

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
21st Legislative Day
Thursday, March 30, 2023

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Rabbi Carolyn Braun, Temple Beth El, Portland.

National Anthem by Cristin Warner, Dexter.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Tuesday, March 28, 2023 was read and approved.

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 555)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2023 AS
NATIONAL FINANCIAL CAPABILITY MONTH**

WHEREAS, managing personal finances is more complicated and more important than ever before; and

WHEREAS, high-quality personal financial education is essential in all stages of life to help individuals better manage their money, credit and debt and to be responsible citizens; and

WHEREAS, promoting financial education will help empower individuals to make better-informed decisions, enabling them to live prosperous lives and pass on their assets to future generations; and

WHEREAS, it is important to continue providing financial education to Maine youth to help them become financially capable adults who can fulfill their dreams and aspirations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 2023 as National Financial Capability Month and recommit ourselves to promoting financial education to help people attain prosperous futures for themselves and their families.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 556)

**JOINT RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN MAINE AND TAIWAN, ENHANCE BILATERAL
TRADE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND SUPPORT
TAIWAN'S INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a robust bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership and supported by our common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and a free market economy, and our countries now enjoy the strongest relations ever; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd-largest trading partner, and Taiwan is the 8th-largest trading partner of the United States as of 2022, with United States trade in goods with Taiwan totaling an estimated \$135.5 billion in 2022, and Taiwan was the 6th-largest consumer of agricultural goods in 2022, totaling \$4.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan-Maine bilateral trade reached \$61.2 million in 2022, and Maine exported to Taiwan \$33.2 million in machinery, electric machinery and fish and other marine products, making Taiwan Maine's 18th-largest export market in the world, and a formal bilateral trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States would result in even greater Maine exports to Taiwan and create more jobs for the people of Maine; and

WHEREAS, President Tsai has expressed Taiwan's desire to reach a bilateral trade agreement with the United States, and the 116th United States Congress's Public Law 116-135, "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019," affirms that the United States should engage in strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations with Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Maine's Department of Education and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan) entered into a memorandum of understanding to strengthen and enhance educational exchange and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key transport hub in the Asia-Pacific region, making its inclusion in international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization imperative for the best interests and safety of the international community, and, in addition, Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, support a stronger United States-Taiwan relationship under the Biden administration, including the signing of a bilateral trade agreement, encourage the further exploration of ways to strengthen and promote bilateral exchange between Maine and Taiwan, including signing a driver's license reciprocity agreement with Taiwan in the near future, and support pursuing ways to further increase trade and people-to-people exchanges; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we support Taiwan's legitimate right to participate in international organizations, agreements and mechanisms; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States, the members of the Maine Congressional Delegation, the Honorable Janet Mills, Governor of Maine, the Honorable Tsai Ing-wen, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Honorable Jonathan Sun, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, Massachusetts.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 115)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 20, Ch. 5, Part 679, Subpart A, §679.110 (b)(2) of federal law, I am pleased to appoint Senator Mike Tipping to the State Workforce Board, effective the date of this letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 116)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 28, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 7, MRSA, Chapter 5, Section 125, I am pleased to appoint Senator Henry Ingwersen to the Board of Agriculture, representing a Senator serving on the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

Senate President

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 117)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 28, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRS 420-B, I am pleased to appoint Senator Brenner to the technical advisory group for the Surface Water Ambient Toxic monitoring program. She will serve as the Senator on the committee having jurisdiction over natural resource matters.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 118)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 28, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint Senator Stacy Brenner to the Maine Climate Council, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate. This appointment is effective the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please let me know.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 112)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 30, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 689 An Act to Study the Construction of a Nuclear Power Facility in the State

L.D. 905 An Act to Expand Energy Choice Through Municipal Utilities

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 278 An Act to Require Health Plans to Cover an Annual Mental Health Wellness Examination

L.D. 350 An Act to Prevent Dog Breed Discrimination by Insurance Companies

L.D. 706 An Act to Improve Access to Specialty Health Care Providers by Reducing Copayments

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

L.D. 434 An Act to Protect Landowners and Increase Safety on All-terrain Vehicle Trails by Increasing Funding to the ATV Recreational Management Fund

L.D. 929 An Act to Allow Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License Holders to Hunt Any Deer as a Part of Their Lifetime License

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

L.D. 65 An Act to Require That Printing Services Provided to the General Public by the University of Maine System Be Provided at Market Rates

Judiciary

L.D. 506 An Act to Improve the Child and Family Court Process by Increasing the Number and Duties of Family Law Magistrates

L.D. 716 An Act to Assist Nonprofit Service Providers

L.D. 1043 An Act to Create an Office of Ombudsman to Help Nonprofit Organizations in Their Interactions with the Government

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 26 An Act to Provide Postage Prepaid Return Envelopes to Voters Who Send Absentee Ballots by Mail

L.D. 737 An Act to Prohibit Government Contracting Organizations from Influencing Elections

L.D. 812 An Act to Assist Clerks in Facilitating Elections and to Improve Access to In-person Absentee Voting for Working People by Increasing Time for Absentee Ballot Processing and In-person Voting

L.D. 845 An Act to Require Labeling and Signs to Warn Consumers About the Harmful Effects of Cannabis on Animals

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 113)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

March 30, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:
on March 28, 2023

Carolyn C. Gilbert of Cape Elizabeth for appointment to the Maine Public Utilities Commission.
Pursuant to Title 35-A, MRSA §105, this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 114)

STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

March 30, 2023
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Housing has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Malon of Biddeford, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 638 Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority to Study Strategies for Improving Abandoned Properties and Developing Housing Infrastructure

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Enhance State Oversight of Water Use and Water Resources"

(H.P. 937) (L.D. 1441)

Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Representative BELL of Yarmouth, Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, COLLINGS of Portland, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JAUCH of Topsham, MALON of Biddeford.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Standard Procedures to Protect Stalking Victims and Access to Certain Criminal Complaints"

(H.P. 934) (L.D. 1438)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Representative: RECKITT of South Portland.

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand Access to School Construction Funding"

(H.P. 911) (L.D. 1415)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, MALON of Biddeford, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Elementary and Secondary Education System by Clarifying Purposes and Procedures for Reviews of Schools"

(H.P. 916) (L.D. 1420)

Sponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough, Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York.

Bill "An Act to Provide Funds to the Maine Indian Education School District"

(H.P. 917) (L.D. 1421)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, COLLINGS of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DODGE of Belfast, PERRY of Calais, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, TERRY of Gorham.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Hold School Employees Civilly Liable for Failure to Notify Parents Regarding Medical Issues of Students Under 18 Years of Age"

(H.P. 906) (L.D. 1410)

Sponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, DRINKWATER of Milford, PAUL of Winterport, SAMPSON of Alfred, WHITE of Guilford, Senator: KEIM of Oxford.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested.

On motion of Representative BRENNAN of Portland, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Reduce Maine's Dependence on Fossil Fuels and Carbon Footprint for Energy Production Using Waste Wood Fuel"

(H.P. 904) (L.D. 1408)

Sponsored by Representative THERIAULT of Fort Kent.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, FOSTER of Dexter, WARREN of Scarborough, ZEIGLER of Montville.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Authority to Consider the Impact on Low-income Residential Ratepayers When Setting Rates"

(H.P. 923) (L.D. 1427)

Sponsored by Representative ZEIGLER of Montville.

Bill "An Act Requiring the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Promoting Renewable Energy"

(H.P. 927) (L.D. 1431)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Adoption of Sector-specific Greenhouse Gas Emissions Limits"

(H.P. 907) (L.D. 1411)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BOYLE of Gorham, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JAUCH of Topsham, WARREN of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act Concerning Single-use Disposable Water Bottles and Water Refill Stations"

(H.P. 914) (L.D. 1418)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, JAUCH of Topsham, LOOKNER of Portland, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: INGWERSEN of York.

Bill "An Act to Exclude Pegmatites from the Definition of 'Metallic Mineral'"

(H.P. 929) (L.D. 1433)

Sponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, BRIDGEO of Augusta, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, LANDRY of Farmington, Senators: BLACK of Franklin, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Poverty by Increasing Access to Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Programs"

(H.P. 933) (L.D. 1437)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Representative: Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested.

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Estate Recovery and Planning for Long-term Care"

(H.P. 902) (L.D. 1406)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representative: FAY of Raymond.

Bill "An Act Regarding State Review of Compliance with Licensing Rules of Certain Facilities and Programs Having National Accreditation"

(H.P. 913) (L.D. 1417)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: MADIGAN of Waterville, MATHIESON of Kittery, SACHS of Freeport, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: BAILEY of York, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance"

(H.P. 922) (L.D. 1426)

Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HASENFUS of Readfield, MADIGAN of Waterville, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, SARGENT of York, Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Treatment for MaineCare Recipients with Serious Mental Illness by Prohibiting the Requirements for Prior Authorization and Step Therapy for Medications" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 924) (L.D. 1428)

Sponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Navigator Position in the Department of Health and Human Services for Families and Children Involved in the Foster Care System"

(H.P. 925) (L.D. 1429)

Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, MADIGAN of Waterville, PERRY of Calais, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, KEIM of Oxford, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Resolve, to Amend the Funding Formula for Reimbursing Nursing Facilities Under the MaineCare Program (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 926) (L.D. 1430)

Sponsored by Representative RUSSELL of Verona Island.

Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MORIARTY of Cumberland, MORRIS of Turner.

Bill "An Act to Promote Family-centered Interventions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment"

(H.P. 935) (L.D. 1439)

Sponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, PERRY of Calais, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, SUPICA of Bangor.

Resolve, to Increase the Availability of Community Children's Behavioral Health Services by Providing Training and Career Opportunities for Behavioral Health Professionals

(H.P. 936) (L.D. 1440)

Sponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, PERRY of Calais.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Requiring Insurance Companies to Cover the Care of Expectant Mothers in Adoption Cases and Provide Notice of That Coverage to Pregnant Women"

(H.P. 900) (L.D. 1404)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, HENDERSON of Rumford, PERRY of Bangor, QUINT of Hodgdon, WHITE of Waterville.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Code Regarding Payments by Health Insurance Carriers to Providers"

(H.P. 903) (L.D. 1407)

Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

Cosponsored by Representatives: PRINGLE of Windham, ZAGER of Portland.

Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

(H.P. 908) (L.D. 1412)

Sponsored by Representative RECKITT of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, DHALAC of South Portland, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, PERRY of Calais, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SARGENT of York, SUPICA of Bangor, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Involvement of Adopted Youth in the Determination of Continuing Financial Support Under the Adoption Assistance Program"

(H.P. 910) (L.D. 1414)

Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Calais.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, GATTINE of Westbrook, MADIGAN of Waterville, RECKITT of South Portland, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Limits on Awards for Compensatory and Punitive Damages Under the Maine Human Rights Act"

(H.P. 919) (L.D. 1423)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Representatives: MOONEN of Portland, O'NEIL of Saco, ROEDER of Bangor, SHEEHAN of Biddeford, Senators: BAILEY of York, CARNEY of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Access Protections by Allowing Remote Meetings to Be Recorded"

(H.P. 921) (L.D. 1425)

Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, HASENFUS of Readfield, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LANDRY of Farmington, NUTTING of Oakland, QUINT of Hodgdon.

Bill "An Act to Reduce Commercial Sexual Exploitation"

(H.P. 931) (L.D. 1435)

Sponsored by Representative RECKITT of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LOOKNER of Portland, SARGENT of York, SUPICA of Bangor, TERRY of Gorham, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Provide Remedies for Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation"

(H.P. 932) (L.D. 1436)

Sponsored by Representative RECKITT of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, STOVER of Boothbay, SUPICA of Bangor, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Promote Minimum Wage Consistency by Limiting the Authority of Municipalities Regarding Minimum Hourly Pay"

(H.P. 899) (L.D. 1403)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Cosponsored by Representative: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro.

Bill "An Act to Inform Fair Minimum Rates of Wages and Benefits in Bids for Public Contracts Using State and Federal Data"

(H.P. 915) (L.D. 1419)

Sponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.

Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, GERE of Kennebunkport, SKOLD of Portland, Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Remove the Age Requirement for Correctional Staff Retirement Under the 1998 Special Plan"

(H.P. 920) (L.D. 1424)

Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GERE of Kennebunkport, PRINGLE of Windham, SALISBURY of Westbrook, WARREN of Scarborough, Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, POULIOT of Kennebec, TIPPING of Penobscot.

Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services"

(H.P. 918) (L.D. 1422)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, COLLINGS of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, LOOKNER of Portland, MEYER of Eliot, PERRY of Calais, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, TERRY of Gorham.

Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** suggested.

On motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility Restrictions for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 940) (L.D. 1444)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GIFFORD of Lincoln, HEPLER of Woolwich, STROUT of Harrington, THORNE of Carmel, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.

Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hires First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality"

(H.P. 905) (L.D. 1409)

Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond.

Cosponsored by Representatives: HASENFUS of Readfield, HEPLER of Woolwich, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATLACK of St. George, MILLETT of Waterford, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Racial Impact Statements"

(H.P. 928) (L.D. 1432)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Recognize an Association of Early Childhood Educators as an Educational Advisory Organization" (H.P. 938) (L.D. 1442)

Sponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Recall Process for Public School Board Members"

(H.P. 939) (L.D. 1443)

Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: GERE of Kennebunkport, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Change How Adult Use Cannabis Excise Tax Is Calculated"

(H.P. 901) (L.D. 1405)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, PERRY of Bangor, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SUPICA of Bangor, Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Establishing a Property Tax Stabilization Program for Senior Citizens"

(H.P. 909) (L.D. 1413)

Sponsored by Representative RUSSELL of Verona Island.
Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, O'CONNELL of Brewer, WORTH of Ellsworth.

Bill "An Act to Abolish the Maine Income Tax and Establish a Zero-based Budget"

(H.P. 930) (L.D. 1434)

Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: DUNPHY of Embden, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Guilford.

Bill "An Act to Enact a Seasonal Sales Tax to Provide Income Tax Relief to Maine Residents"

(H.P. 941) (L.D. 1445)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, GALLETTA of Durham, HEPLER of Woolwich, LANIGAN of Sanford, PERRY of Bangor.

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Increase the Percentage of the Population Required to Submit a State Referendum Question

(H.P. 912) (L.D. 1416)

Sponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town, EATON of Deer Isle, STOVER of Boothbay, TERRY of Gorham, THERIAULT of Fort Kent.

Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 15)

ORDERED, that Representative James A. Boyle of Gorham be excused Mar 21 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Danny Edward Costain of Plymouth be excused Mar 23 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Caldwell Jackson of Oxford be excused Mar 16 and 21 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Jane P. Pringle of Windham be excused Mar 16 and 21 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll start by saying what Rabbi Braun alluded to; today is opening day. Some of us have our red socks on. But today is the first time since 1968 that all 30 Major League Baseball teams will take the field today. The flag will fly and our National Anthem will be played, flyovers will be flown, and then they'll play ball. But going back a few years after 1968, the last time all the teams took the field, it was 1973. And that was a date that was marked yesterday by a 50th anniversary with Vietnam Remembrance Day. Of all that served in our military, all gave some and some gave all. And with our Chief Executive's permission, I asked if I could restate her proclamation today from yesterday and with your permission, Madam Speaker, I'd like to read it.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you. WHEREAS, March 29th, 2023 marks the 50th Anniversary of when the United States Military last left Vietnam and the final group of American prisoners of war were freed; and

WHEREAS, 48,000 men and women from the State of Maine served in Vietnam, while an additional 16,000 Mainers were serving worldwide during the Vietnam War Era; and

WHEREAS, the names of 343 Mainers who laid down their lives are etched on the black granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and 11 of our young men are still missing in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine joins the Nation in recognizing Vietnam veterans by setting aside March 29th as Vietnam War Remembrance Day; and

WHEREAS, on this day, we remember and honor those who selflessly served, who gave the ultimate sacrifice, who were wounded and live with those scars daily, and those who are still missing in Southeast Asia; we will never forget you; and

WHEREAS, we want to convey a hearty welcome home and thank you to those who never heard it and declare that we are very proud of you and your service to your country and to the State of Maine;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, does hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 29, 2023 as National Vietnam War Remembrance Day throughout the State of Maine and the Chief Executive encourages all Maine residents and citizens to recognize this observance.

Madam Speaker, we see a black MIA flag that flies on a lot of flagpoles in the State of Maine and across this country and as long as there are those that are still missing, we remember those who are missing in action. And to go back 50 years ago for some of us in this gallery to that age, I was nine years old in 1973 and others did other things and were at different ages and some will just hear stories of what '73 was like. But I appreciate your opportunity to share this with the House today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I was a freshman legislator in State and Local Government Committee in 2011. We worked on our very first bill, it was about whether we should have the whoopie pie be the State dessert. I had worked long and hard to gain my seat in the Legislature and I was really quite bummed that that was what we were doing. But the next bill we heard

was on whether Maine would have a Vietnam Veterans Day in the State of Maine, and I was never so moved. I was in tears through much of that Committee. People came before us and talked about how they were spat upon as they got off the airplanes. It was so sad and so painful and I'm so happy to say that we as Mainers said we needed a State to honor our Vietnam veterans.

