward. That is what I believe we should be talking about. There is a number of other things that we should be talking about. Again, I did not bring up all the things about workers and all the different types of drug paraphernalia that comes into this Commonwealth and the like, but other folks have brought those issues up. I am just trying to amplify why is not there the concern in this Chamber for the same thing? You are asking us to stand with a Governor who tried to disenfranchise Pennsylvania voters, and I believe firmly that that is not where this Chamber should be. There are many other more important things that we should be doing. We are wasting an opportunity to be able to do something along those lines.

And let us remind ourselves, let us remind ourselves, that there is a bipartisan agreement, bipartisan agreement in Washington, DC, to address immigration reform. It is not being advanced. And why is it not being advanced? Because you have got one person who wants to be our President again going forward, asking Members not to support it until after the election. That is wrong. That is where your voices should be. You should be addressing your voices to those folks who are not wanting to do something now to address immigration reform that will address all the things that our Members have talked about and all these various spaces that I talked about. That is where this measure should be addressed to. Not to this Governor. Not to our President. And ask the question why Congress has not done anything at this moment in time. I am going to submit my other remarks for the record. I ask my colleagues to join us in rejecting and rebuking this disappointing waste of time that we did with respect to this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. 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 Allegheny, Senator COSTA:)

Mr. President, I rise today in firm opposition to this resolution, which flies in the face of justice, law, order, and common sense. We understand that the U.S. border is in dire need of support. There is a humanitarian crisis unfolding, and we must support the officers, medical workers, lawyers, and border patrol agents as they do a very difficult job. However, we find ourselves discussing a resolution to support Governor Greg Abbott, even as a Republican Congress continues to thwart Federal efforts to resolve the crisis in Texas and across the southern border. A Supreme Court with a conservative majority made their ruling loud and clear: the border is under the purview of the President of the United States alone, and Governor Abbott must abide by their ruling. We are watching a political disaster unfold before us, with a former president calling the shots. Even so, a Republican House of Representatives failed to impeach the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Senate Majority leaders are threatening to tank a deal that would deliver money, troops, and reforms that would benefit Governor Abbott. Here is what is clear to me: the GOP does not want solutions to the border crisis; they want a circus. They want to villainize folks seeking asylum. They want unilateral control without the checks and balances that keep our worst instincts from running wild. I cannot support this resolution today. We must take this border crisis seriously and propose solutions that meet the urgency of the situation. Instead, a handful of Republicans are capitalizing on chaos for headlines and political mailers, while a preventable disaster

unfolds. I urge my colleagues to vote against this unserious and unconstitutional resolution.

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, beam me up. Beam me up. What planet am I on? What world am I living in? We are talking about public safety. When we take our oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth, center to what government must provide is public safety, national security. A nation without borders is not a nation. This is the most fundamental premise of this constitutional republic: to protect and secure our borders, to enhance public safety. To be clear, Mr. President, it may help to refresh the memory for President Biden a little bit, because under the Obama Administration, the administration where he served 8 years as Vice President of the United States, 85 percent of illegal crossings were detained. Today, that number is reversed: 85 percent of illegal crossings are being let go into this nation. So, perhaps the gentleman who resides at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue should take a look back in his past and recall what occurred under the Obama Administration.

The gentlelady from Northampton County, who I certainly appreciate her support for this resolution, posed the rhetorical question, how would we feel if we got resolutions from Texas? I would love to get resolutions from Texas, because the last time I checked, Texas's population is growing, their economy is bustling, they are prospering. I would love to get some advice from Texas on how we can do better in this Commonwealth. The Governor seems rather fixated on Ohio. Well, I think we should maybe talk a little more about Texas. So, I would love to have some resolutions from the Lone Star State.

Now, let us just be clear here, Mr. President. This is a debate that is full of tension, and I get that, and I respect that, but what do we come here to do? We come here to represent our constituents. We come here to debate the difficult issues of the moment, and whether you like it or not, whether you agree or disagree, it is universally understood that this issue is a difficult issue. And in fact, Mr. President, my understanding is that now immigration is the number one issue on the minds of voters. That is something that we must keep in mind. So, I am happy to support this resolution. It blows my mind to have some of our colleagues suggest this is a waste of time. I respectfully disagree. This is one of the most fundamental issues of our time. This is a debate that we must pursue, and the sense of the Senate has to be expressed on this issue of such gravity. I would never imagine that this issue would be diminished by some in this institution as a waste of time, and that, Mr. President, is why I feel like I need beamed up. Support this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Regan, Senator Farry, and Senator Gebhard.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Regan, Senator Farry, and Senator Gebhard. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