I want to thank you, Representative Thorne, and to all the people who served. I was probably around your age as well. My brothers were too young to go to Vietnam, and I too young to go to Vietnam, but I remember it. I remember. So, thank you, Representative Thorne, I want to thank the Chief Executive for the Proclamation and thank all of us and all Mainers. Please honor Vietnam veterans. They gave their lives, their souls to us.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I was old enough at that time to be dealing with what then was a draft and in college and all those different things that had an impact on us as the next generation. I was fortunate enough to have enlisted and did my time, but was never deployed into what we all feared was the jungle. One of the classmates in my graduating class, when he enlisted, jumped into the Army and got deployed. He was killed 90 days after he arrived. Those that lived through that time knew we needed to do our part but what was our part in such a deployment? And we've since come to find out that maybe it wasn't the right thing to do but we did it anyway. So, if there's interest in adjourning in the memory of those people who did serve and did die, it would be a great benefit to the State of Maine. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from South Portland, Representative Reckitt, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **RECKITT**: I'm grateful, too, Madam Speaker, to Representative Thorne for his remarks today. I feel a need to raise up two people to this group. First was a student of mine when I taught at Southern Maine; at that time; Vocational Technical Institute, a young man named Gordon Tibbetts. I think he was from Boothbay, I know he was from the mid-coast. He was my student in Marine Biology and he lobstered in the morning and then came to school and often nodded off during class. He wasn't the brightest student but he was one of the nicest young men I'd ever met. But one day, I went to Washington D.C. to see the wall that has been referred to today and I saw my student, Gordon Tibbetts' name on that wall and I cried. I'm crying again. He was a good young man. But I'm crying particularly hard today for one of my best friends in the whole universe of my life named Thomas Keller, a retired police lieutenant from Portland. We were friends for almost 50 years. He went to Vietnam, served, he was one of those people that picked up the wounded from the field from a helicopter. Miraculously came home alive but two years ago last month, he died from the remnants of his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam and died of bladder cancer and my heart broke. A wonderful man. And it was with him that I was able to expunge what I call my survivor's guilt because I didn't go to Vietnam, there was no draft for women, I was in college. I didn't have a draft number to worry about but many of my friends did and I lost a lot of friends there and I just really felt the need to say Tom's name here today because I loved him dearly and I hope that most of you don't have somebody you feel this way about vis-à-

vis Vietnam but if you do, my heart is with you. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

In accordance with House Rule 519 and Joint Rule 213, the following items:

Recognizing:

Brady Saunders, of Brewer, a student at Brewer High School and a member of the boys basketball team, who recently scored his 1,000th career point. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 208)

Presented by Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer.

Cosponsored by Senator LYFORD of Penobscot, Representative PERRY of Bangor.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thanks to my colleagues for their powerful sentiments. I am rising today for a different purpose, which is to offer tribute to the Brewer High School Witches who defeated my own Falmouth Navigators a few weeks ago to win the Class A Boys Basketball State Championship. And I do so with thanks to the Representative from Brewer, Representative McConnell, for agreeing to dispersion of our wager; oh, what did I say? Sorry. Representative O'Connell, for agreeing to dispersion of our wager instead of a prior one where I would've had to sing the National Anthem.

So, on behalf of House District 11; or 111; I did it again; I send a hearty congratulations to Coach Goodwin and Coach Pushard and all the Brewer Witches on an outstanding last-minute one-point victory, bringing home the gold ball for the first time in their program's history. And I honor all of our student athletes who bring so much pride to our communities. We send our best wishes to the Witches and in the words of Falmouth's Coach Halligan, we look forward to the rematch next year. We plan to be there. Congratulations.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative O'Connell.

Representative **O'CONNELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. First off, we had a challenge. So, she met the challenge. I thought she did pretty well. Everybody thinks she did okay? I hope. Okay. I'd like to give her a Brewer coin, thanking her for that challenge. Please stand up. Thank you. I appreciate you. It's tough being number two.

I want to thank the young gentlemen up in the balcony. They made me proud. Proud of their commitment to what they did. The high school is proud, very, very proud and very happy for what they did. What they did will be; it's a great memory. It's something they'll talk about at their 50th high school reunion. Something their children will talk about. Their grandchildren will say hey, grandpa, tell me about that gold ball on the mantle. So, with that being said, I just want to let you know that the City of Brewer appreciates what you've done because with that gold ball, we are now brighter than any other number two team out there right now. So, thank you very much for what you did. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Recognizing:

the Kennebunk High School Debate Team, which won the Congressional Debate division of the Maine State Speech and Debate Championship Tournament, with team member Anne Murer winning the individual state championship. This was the first in-person state championship held since the 2019-2020 debate season. The team, led by seniors Anne Murer and Renee Bergeon, was undefeated in Congressional Debate for the entire 2022-2023 season. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to the members of the team participating in the statewide meet: Jillian Elkins, Renee Bergeon, Annie Murer, David Rush and Isaac Kahn;

(HLS 211)

Presented by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York, Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Since I started serving in the Legislature, I have gained even more respect and appreciation than I had before for the art of debate. In debate competitions, participants have to speak both for and against an issue, including the side that they do not agree with personally. You have to put yourself in the shoes of someone else and think through the issue from their point of view. You have to identify the facts and tell a compelling story that supports your side, while at the same time you consider what the other side will counter with so that you can be prepared with understanding. And you need to do all of this with grace, if you can, while under pressure and in public. It sounds like great preparation for public office to me. So, I am thrilled to recognize and congratulate the Kennebunk High School Debate Team for their success in arguing with respect and contributing to the practice of civil discourse in our democracy. Thank you.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Refer to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Pursuant to Public Law

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Delegating Authority for Services Performed by Emergency Medical Services Personnel or Others as a Medical Assistant"

(S.P. 563) (L.D. 1396)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 587, section 3.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-9)** on Bill "An Act to Include a Representative of Newspaper and Other Press Interests on the Archives Advisory Board"

(S.P. 72) (L.D. 133)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay
ABDI of Lewiston
COPELAND of Saco
DHALAC of South Portland
PAULHUS of Bath
RISEMAN of Harrison

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-9)**.

READ.

Representative STOVER of Boothbay moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the pending motion and would like to just indicate that having heard this in committee, we didn't find it necessary, we found it unnecessary and, furthermore, didn't like the idea of having an even-numbered board so that way in the event that there was a tie, there was no tiebreaker. And for those reasons, I will be voting against the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 13

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine,

Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Hymes, Riseman, Sheehan.

Yes, 80; No, 63; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-9)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-9)** in concurrence.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Lower the Environmental Impact of Consumers, Increase Food Safety and Strengthen Consumer Choice by Ending the Ban on Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags"

(H.P. 258) (L.D. 425)

Signed:

Senators:

BRENNER of Cumberland

CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach

BELL of Yarmouth

BRIDGEO of Augusta

DOUDERA of Camden

HOBBS of Wells

O'NEIL of Saco

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

WOODSOME of Waterboro

READ.

Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The previous ban on single-use plastic bags was yet another example of the espousing of one ideal then taking action opposite that ideal. Single-use plastic bags were not banned because they were some great threat to the environment; they were banned because they were a visual nuisance, because they were ugly, because they were the squeaky wheel and because they made people think they were doing something. Despite dozens of studies to the contrary, despite numerous reports from environmental agencies, despite guidance from the UN's own environmental program, that single-use plastic bag bans were not the best option. Despite hundreds of pages of submitted evidence, we again run the risk of being duped into thinking that a ban on plastic bags is good environmental policy.

The truth is that by every metric in a lifecycle analysis among all carrier bags but one, visible litter, every metric like acidification, eutrophication, land use, water use, human toxicity, methane and other greenhouse gas emission and even fossil fuel usage when considering the increase in production energy and transportation to point of use, single-use plastic bags are actually the best option if one actually cares about the environment. They are the best use option for someone who actually wants to do more than pay lip service, that is. They are 43 times better than a paper bag, 7200 times better than a mixed-fiber bag, 20,000 times better than the cotton bag. These are not my numbers; they are the numbers from multiple universities, governments, environmental groups, the UN, even CNN. They are the numbers from entities willing to look honestly at the real cost of producing those other bags, just not the State of Maine. Additionally, multiple studies from the University of Arizona, Loma Linda University, and the United Nations have shown that more than 50% of reusable bags consistently test positive for either coliform or E. coli, contributing to the more than 70,000 cases of food poisoning in the United States each year. I am encouraging bringing Maine on board with those that look honestly at supporting and protecting our environment and our natural resources, not just pretending to care about the environment. I am supporting a yes vote on this bill to actually protect our environment.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Gramlich.

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carryout plastic bags by retail sale. This bill was opposed by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Audubon Society, the Maine Municipal Association, Eco Maine, the Maine Grocers and Food Producers and the Retail Association of Maine, to name a few. In 2019, when this law to ban single-use plastic bags was initially passed, the Retail Association worked side by side with their members, the Natural Resources Council of Maine and others to ensure retailers would no longer use single-use plastic bags. This law offers consistency for retailers and consumers and protects our environment by eliminating plastics. I urge you to support the

pending Ought Not to Pass motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise to oppose the motion. This ban on single-use plastic bags is something that's kind of come around but it was endorsed by different elements of those who don't want to see the plastic bags in the trees and the Retail Association. And the Retail Association was in support of the ban because each community was doing it individually and they just wanted it to be statewide. Well, the ban has done nothing to keep plastic out of our trees. As I drive back and forth to Bangor every day, I still see the single-use plastic bags. But if you happen to go out of this building and look up in the tree, there's a string of plastic in the tree now.

When I was opposed to this ban long ago, I would count the plastic from here to Bangor and I had a whole list of plastic. But guess how many single-use plastic bags there were. Most of them were sheetrock mud drums, sheets of blue plastic, strips of plastic in the trees. They're still there. So, the ban on these, for which most everybody, if you look on that bag, it says 80% recycled product; 80% is how they make those plastic bags, of recycled product. They're recycling these bags. And I'll bet most everybody has a sleeve on their doorknob at home with all the plastic bags in them. My sleeve is empty. I don't have plastic bags to put stuff in. So, thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to oppose the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 14

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Hymes, Sheehan.

Yes, 80; No, 64; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-15)** on Bill "An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 80) (L.D. 112)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford

READ.

Representative ROEDER of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. When this bill came before us, I voted Ought Not to Pass because we, the members of the Labor Committee, voted unanimously to raise the cap on retirement for our struggling teachers to \$40,000, at a price tag of \$743 million. I was thinking at the time that perhaps not adding another \$10 million to the price tag of helping teachers would encourage the Appropriations Committee to look favorably on LD 112. Now that I realize the likelihood of that not being funded, I will be voting in favor of this bill and will encourage this Body to show an overwhelming support of our teachers. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'd like to reiterate what the Good Representative from Milford said and I also want to thank the Good Representative from Belfast for bringing this forward. You know, and I share her frustration that these things never seem to make it into the biennial budget and yet we have to have it as a separate item on our committee. So, I'll be voting for the Majority Report. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion. This bill supports our retired teachers. It is a cause that's near and dear to my heart. This bill is very worthy of going forward to the Appropriations Committee and I emphatically endorse my colleagues to vote yes on the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 15

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Blier, Boyer, Boyle, Bradstreet, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Cray, Crockett, Cyrway, Davis, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Eaton, Faulkingham, Fay, Fredericks, Gattine, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hobbs, Jackson, Jauch, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, Lanigan, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Madigan, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, Ness, Newman, Nutting, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, Perkins, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Pringle, Quint, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sampson, Sargent, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Terry, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, White B, White J, Williams, Wood S, Woodsome, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Carmichael, Dunphy, Foster, Libby, Morris, Paul, Swallow.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Hymes, Sheehan.

Yes, 137; No, 7; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

137 having voted in the affirmative and 7 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-15)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-15)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

Majority Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)** on Bill "An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 257) (L.D. 424)

Signed:

Senators:

ROTUNDO of Androscoggin
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
COLLINGS of Portland
FAY of Raymond
GATTINE of Westbrook
MATLACK of St. George
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

BLIER of Buxton
CARLOW of Buxton
DUCHARME of Madison
MILLETT of Waterford

READ.

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House, today I rise to urge you to support LD 424. Moving forward this piece of legislation is the most important business we have been sent here to do and I don't say that as an exercise in hyperbole, Madam Speaker. "An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government," known more informally as the budget, has far-reaching consequences. This legislation will affect every department in State government. It affects our public school classrooms; every single one; our hospitals, our transportation, our State employees and our teachers. In the end, the State budget will impact every single person here in Maine and if we pass it today, we eliminate the specter of a State shutdown, we provide predictability for our communities, our businesses, our schools and our municipalities and we govern as voters have asked us to, Madam Speaker; responsibly.

Today, we have the opportunity to pass part one of the Legislature's budget, also known as a continuing services budget. A continuing services budget funds both the baseline of established State operations and the salaries of current State employees and additionally, the set of budget initiatives that are required to fulfill previously enacted statutory obligations. That is what we are here to do. And to be clear, continuing services makes some pretty incredible investment in Maine people and Maine businesses and it also stays well below the statutory appropriations cap. This is a responsible budget, Madam Speaker, that strengthens Maine's economy while working within existing resources.

Beyond efficient governance, part one of our biennial budget continues critical investments in education, behavioral health care, substance use disorder treatment, property tax relief and investments in our child care workforce. It fulfills our promises to Mainers to meet our commitments to our State's municipalities, ensures critical funding for long-term care facilities and nursing facilities and contains much-needed investments in mitigating climate change. And as we pledged,

it is pure and simple continuing services budget. The measures it contains do not add any new initiatives or taxes. Ultimately, it builds upon the good work that has been accomplished and continues our history of responsible fiscal management of the State's resources. It is a bill that each and every one of us can be proud of. It contains ideas from both sides of the aisle and represents some amazing, thoughtful, bipartisan work done by all of our different policy committees, including the wonderful bipartisan members of the Appropriations Committee.

Madam Speaker, a vote for LD 424 means that you support funding our schools at the 55% level, bringing stability to our schools and communities in the midst of their budget process. A vote for LD 424 means you support \$262 million of tax relief. A vote for LD 424 means you support critical programs for health care workers, child care providers, farmers, veterans and teachers. A vote for LD 424 means you support programs for homeless youth, free meals for all school children, environmental protections and increased support for foster families. A vote for LD 424 means you support certainty for our communities, good and thoughtful governance and the ability to move forward and discuss new initiatives and programs in the next phase of the budget process. I urge your support for LD 424. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harrison, Representative Riseman.

Representative **RISEMAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to pose a question to the Speaker, if I could?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **RISEMAN**: Could you tell me what the total dollar amount of this proposed LD is, please?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In reference to the Member's question, this is approximately \$9.885 billion at last count.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Perhaps the math is off, but I have a number of \$9.96 billion net general fund cost.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 16

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Morris, Ness,

Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White B, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Hymes, Sheehan.

Yes, 81; No, 63; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative SACHS of Freeport **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-14) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT House Amendment "A" (H-14) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair calls on the Representative from Sanford, Representative Lanigan.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Yes, sorry, I had a question. Thank you, Madam Speaker, Members of the House, I had a question. I'm not seeing the language on this. Is this taking out the \$200 million in tax; I just didn't know who would answer that.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the negative.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Okay, thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think there is a bit of confusion. I thought the Good Representative from Freeport had asked for a roll call on this vote and I'm not sure it was requested.

The SPEAKER: A roll call is in order. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: So, yes, there was confusion. A roll call was asked for, so, a roll call is in order?

The SPEAKER: A roll call is in order. The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: So, my question would be that this amendment strips the emergency?

The SPEAKER: The Chair answers in the affirmative. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the pending motion because this amendment jumps to a foregone conclusion that this bill doesn't need an emergency and the constitutional intent here is that we're supposed to come together on a two-thirds budget and pass it in an emergency, so, I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of House Amendment "A" (H-14) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 17

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine,

Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Hymes, Osher, Sheehan.

Yes, 79; No, 64; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-14) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) was ADOPTED.**

Representative MILLETT of Waterford **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative MILLETT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to finish what the Clerk started to do in reading a very brief amendment so that it is very clear to all of you exactly what Amendment "B" proposes to do. It adds six lines by creating a new section called U, which would be on page 411 of this document that we are now debating and it simply contains these words; it is the intent of the Legislature that the budget next enacted after enactment of this Act by the 131st Legislature affecting the 2024/25 biennium, must include structural individual --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Member may proceed.

Representative MILLETT: Let me back up. It must include structural income tax relief that primarily benefits low-income and middle-income individuals and families beginning in tax year 2024 with a 2024/25 general fund biennial cost equal to \$200 million. My caucus and I, personally, feel very strongly that the message being sent by this amendment is in honor of and an appreciation for the many people who are struggling to make ends meet returning to the workforce in the months and years after the pandemic, when many people were involuntarily laid off and businesses closed and people had to struggle to put food on the table for themselves and their families. It was wrong then and, luckily, we've seen a resurgence in recent months. However, it's taken almost two and a half years to get back to an employment level comparable to that pre-pandemic. And many people are now finding it difficult even to return to the workforce and we feel that a signal should be sent to them that we value their work, that work is an important part of raising a family, that if you live by and understood the connotation of Maine being the best place in the country to live, work and raise a family, you can understand that connection that I agreed to and felt strongly about for years.

So, work is important and when people join the workforce and they try to do their best to earn enough to support themselves and their families, they are not only trying to meet a financial goal but a moral goal of applying and teaching their children and their spouse that it is important to contribute to the Maine economy by being a valued laborer/worker at any level because of the dignity of work itself. So, we are now in the months following the second of two payments to the people who were displaced, many of them losing their jobs, \$850 for an inflation payment last summer and fall, \$450 that recently concluded for the winter energy problems that inflation has caused for all of us. We in our caucus; and I will digress in a moment, Madam Speaker, because you played an important role in bringing together a very important group of this Chamber a couple of weeks ago. And I'll get to that in just a second. But I think the value of work should not be simply rewarded by an occasional check that arrives in the mail and it's gone. And it's gone without any real clear message to it. What we'd like to do here with this amendment is to convey a structural intent to those folks who are in the lower- and middle-income brackets that we want you to continue to work and that we are committed to helping you do so by giving you structural tax relief that you can utilize by keeping more money in your pocket and your household budget. I think that's a goal that is shared by many people, not just Republicans. I believe that it is shared by many in this Chamber tonight.