YEA-28

Argall	Coleman	Laughlin	Robinson
Aument	Culver	Martin	Rothman
Baker	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Bartolotta	Farry	Pennycuick	Vogel
Boscola	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brown	Langerholc	Regan	Yaw

NAY-21

Brewster	Flynn	Kearney	Schwank
Cappelletti	Fontana	Miller	Street
Collett	Haywood	Muth	Tartaglione
Comitta	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Costa	Kane	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Dillon			

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

The PRESIDENT. The resolution is adopted.

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

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

CLERK OF JUDICIAL RECORDS,
LEHIGH COUNTY

January 10, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2023, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Clerk of Judicial Records, in and for the County of Lehigh, to serve until the first Monday of January 2026, vice Andrea Naugle, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
CAMBRIA COUNTY

January 10, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2023, of Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street,

Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Cambria County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2026, vice the Honorable David J. Tulowitzki, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

January 10, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated November 6, 2023, of John Wabby, 50 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Pottsville 17901, Schuylkill County, Twenty-ninth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

January 10, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2023, of Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Bradford, Magisterial District 42-3-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Fred M. Wheaton, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

January 10, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2023, of Aaron H. Danks, 1801 North Second Street #2, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Potter, Magisterial District 55-3-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Annette L. Easton, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I move that the nominations just read by the Clerk be returned to His Excellency, the Governor.

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

The PRESIDENT. The nominations will be returned to the Governor.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Senator BARTOLOTTA, 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 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD

September 1, 2023

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, Darrell Clarke, 115 West Jefferson Street, Philadelphia 19122, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, to serve until May 18, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Mary Isenhour, Harrisburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

January 12, 2024

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, W. Russell Faber, 4717 North Galen Road, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Employees' Retirement Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Greg Jordan, Mechanicsburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

January 12, 2024

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, Gregory Thall, 165 Northgate Drive, Camp Hill 17011, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Employees' Retirement

Board, to serve a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

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

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Senator BARTOLOTTA,
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 BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I call from the table certain nominations and ask for their consideration.

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

MEMBER OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

January 12, 2024

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, W. Russell Faber, 4717 North Galen Road, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Employees' Retirement Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Greg Jordan, Mechanicsburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

January 12, 2024

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, Gregory Thall, 165 Northgate Drive, Camp Hill 17011, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Employees' Retirement Board, to serve a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

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

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

YEA-49

Argall	Culver	Langerholz	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Costa			

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.

NOMINATION TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I call from the table a certain nomination and ask for its consideration. The Clerk read the nomination as follows:

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD
September 1, 2023

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, Darrell Clarke, 115 West Jefferson Street, Philadelphia 19122, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, to serve until May 18, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Mary Isenhour, Harrisburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

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

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

YEA-49

Argall	Culver	Langerholz	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw

Costa

NAY-0

A constitutional two-thirds majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative. Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise. The motion was agreed to by voice vote. The PRESIDENT. The Senate will briefly be at ease. [The Senate was at ease.]

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Senators STREET, TARTAGLIONE, SAVAL, SCHWANK, COMITTA, HUGHES, HAYWOOD, BOSCOLA, LAUGHLIN, FONTANA, ROTHMAN, BROWN, KEARNEY, DILLON, SANTARSIERO, COSTA and KANE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 235**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of February 2024 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to offer this resolution where this body will acknowledge and commemorate the month of February as Black History Month. Schoolchildren across the Commonwealth will study about the contributions of African Americans to the history of all Americans. They will read not only about the institution of slavery, but also about all of the contributions that African Americans have made since then. It started originally in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who understood there was a dearth of information about the contributions of African Americans. It is important not only for the pride of young African American children to see themselves in history, but it is important for all other children and all other people to acknowledge the contributions that African Americans have made. This is a national recognition, but it is one that the people of Pennsylvania expect this body to move forward with. From Dr. Martin Luther King to President Barack Obama, the contributions of African Americans are diverse and an interwoven part of the fabric of American history. I ask for an affirmative vote on this important resolution, and I want to acknowledge my predecessor, Senator Shirley Kitchen, who was the first Member--I believe, 28 years ago when I was just an intern in the office--who introduced the first Black history resolution into the Senate. I thank her for her contributions and acknowledge her on this day, as she is an important part of Black history in this Chamber and this body. And so, with that, I yield to my colleague, Senator Tina Tartaglione.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, thank you, and thank you, Senator Street, for inviting me to join you to speak on this important resolution. Look, no one needs a White woman from Philly to talk about the importance of Black history and African American culture. What I will do, however, is thank Senator Street and the entire Democratic Caucus for their dedicated work in furthering and bettering the lives of our Black neighbors. Mr. President, may we use today and this month as a chance to rededicate ourselves to ensuring Pennsylvania is the most just State in our nation and that we will always work to move our Commonwealth forward.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.
The bills were as follows:

SB 801, SB 915, SB 1047 and HB 73.

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

9:00 A.M.	GAME AND FISHERIES (public hearing on the annual report from Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
11:15 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY and COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (joint informational meeting - roundtable on Pennsylvania semiconductor production and workforce pipeline)	Infina Corp. 7360 Windsor Dr. Allentown

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Independent Fiscal Office - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Corrections and Pennsylvania Parole Board - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Community and Economic Development - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Labor and Industry - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Pennsylvania Game Commission - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Agriculture - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Education - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Education - Continued - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Environmental Protection - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Human Services - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Human Services - Continued - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of State - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Transportation - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Health - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Governor's Budget Office and Department of Revenue - Budget Hearing)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

10:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing on cybersecurity of voting machines, and suggested principles for State statutes regarding ballot marking and vote tabulation)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 559, 560, 915, 978, 982 and 1054; and House Bills No. 1234, 1295 and 1661)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bills No. 1111 and 1120)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bills No. 1099 and 1101; and Senate Resolution No. 251)	Rules Committee Conference Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024

10:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 454; and House Bill No. 663)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
11:00 A.M.	AGING AND YOUTH (to consider Senate Bill No. 1018; and House Bill No. 1760)	Room 461 Main Capitol

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

9:30 A.M.	GAME AND FISHERIES (to consider Senate Bill No. 1087; and House Bill No. 1409)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

10:30 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public hearing on the Norfolk Southern train derailment on the Pennsylvania border - one year after)	Darlington Twp. Vol. Fire Dept. 3590 Darlington Road, Darlington
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,422 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage.

Just like Governor Shapiro said yesterday during his historic budget address, we need to "create the [an] opportunity economy that gives everyone a shot. In order to create this [that] kind of opportunity, Pennsylvanians need to earn a decent wage." First and foremost, I want to thank Governor Shapiro for, again, bringing attention to the horrible truth that our legislature has failed to act for 17 1/2 years to raise our minimum wage and, in turn, has left Pennsylvania behind. That long-term legislative inaction is leaving Pennsylvanians stuck in a cycle of poverty, Mr. President. And now, thanks to a new study by the Keystone Research Center called, "Who Benefits? The Demographic Impact of [a] Minimum Wage Increase in Pennsylvania," we know exactly how many Pennsylvanians would see their wages rise if we increased our poverty-level wages. This groundbreaking report unveils the profound benefits that will come from increasing our minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2026, Mr. President. The numbers are staggering. Over 1.3 million workers in Pennsylvania would see their wages rise. We would reduce poverty rates and significantly narrow gender and race pay disparities. According to a study, rural workers, in particular, would benefit from increasing the minimum wage to \$15, since a high percentage of the workforce earns under \$15 an hour than in suburban and urban areas in Pennsylvania. The report also dispels one of the most common myths we hear about raising the minimum wage and the workers who earn at or near the minimum wage: that these are just high school students who do not really need their wages raised. The findings of the report are clear, Mr. President, adults aged 20 and over with significant work experience make up 84 percent of those who would benefit from raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour; 84 percent. We are not talking about high school students and kids who are just working part-time to fill their time. We are talking about adults supporting families and working full-time. As a matter of fact, of all the workers making at or near the minimum wage in the Second Senatorial District, by 8 percent, are under 20 years old. For anyone interested in this study, they can find information on my website at senatortartaglione.com/minimum-wage. The study can help you break down the effects of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour across PA House and Senate districts as well as on a county-by-county level. Look, I introduced Senate Bill No. 12 because every Pennsylvanian should be able to make ends meet when they work full time. Let us heed the Governor's call to finally raise our poverty-level minimum wage. Our workers deserve better, Mr. President. Our workers deserve Senate Bill No. 12.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, this morning, as the chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, we held a service to honor and recognize the brave men and women who served 33 years ago in Operation Desert Storm. Operation Desert Storm began in January 1991, but the problem started on the 2nd of August 1990, when Saddam Hussein invaded and occupied, brutally, the nation of Kuwait. President George H. W. Bush responded, this will be a line in the sand, and it will not stand, and indeed it did not. American forces, as well as our allies and coalition partners, mobilized around the world to put together one of the largest coalitions in world history. As the forces built up during Operation Desert Shield to protect