So, back to two weeks ago, Madam Speaker. Following the weekend in which I'm sure that the Chief Executive on the second floor made inquiries of my House Chair from Freeport and many other members of the Appropriations; how are you coming? And I responded by saying; we're working well. We have a lot of work ahead of us. This was on the 12th and 13th of March. She invited me and my co-lead on Appropriations to a meeting on the morning of the 13th and she planted the seed for the first time in my earshot; would it help if we were to work together through that week and the week just closed trying to get to a bipartisan budget that didn't involve the entire \$10.3 billion? Simply saying in the old days, and some of you remember that, there are some here that served in the years that we had a part one and a part two budget, where part one was simply the cost of keeping the store open, current services. No growth, no expansion, no new staff, no new programming. And that assignment was then laid out in a joint meeting with our presiding officer, her counterpart on the other end of the hall, all members of leaderships, the Chairs and leads to Appropriations and appropriate staff. And I listened closely to the discussion at that time and the Chief Executive actually opened by invitation, saying there is a risk here. If we only focus on getting to a current services budget, what happens and when do we get back to the table and finish the job? And she asked for input from people around the table. This was in the cabinet room, with a very nice light showing lit hopeful, the one that emanates from the Lewiston artist who embodied that message on the top of some closed mill sites. And she asked what would you like to see if you could frame the next step, part two of this process. And immediately, I heard comments from people saying well, affordable housing is beyond the reach of many people who would like to get into the workforce. It's definitely missing in many areas of the State where jobs are going wanting because there's no place to bring a family, no place to live. A second comment was I think we need to do a better job of making sure that child care is available so that folks who were struggling with kids at home and no child care during the pandemic months could return to the workforce with assurance that their children would be cared for. Others said let's do something about paid

family leave. My leaders brought up the question or the comment let's do something also to show that we value those workers by giving them more money left in their pockets when they finish their work assignment, whether it be weekly or biweekly or at the end of the year when they file their taxes, let's see if we can't reward them with something that's ongoing.

And it seemed to me, and I've said this to you, Madam Speaker, before and I appreciate your willingness to listen, that sent a lightbulb to me saying okay, if we wanted to work together, could we create an environment where not only the people we have here in Maine now but those who might look to coming to Maine by moving, by those who are here legally as immigrants, asylum seekers, allowing them to get back into the work; which I think, and I'm pretty sure I know, many of them want to do. By building a network of services in a priority way that recognizes, appreciates and rewards work.

So, that's the spirit and the intent of what I read to you. Let me tell you what it is not. It is not a design to interfere with the \$9.885 billion package before us tonight. It is not an appropriation, it's not an allocation, it's not a Statute. It's a six-line piece of language called legislative intent regarding structural income tax relief. It is an attempt by members of my leadership and caucus to reach across the aisle and say could you join us in meeting something called an intent down the road after we probably get the revenue forecast on April 28th, saying to each other how would we best meet this goal. If you buy the goal, how do we best meet it? And my sense is that there is enough intelligence in this Chamber, I'm sure of it, with people who have served on the Taxation Committee, including my seatmate, the Representative from St. George, Representative Matlack, who is serving on both the Taxation and Appropriations Committees, the Majority Floor Leader from Gorham, Representative Terry, who served on that Committee repeatedly, two members of the leadership here also have experience on Appropriations. In an environment where we, to coin a word, a phrase, if we decided to work together, could we not assign to those two Committees with experienced people and leaders at the table and come up with something that would approximate a commitment down the road, not tonight, but a promise that we would begin that process of looking at a way to reward people who value work. I believe it could happen. I believe it is important that we think about it.

I'm reminded of my first gubernatorial appointer, a gentleman from Lewiston named Jim Longley, who campaigned and won his election by looking everybody in the eye and saying, think about it, thus, I guess I'm making a plea, probably; it's not the eleventh hour, probably closer to midnight; to see if any of you are willing to join us with that opportunity to look at each other and say how do we get there, how do we do this where we can send that message clearly in the months and years ahead.

So, that's my message, and I have to say in explaining my old-fashioned conscience and desire to be consistent, the reason I voted yes on accepting this bill, it was in the form of emergency, which I committed to for two weeks to get to and failed at the last moment, and the reason I voted against the repeal in House Amendment "A" I'd like to keep it as an emergency because it is important. We are sending a message. We're saying that this is important and I would like to keep it on the table in that bill going forward with the knowledge and understanding and hope; I guess, I'll ask that as a hopeful request; that some of you might be willing to join us in that effort.

I'll close, Madam Speaker, once again thanking you for not only being a player but a solid and continuing listener to our point of view, our leaders, myself and remind all of us of the words

that were said every time we came together from the day we were sworn in to your inauguration, to the State of the Budget, to the State of the Judiciary, to the State of the Tribes and to every morning's pastors who have admonished us on multiple occasions; please work together. Thank you.

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that **House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12).**

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, there's no way that I can articulate the reasons for voting yes for this amendment better than my good colleague from Waterford but I do have to rise and speak in favor of this amendment and in opposition to the pending motion because all the debate before and after this amendment on this budget hinge on the importance of this amendment, in my mind.

This amendment seeks to commit \$200 million in tax relief to our most vulnerable families being crushed by record-breaking cost of living. Low- and middle-income wage earners need to be able to keep more of their hard-earned money, especially those making under \$50,000 a year. This relief would help earners but especially earners on the lower end of the pay scale. These people who can least afford to pay historic prices of energy, fuel, food, medicine and necessities for day-to-day living.

Our proposal, the one before you, is just 2% of the taxpayer money in this budget. We must support Maine workers. Reducing income taxes for lower- and middle-income people is a modest, reasonable price for generating a bipartisan budget. Maine is the third-highest tax burden State in the country. Madam Speaker, this is my third term in the Legislature and in my first two terms, there has been a lot of bitterness in the Chamber. That is a bitterness that I have not felt this Session. We have come in here and it's a new day in the Legislature. The last three months have honestly been a joy in this place. There are new leaders on both ends and a new Speaker. The day we elected you to Speaker, Madam Speaker, we cast one vote. It was a sign of unity that I have felt every day since then. There's been optimism and joy in this building that I haven't felt in five years.

Madam Speaker, I don't want to see that go out the door. This is a modest proposal of tax relief for low- and middle-income people. We can work together. We can keep this thing on the rails and, Madam Speaker, I thank you for trying. You've been there, you've opened your door to me, you've listened to me over and over, even up until today, a few hours ago. But I told you then I won't stop and I won't stop now. I'm making one final plea to my colleagues; please join me in voting yes on this amendment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, having just now read this amendment for the first time, may I pose a question to the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LIBBY:** Thank you. Madam Speaker, I would like to know; clarify here; as I read this amendment, it

does not appear to provide immediate structural tax relief to Maine citizens. Can someone please clarify that for me?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who can answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fort Kent, Representative Theriault.

Representative **THERIAULT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I did not anticipate that I was going to rise and speak on this but I felt like I had to as a first-term legislator, somebody who has a lot of respect for this branch and a lot of respect for you, Madam Speaker. We had a bipartisan group of legislators head to northern Maine a few weeks ago and I felt that same spirit that my leader was just talking about. And I think we have an opportunity here to not let this rest of the year go in a way that is going to make it very challenging for all of us to work together. I feel like this is a very open-ended proposal.

I was elected by both Republicans and Democrats and Independents this past election season and I ran people over politics. And that resonates with people back home. What resonates with people, the message that voters continue to talk about and as we explore this amendment was; can't you just work together? And I see glimmers of hope as I have conversations with Members from both sides of the aisle. I see the glimmers of hope but I also see how easy it is to get stuck in the old ways of the past. And so, I have to ask myself, Madam Speaker, which direction are we going to head? Are we going to head towards a future where new legislators feel like they have a place here where they can speak and represent their constituents? Low- and middle-class families is why I'm here. I'm very fortunate to come from a family who started with nothing. My grandfather was working on a farm, left school at third grade, second grade, he can't read or write. These are the sort of people that we have to answer to when we go back home. And so, I just have to ask Members from both sides to put people over politics. Let's come together. And I'm especially talking to first-term legislators who maybe feel like they have to go one direction or another. We have a chance here to come together. Let's take the step we need to take. This is what I'm fearing is the final straw. No matter what happens, I have a commitment to work together with colleagues from both sides of the aisle but it's just important that I speak today because if I stayed silent, it would bother me for the rest of the Session. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I understand that there's a motion on the floor essentially to end debate and that's what I'd like to speak to just for a moment. I think we've already heard some people who would really need to be heard on this and I think ending debate on this at this juncture would be a big disservice to the Body. So, I urge us all to vote against the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Terry.

Representative **TERRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Members of the House, I rise right now to reiterate my commitment to providing relief to low- and middle-income Mainers, including working families and older Mainers who are on fixed incomes, many of them are still struggling to make ends meet. I know that Members of this Body are firmly committed to doing that important work as well and I thank my Colleague from Waterford for continuing to have the conversations of ongoing relief. However, this amendment is at the time just not the best approach to accomplish that goal. This continuing services budget that we are preparing to vote for is

about simply ensuring that we meet our responsibility as a Legislature to fund the basic services needed to keep the lights on in Maine for the next two years.

I am very proud of the tireless work and countless hours that leadership from both caucuses have put in at this point, which continued until around 1:00/1:30 this afternoon. But any new relief initiatives are better to be discussed in the coming weeks and months, when we have the time and space to really dig into what we should do to ensure that we are meeting the needs of Maine families. We will also have an updated revenue forecast available in May which will help us make these decisions with the most up-to-date information. I'm excited and committed to the work that lies ahead and to engage with all Members of this Body to work together to find solutions that provide relief to the Mainers who need it most and I feel rest assured that we'll be able to do this together. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Madam Speaker, may I pose a question?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: If we have time to move forward, why are we doing this now? That's my question.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Lookner.

Representative **LOOKNER**: Madam Speaker, I wanted to rise in opposition to the amendment and in support of the motion to postpone this. So, I think our State, we need to recognize the tremendous need we are faced with when looking at the services that our State provides and how imperative it is for us to pass this budget now and looking at, you know, the desperation that's out there among our State's youth, the lack of services that are out there for helping kids on the street who can't rely on their families to help them. Those are vital services that our State can provide that would be hindered and it would hurt the lowest-income Mainers to pass tax relief on this level without raising revenue elsewhere.

So, I cannot support this amendment and I don't want to belabor the point, I just think that, you know, if we were really serious about helping low- and middle-income Mainers that we've got to raise the revenue elsewhere and look at the need that's out there because what we're doing now isn't cutting it. So, I look forward to working with everybody in the future to provide for low- and middle-income Mainers. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 18

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Hymes, Osher, Sheehan.

Yes, 80; No, 63; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly **House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative SACHS of Freeport **PRESENTED House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12).**

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'd like to post your attention to a small technical change, which is what this amendment is. It changes the mill expectation pursuant to Maine Revised Statute Title 20-A, Section 15671-A for fiscal year 2023/24. This is regarding our school funding. The mill rate is decreased from 7.29 to 6.97. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Alfred, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question through the Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member may proceed.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Would we be able to get the total amount of what that amounts to, please?

The **SPEAKER**: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This does not change the appropriations of LD 424 at all.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Alfred, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you. I'll be a little more specific, Madam Speaker. This amendment is speaking to the mill rate. I'd like to know the amount that this will reflect, in this change, specifically. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member has posed a question through the Chair to any Member wishing to answer the question. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My understanding is this shifts the cost from municipalities back to the State for their share by about \$42 million, but I'm sure my good friend, the Representative from Alfred can double check that with the Department of Education. But I would like to stress, Madam Speaker, that this does not impact the appropriations amount in LD 424 at all. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 19

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Blier, Boyer, Boyle, Bradstreet, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Cray, Crockett, Cyrway, Davis, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Eaton, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Fredericks, Gattine, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hobbs, Jackson, Jauch, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRoche, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Madigan, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Morris, Murphy, Ness, Newman, Nutting, O'Neil, Parry, Paul, Paulhus, Perkins, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Pringle, Quint, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sampson, Sargent, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, White B, White J, Williams, Wood S, Woodsome, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Hymes, Lanigan, O'Connell, Osher, Sheehan.

Yes, 141; No, 0; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

141 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly **House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) was ADOPTED.**

Representative HENDERSON of Rumford **PRESENTED House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It is no surprise that I stand before you today in opposition of LD 424. I, however, offer an amendment that would make this budget more equitable. That is the removal of taxpayer-funded abortions. It is inequitable to force Mainers to fund abortions against their will. Forcing Maine taxpayers to fund abortion marginalizes hundreds of thousands of her citizens and it uses State funds to end unborn lives. This is clearly an injustice against Maine's most helpless citizens as it allocates funds away from services that are nonviolent and that provide life-affirming support for our women and their families. We have heard the amendment that would provide tax relief to low-income taxpaying families. That amendment was not adopted. I stand needing this Body to recognize that in doing so, we are taking taxes from Maine's economically vulnerable families and weaponizing that money to be used against Maine's most vulnerable citizens.

I could, Madam Speaker, in closing, use familiar statements such as I urge my colleagues or I compel them to support. But, instead, here on the largest stage of the State of Maine, having done all to stand, I stand. I stand for the lives of our unborn Mainers, Mainers who will never have a name, Mainers who will never have a heritage, Mainers who will never have a people. I stand for those who will never know a mother's love or a father's pride of accomplishment. And I stand in opposition for those being forced to foot that bill. I stand for truth.

I cannot support a bill that forces its citizens to pay for the taking of one innocent life, let alone thousands. Madam Speaker, I don't urge my colleagues, I can't compel them, so I won't ask. I, however, stand and allow the consciences of my colleagues to determine whether or not I stand alone. Thank you.

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that **House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12).**

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can I continue?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you. I rise in support of this amendment. In 1994, a prominent United States Senator said; those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them. That Senator was Joe Biden. Then, he was part of a strong bipartisan coalition defending the pre-born and protecting pro-life Americans from coercion and force to violate deeply-held convictions. Today, we are facing a majority budget which ignores the concerns of a vast number of Maine citizens. I have heard that my colleagues across the aisle believe it is acceptable because the majority wins, right? Well, I wish for the sake of consistency we all would want the majority voice to be heard in regard to taxpayer-funded abortion as well.

In poll after poll, it shows the majority of Mainers and Americans do not agree with taxpayer-funded abortion on demand. One recent poll found that 62% of Maine voters oppose this, along with 34% of self-ascribed pro-choice voters. Mainers are afforded religious protections in both the U.S. and Maine Constitutions. Do we want our State to be the place where the right of conscience and the religious liberty of our people are trampled in sacrifice to political ideology? Mainers who believe life is a gift and that we are created in the image of almighty God, deserve to have choice afforded to them as well. I wonder what has happened to the abortion lobby that demanded that government keep out of women's reproductive rights. People have the right to give freely to causes that they support and those who wish to fund abortion can choose to do that. However, Mainers should not be forced to have their hard-earned tax dollars used to take the life of a precious, irreplaceable, priceless pre-born baby.

Abortion does not end a pregnancy; birth ends a pregnancy. Abortion ends a life. The constitutional right to life should no longer be allowed to be violated by stripping religious liberty of the people of Maine through taxation that requires them to violate their conscience. All human life is constitutionally entitled to protection. The science says life begins at conception, whether personal opinion agrees with that or not. A United States Senate Judiciary subcommittee invited experts to testify on the question of when life begins. Some of the world's most prominent scientists and physicians testified to a U.S. Senate Committee that human life begins at conception. Professor Matthew Roth of Harvard University Medical School said it is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive. It is scientifically correct to say that individual human life begins at conception. Our laws, one function of which is to help preserve the lives of our people, should be based on accurate scientific data. Other scientists from Harvard, Rutgers,

Columbia, the Mayo Clinic and many more renowned scientists and experts believe and have testified to life beginning at conception. Even Dr. Bernard Nathanson, internationally known obstetrician and gynecologist who was a cofounder of what is now the National Abortion Rights Action League, otherwise known as NARAL, resigned from his lucrative position. Nathanson wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine that he was deeply troubled by his increasing certainty that he had in fact presided over 60,000 deaths. Let's follow the science, uphold the Constitution and preserve religious liberty by passing this amendment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know we all hear the I did not intend to rise. However, I can only say that the Good Representative from Rumford does not stand alone. I could never vote for any budget that would put in taxpayer-funded abortion and I speak on behalf of many of my constituents who are very concerned about this issue. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 20

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Paulhus, Perry A, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmursal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White B, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Gere, Hymes, O'Connell, Osher, Perry J, Sheehan.

Yes, 76; No, 64; Absent, 10; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly **House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Representative may proceed.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Maine is one of the highest tax states in the nation but, unlike many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, I actually don't support a \$200 million tax cut. As we contemplate a \$10 billion budget that has a \$2 billion increase overall, a \$200 million tax cut is a joke. And this budget has spit in the face of Maine people refusing even that. This amendment changes the designation on vehicle registration plates from Vacationland to

Taxationland. And that might sound tongue-in-cheek, Madam Speaker, but I'm not laughing. This amendment speaks to the reality. We are chasing the next generation out of our State. We are taxing our elders out of their homes. We are telling businesses not to come to Maine because our State government with its insatiable appetite for more and more and more demands too much of our citizens. This Majority and the Chief Executive are plundering the Maine people to advance an agenda that continues to harm Mainers, brainwashing our fellow Mainers to continue to vote for a Majority that bullies them, that steals their money to pay for programs that benefit the few so as to continue the stranglehold. This amendment allows for transparency and honesty, for our license plates to reflect the reality that Mainers face; the fact that Maine has long since ceased to be Vacationland for those who permanently reside here and is, in fact, Taxationland. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that **House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12).**

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 21

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, Nutting, O'Neil, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Poirier, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Woodsome, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Andrews, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Gere, Hymes, O'Connell, Osher, Sheehan.