Saudi Arabia, with fears and concerns that Saddam Hussein would probe into eastern Saudi Arabia, giving him control of one-third of the world's oil reserves and put our economy on notice.

Meantime, in Europe, the Soviet Union was in the final days of its empire and was collapsing with the Cold War ending, freeing up a couple hundred thousand of our soldiers as well, many of whom deployed out of Germany, including myself, to support Operation Desert Storm. The battle was fierce and quick, beginning with an air campaign on 16 January here, 17 January in theater, and with about 1,000 hours of bombardment to weaken Saddam's forces, to cut off communications, and sever command and control. And then with the ground campaign officially beginning on the 24th of February 1991. For us in the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, my own regiment, we actually entered Iraq on the 23rd of February, the day before the ground campaign kicked off, and we witnessed incredible feats happening before our eyes. One of the greatest things that was happening that was not on the battlefield, but actually in the United States, where American citizens spontaneously began praying for our troops and putting signs up, pray for our troops; yellow ribbons went on the trees to remind people of those deployed and to pray for them. As a result of those prayers, I believe thousands of lives were saved.

One of the biggest concerns that we had, of course, was Saddam Hussein using chemical weapons against our forces. And indeed, we found out that his division commanders, Iraqi division commanders under Saddam Hussein, were given authority to dump chemical toxins and poisons on our troops in Iraq once we crossed into the border area. One of the biggest things favoring Saddam Hussein in that regard was not just their experience in using chemical weapons against the Iranians and even his own Kurdish people just years before, but the wind blows from Iraq into Saudi Arabia. So, we would be downwind from the toxins. But something interesting happened when my regiment first entered Iraq on the 23rd of February at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. As our tanks entered from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, something odd occurred around me. All these dust devils popped up, hundreds of dust devils, and before my very eyes, the wind shifted from blowing in our faces to from our backs from Saudi Arabia into Iraq. Meaning that if Saddam Hussein's division commanders dumped tactical chemical weapons on us, it would blow right back on his own troops. Absolutely astounding, and I believe is an answer to prayer to the millions of Americans praying for the troops with yellow ribbons up on the trees. Absolutely astounding. The beauty of this was the wind continued on the battlefield in the opposite direction of prevailing course until 8 o'clock in the morning on 28 February, the minute the ceasefire went into effect, then it started blowing in its normal course once again. Absolutely a divine miracle by God's hand. The kind of stuff depicted on our walls here with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln does happen in our lifetimes. So many amazing stories.

One great deed that came out of this year was vanquishing the shadow of Vietnam that hung over our Armed Forces. My dad was in the Navy during the Vietnam era, and I remember one day when my dad was coming back from work and no longer wearing his Navy uniform. I was a little kid, and I was like dad, why do you not wear a uniform anymore? And I was heartbroken to hear that his base commander said we are ordered not to wear them anymore off base because we might get attacked. And, indeed, men coming home from Vietnam, landing in San Francisco, were

being spat upon, had objects thrown at them, being called baby killers. I cannot imagine that. But thanks to the professionalism of the Vietnam-era veterans, my generation did not have to experience that. And we came back celebrated as heroes, and actually, the true heroes are those who never came home, of course, those who lost their lives on the battlefield, but also, I think in a greater way, the Vietnam-era veterans whose legacy of enduring the humiliation and the judgment and disdain and having their backs turned on [by] America. They never turned their backs on America themselves. Absolutely amazing men and women and hats off to the Vietnam-era veterans. And Desert Storm seemed to put an end to that shadow that hung over our country. And then, once again, we could recognize and celebrate the Vietnam-era veterans as well. Just an amazing experience.