Yes, 81; No, 60; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly **House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) as Amended by House Amendments "A" (H-14) and "D" (H-18) thereto was ADOPTED.

Under suspension of the rules, the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading.**

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) as Amended by House Amendments "A" (H-14) and "D" (H-18) thereto.**

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, today is a sad day for me. I feel sad, hurt, and frustrated for the people of Maine, for the people I represent. As you know, I have my son with me today. Something I've always taught him is the importance of teamwork and collaboration. This carries into all areas of life but is particularly important in the creation of policy. Any of us that have survived the COVID legislation sessions know how difficult it was to create cohesive working environments when we were separated by the Zoom screens. This Session has been so much better, or so I thought. I experienced great conversations with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, understanding that we don't always agree but we all have the same goal to do what we feel best meets the wishes of the people we represent. Passing this bill today takes that great progress and, to me, it feels like it's being flushed down the drain. As if I can't be trusted to have the best interests of my constituents at heart.

When I ran for office, I ran to give a voice to the voiceless because I felt as though I didn't have a voice. I didn't want anyone to feel that way. I make every effort to answer every email I've received so my constituents know that their voice is important to the decision-making process. Madam Speaker, I received a lot of emails with opinions from my constituents, whether I agree with them or not, but I have not received one email that has asked me to support this bill. Not one, Madam Speaker. With all of this in mind, I cannot support the pending motion. I cannot in good conscience vote in favor of a piece of policy that has created, basically, leaving out over 44% of the people we represent from this process. How can I teach my son and the future generation of legislators that it is important to work together to create good policies for the people of Maine if I vote in favor of a bill that didn't include that kind of collaboration I always discuss with my students? Madam Speaker, I ask that you follow my light and please oppose the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET:** Thank you, Madam Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. The path we are apparently about to take does not bode well for this Body or the State of Maine. Make no mistake about it, regardless of what sort of terminology one chooses to use, this is a Majority budget. It is just that because some people have lost sight of the fact that each one of us has been elected to do what is right for the State of Maine. Those who choose to ignore the Minority's input on what is supposed to be our biennial budget, are not ignoring just us; they're ignoring the hundreds of thousands of good, hardworking citizens we represent. Up to now, we've heard a lot about bipartisanship, from the Chief Executive, to our legislative leaders, to us rank-and-file members. I guess that message has just disappeared into the mist.

In all of our committees, we've heard a lot about diversity, equity and inclusion. I'd like to remind our colleagues across the aisle that that includes us as well. If these are to be our guiding

principles, they need to be observed not just when it feels good but also when it's difficult. Are these just platitudes or do they have real meaning? Our actions today will go a long way in answering that question. The question I have is, if you don't want to talk with us about a \$10 billion budget, then who do you want to talk with? Are they people or groups or special interests or are they people who have been duly elected to represent their constituents here in Augusta? Many of us would like to know.

The bipartisan process and working together to formulate a State budget that best serves the State of Maine has long worked well here in Maine. Even with all the disagreements we may have had, we eventually come together with compromises where necessary to come out with a product almost all of us could support. The action that we are apparently about to take is a taint on that process and the resulting budget will thus also be tainted by ignoring a whole group of lawmakers who even now hope that we can return to the meaningful negotiations even at this late time. I hope we all understand that the contention we've had that this will avert a government shutdown is a complete false premise. In our caucus discussions, we have even stated that we want to avoid a government shutdown at all costs. It is an argument that is baseless.

So, what should we do? I urge all of my colleagues to search your consciences. Is ramming a Majority budget through something you wish for your legacy? It won't be our legacy. Because that's exactly what is happening here today. Passing this Majority budget despite all the rationalizations you may come up with to do it will leave a dark blot on this Legislature and yes, even on the current Administration. I implore each of you to vote against this pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and all Members of the House. I would like to express the sincerest of thanks to a colleague across the aisle that just yesterday evening expressed honest emotions and an honorable wish for the outcome of today's budget decisions. His willingness to go out on a limb and engage in thoughtful conversation along with respectful listening still gives me hope. And, by the way, it was a four-to-one ratio, he was in the minority sitting at a table with us. During our conversation, I expressed my wish for our work in the House. I wish for people on both sides of the aisle to join together more often, to show a willingness to discuss, compromise and make decisions that represent all citizens, not just the Majority party.

This Majority budget is an insult to every Maine citizen that was not heard from through the elected official's voice. When I decided to run for office, I struggled with how I was ever going to be able to effectively be a voice for the diverse membership in my district. Integrity, a value I wanted to keep at the forefront of my work. I came to the conclusion that if elected, I would approach my work in the same manner that I did in advocating for each of my students and their families for which I served every day. I was elected by unenrolled Democrats and Republicans. My job is to serve the people of my district, not a single political party.

Today, we are forced to move forward with a Majority budget. Not a budget established by all the State's elected Representatives, but a budget being forced on us by the present majority party. A huge percentage of the people elected to serve the State on their constituents' behalf have been completely cut out of the process. All of us in this Chamber know the consequences of partisan work. Campaign after campaign

claimed the importance of bipartisan work, yet here we are with a partisan budget. Bottom line, I was elected to serve my district and to work collaboratively in order to be effective. The people of Maine have been loud and clear that they are tired and completely fed up with partisan behaviors. Yet, here we are today being shut down and silenced by one party, the Democrat's majority budget. My wish and that of so many others completely destroyed. The voices for local control, less layers of government, and specific tax relief for our State's lower and middle class have been silenced. This is such an unfortunate situation for so many of our State's citizens.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, I've seen this play out in the past where inflation rates go up, cost of living goes up. In fact, Madam Speaker, this week, 200 jobs were lost in Old Town. We are sliding into stagnation, which is then followed by recession, when you cannot balance the State budget. Just to remind the majority that you will own that, if and when that happens, I don't wish that on anybody. This morning, Madam Speaker, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. And in that pledge, it says to the Republic for which it stands. What does a republic do? Well, it protects the rights of the minority. Our Constitution requires two-thirds to pass a budget. Why is it, Madam Speaker, it recognizes that the minority must be included in the process? The slogan in the 131st is diversity, equality, inclusion. Madam Speaker, today, equality is not allowed in this Chamber. What is about to happen is the majority is saying equality be damned. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This will be my sixth budget that I've done from the time I got elected and I spent all six terms on the Transportation Committee. What's amazing to me is in this budget, which goes from roughly \$8.6 billion two years ago that we passed to, as my good friend from Freeport said, \$9.885 billion and counting, which is roughly \$1.2 billion more in spending. And we hear the verse continuing services budget. \$1.2 billion more in spending. And as I said, as my sixth term on Transportation, and there was a great commitment from the Chief Executive in her budget, out of that \$1.2 billion of new spending, no transportation money. There was a commitment of almost \$400 million and out of \$1.2 billion, none for our roads and bridges. None for transportation.

My first budget that I voted on in 2011, in the 125th Legislature, was just over \$6 billion. I think the number was \$6.013 billion. This budget is almost \$10 billion and by the time we get done, maybe \$10.5 or \$11 billion once we get the second part. That's a 40-plus percent increase in spending on a population of 1.3 million in 2011 and a population of 1.3 million now. We've increased the spending around \$4 billion for 1.3 million people and no money in this budget for our roads and bridges. Sometime in this Chamber, we're going to actually make changes that fund our roads and bridges, but I don't see that happening when we spend \$1.2 billion in one year since the last budget and don't put any money for highways and bridges and our transportation in that. Madam Speaker, there's no way I could support this bill with that in mind and I'm hoping most of my colleagues on an ongoing basis realize that we need to spend some money on our roads and bridges. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fort Kent, Representative Theriault.

Representative **THERIAULT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As I said in my earlier speech, I was elected to represent all of my constituents. About 70% of them are Independents and Democrats and through this process, I've realized that while the rationale behind this is making sure the government doesn't shut down, I'm realizing that it's about not really getting the voice of the minority. And so, on principle, I'm going to be voting no on this budget, not because of the important services that are in it but because on principle we have, Madam Speaker, the best leadership that we've had in what sounds like years and there's been a rush to pass this budget through. A rush to not listen to the voices of all Members of this House. And I fear it's going to signal to voters that when times are tough and we can't have conversations, that we need to go our separate ways. And that is not what I would want my kids, which I don't have but someday I will, that's not what I want my kids to take away when they look at this speech someday and see what we were doing in 2023.