I had in our press conference this morning honoring our Desert Storm veterans, our keynote speaker was Chaplain James White, who was also in my regiment, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and I met him near the Euphrates River in the ancient city of Ur where Abraham is from, and I saw him there giving tours to soldiers of the ancient ziggurat and also Nebuchadnezzar's old palace. And one thing he could tell you--because he was a witness to as I was--was during the big tank battle, the Battle of 73 Easting, the last greatest tank battle of the last century, my regiment was advancing forward to the 73rd boundary line, 73rd Easting line on a map--it is an open desert, there is not a lot of terrain out there--and my squadron was--aviation squadron with helicopters--we were 10 kilometers ahead of the tank squadrons which Chaplain White was part of, and as we were leaving the battlefield to hand it over to the tanks--we were picking off enemy tanks from Saddam's Republican Guards--I call them bad Republicans--and the other armored divisions out of his forces--we were leaving the battlefield, and as the tanks we are about to engage in this fierce battle, a sandstorm out of nowhere came, settled over the battlefield, and blinded our enemy. They had outnumbered us 5 to 1, and yet because they were blinded, they are unable to effectively stop the advance of the regiment through their lines. Absolutely amazing. One Iraqi lieutenant who we captured said that they were standing by, prepared to engage us--the helicopters and F-16s had left the battlefield; we are doing the battle handover; the tanks are coming, they see our tanks coming, our Abrams and our Bradleys--and they are about to engage us when a sandstorm, the shamal, blinded them. He said they saw the flashes of our guns through the storm, though, and started shooting at the flashes. But our tanks were moving so quickly that the rounds were falling behind our tanks and in front of our Bradleys, and he said, we could not fight what we could not see. Absolutely amazing. And I believe that was an answer to the prayers of the millions of Americans who were praying for the soldiers deployed over there.

So, we owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women of Desert Storm. They changed the course of history. Sadly, many are suffering from unknown viruses just like in Vietnam, and we found out, of course, Agent Orange was a culprit behind cancer. We have the Desert Storm syndrome, which still has not been diagnosed. We wondered if it was the experimental nerve agent pills they gave us--supposedly to help us be impervious to a nerve agent attack--or the experimental vaccines that we were given, or the exposure to burn pits, or exposure to depleted uranium rounds on the battlefield. We do not know, but many of my brothers and

sisters have ill health as a result of their experience there, and of course, many have PTSD as well. So, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

But one thing I would like to highlight is Pennsylvania's contribution. Pennsylvania is the fourth highest in veterans in the nation. We are an incredible State Commonwealth. We have a great legacy, always leading the way in what is, you know, good for the nation, and I reflect upon that in this regard. Sadly, the price sometimes is high. Pennsylvania lost 15 of our men and women in combat operations; 14 of which were from one Scud attack in Saudi Arabia against a unit of troop that the men and women had deployed out of Westmoreland County; 14 of 15 of our deaths were from one attack by a missile from Saddam Hussein's Iraq forces. They were members of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, which is a [Army] Reserve water purification unit, who had only arrived the week before in Saudi Arabia. We were just getting set up to move forward to provide water to the nearly 700,000 Americans deployed in Saudi Arabia. When that missile hit on the 25th of February 1991 while we were in this tank battle a couple 100 miles north of them, this tragedy hit. In total, that unit lost 69 soldiers--I am, of course, highlighting the Pennsylvanians--14 of which are Pennsylvanians; the single most devastating attack on U.S. forces during the war there. And I would like to highlight by name and location where they are from to honor their memory. So, one of these casualties was in combat operations forward--not related to this Scud missile attack--and that was sadly, Mark Connelly, United States Army, from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was killed in action on the last day of the war, 28th of February. The remaining 14 were all lost during the Scud missile attack on the 25th of February 1991 that included: Erik Madison, from Monessen; James Walls, from Hawthorn, Pennsylvania; Eric Waldron, from Jeannette; Vincent Wolverton, from Latrobe; Thomas Boxler, from Johnstown; Brent Craver, from Penn Hills, PA; Steven Atherton, from Templeton; August Boliver, Jr., from Monongahela; Julius Siko, from Youngstown, Pennsylvania; Writner Duane Hollen, from Bellwood; Christine Mayes, from Rochester Mills; Sue Clark, from Armagh; Joseph Bongiorno [III], from Hickory; and Scott Keough, from Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. May we never forget their sacrifice.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RESOLUTION SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the presence of the Senate signed the following resolution:

HR 279.

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, March 18, 2024, at 1 p.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 2:28 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.