Passing a budget that is supposed to go through with two-thirds with a consensus, where everybody walks away feeling frustrated, that's what government was set up; government was set up so that when people came together, they left frustrated, feeling like they had to give up something because what's good for southern Maine is not good for northern Maine and vice versa. So, I feel obligated just to point out for the constituents back home that there's important things that are in this budget that I do support and I wish I could support but I cannot support this budget because of the tactics that were used, unfortunately, to railroad the process that should be the way we conduct ourselves and the way I hope someday our kids and our grandkids who sit in these chairs maybe can learn what it's like to feel like you've given up something to make sure that your neighbor sitting across from you feels like they've walked away from the negotiation with something. Right now, I'm unfortunately feeling like a 3% tax cut in a \$10 billion budget was somehow too much and so, I have to go back home and tell my constituents that they didn't have a voice today in Augusta.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise in opposition to this bill. My first instinct was to bring the budget and read it in its entirety. I didn't do that. I believed we were negotiating in good faith. To blow up the process and ram a Democrat-only budget through because you don't think you can work with us is disingenuous. Mainers need tax relief, not partisan politics. \$200 million; that was what was asked for. That was less than 2% of the budget. This was a tax cut for lower and middle class and misleading the public and outright lying to the public that we are asking for a tax cut for the wealthy is inexcusable. The Maine people deserve better from their Representatives at both ends of the building. Vote down this budget and let's get back to negotiating. We have until July 1. We're still in March.

But let's talk about a couple of things in the budget that I'm against. Taxpayer-funded abortion; needs no explanation. What about the hundreds or even thousands of unfilled positions to pad the accounts of departments to spend without oversight? If they haven't been filled for over a year, we don't need them. How about health care for illegals when we have Mainers in need? Just to name a few. When I first came to this Body in '18, I'm in my third term now, the budget was about \$7.5 billion. That's more than a \$2 billion increase in four years. That's over

20%. This is the second time the budget has been rammed through in my four years. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I urge everyone to vote no.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier.

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When the Good Representative from Waterford gave his speech and completed it, I had tears in my eyes, just like you did, Madam Speaker, because we know how important what he was trying to portray is. It's my first year on Appropriations and I know that you worked really hard to keep negotiations alive and bring a bipartisan budget together. And while I was in there, the Good Representative from Freeport came in and she says I know what you want, Representative Blier, you want tax reductions. And for the whole time, all winter long, she would agree as well that we were working together. And at the last minute, the rug got pulled from underneath us. And I can't understand why. Because we didn't change what we wanted. We still wanted tax reduction. The same amount. What happened? What happened to us working together? Now we're here today and you know what, what we're asking for is not even 2% of the budget that we're going to spend. Not even 2%. That's the scraps on the table. If you have people that are starving and you won't even give them the scraps at the table but yet you say you're for the Maine people? What about all our constituents? Aren't they part of Maine? They don't even get a voice. This is sad. It's really sad what we've come to. It's all about winning. You guys have been winning 39 out of the 40 years and you're going to keep on winning. Good for you. And our constituents will never have a voice. What about them? This is not about winning. This is about serving the people of Maine and the people of Maine we serve as well. All we're asking is for the scraps on the table so our constituents can get a little bit of something because we've been starving for years. Thank you. Please follow my light.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind the Members that you cannot question the motives of other Members or impugn their character.

The Chair reminded all Members that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other Members of the House or impugn their character.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. When I first ran, I came to this Body soon after huge turmoil. We talk about a State shutdown. Well, the State shut down before I came. It shut down to reform Worker's Comp. It shut down because the State was out of control. Under the leadership of the Good Speaker from Eagle Lake, there were some shenanigans going on. Seen by; little bumper sticker I had; my father's barn; John Martin didn't know. Give me a break. But I'll tell you one thing about that Speaker from Eagle Lake, he respected the process. My first term, the 93/94 budget passed with 101 votes always before. That's 1992. The budget then; we all talk about being here a while and how the budget was this and now it's that, well, then the budget was \$1 billion over revenues. \$1 billion. But the budget was rolled back to existing and previous expenditures of 3.125. Thirty years, \$3.125 billion, and now we're looking at \$10 billion.

I'm going to tell you a little story about then, which was two terms later, and me being in the corner. I was in leadership. So, similar to what I'm hearing about negotiations up until Thursday or Friday last week, things were going well. As leadership, we

were in the Speaker's office 30 days straight, working really hard, really hard to come together. During that time, we would go over to a newbie Governor's Mansion for breakfast. It wasn't a great breakfast, it was pretty much granola, but we broke bread together. We were all working really hard. So, after those 30 days, one morning at breakfast, the Chief Executive sitting at the head of the table and the rest of the Legislative Council and all leadership was sitting there and the Chief Executive started shaking his finger. If you Republicans don't start dealing and negotiating with the Democrats, I will. Guess what? One day later, he did. And that was the first simple majority budget.

So, there's been a question; why now? Just like then, we were negotiating very well together. Just like now, Madam Speaker, heard good things about the negotiations that were going on until Thursday. That means the budget is coming along very well and with the new projections coming 30 days from now, we're in a whole lot of way to getting to that 101 well before that late night in June back with the Good Speaker from Eagle Lake where we were scrambling for that number one vote. We've got 100, we've got 100, we need one more vote. And it happened. Well, why now? Just like then, the simple majority wants to do it without the minority. The Good Speaker from Eagle Lake had respect for this institution and it only takes one to break it down. I'm assuming, Madam Speaker, it wasn't you. We appreciate what has gone on until Thursday. Just like that breakfast, if you don't, I will. That's what happened. Why does it happen, especially now where we've made so many advances with the Appropriations, both sides of the Committee, and okay, there's a few more dollars coming, so, why can't we wait for that 101? Two months before it's necessary. Back then, oh, wow, we can do this, let's pull on some little glitch that we can come up with. We are a lot farther down the road than we were in 93/94. And the simple majority has been studying how to do this for a long time. We're that close to be able to do it the way the institution meant; 101. All of us. This is sadder than that time in 93/94 when all of a sudden somebody thought about it. It appears that somebody's been thinking about this for a long time and it's sick, it's sad and it's a blight on this institution. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, every year since 1943, students from as far south as Kittery and as far north as Fort Kent have traveled to this place for a weekend and they've sat in these chairs and for a few days they debate ideas in a great reenactment of the legislative process. I mention this because on November 14, 2015, I had the privilege of attending this historic educational program. I was a sophomore in high school at the time and I had introduced this bill which was approved by my friends and peers in this Chamber but which had subsequently failed in the other Body. As the sponsor of this bill, I was appointed to a Conference Committee which was formed to find common ground between the two Chambers. This was my last chance to save my bill and I was determined to do it. But my friends from the other Body came to the Committee proposing language that completely altered the bill that I had written. And so, in a fleeting moment of ill temper, I threw my hands in the air and I said, there clearly will be no deal made today. I turned around and I walked back to this Chamber, I sat down in the very chair that I would return to just eight years later during my first term, and I looked around this space and I contemplated the meaning and the purpose and the dignity of this institution. And I felt so sincerely disappointed in myself for what I had just done, or rather what I had just failed to do. Predictably, my bill died in

nonconcurrency, but the lesson that experience has taught me is one that I have held on to and one which I would like to impart on this House today.

This lesson, of course, is that it's unwise to walk away from negotiations prematurely. And to do so again in this Chamber will bring the Body down a path from which we likely will not recover. There's always a deal, always a compromise if we can summon the statesmanship to settle our disagreements. That's what the people demand and that's what legislatures in years past have consistently, consistently delivered. That's what this House has delivered twice already this Session. Nevertheless, this Body has arrived yet again at a fork in the road and if the majority of us simply say, there will be no deal made here today, then this institution constituted to protect and serve the people of this State will have effectively disenfranchised hundreds, hundreds of thousands of them.

Why are we here? When the Chief Executive came to this Chamber to provide her State of the Budget address, I counted 26 bipartisan acclamations in support of her proposed budget initiatives. Investing in public education, strengthening our infrastructure, and the mitigation of PFAS, just to name a few. That's a bipartisan applause every two and a half minutes. Not a bad start.

So, why are we here? My Republican colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee and our leadership were negotiating in good faith, our desire for tax relief for low- and middle-income Mainers had been well-established since the night of the Joint Convention. After all, the State has been collecting billions more than we need to fund government over the last several years. The Republican tax cut plan was eminently reasonable, constituting less than 2% of the entire budget, while having a considerable impact on the people back home who desperately, desperately need relief.

Why are we here? We are here, I believe, because someone, somewhere said there will be no deal made here today. Madam Speaker, it is when bipartisanship is most difficult that it is most essential to the mission of this institution and the partisan peril we may be about to invite inside this Chamber will forever damage it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I apologize for rising a second time. I thank you for this. In all the conversations we've had today, I'm reminded of just earlier today, we were meeting in our Labor and Housing Committee, and I hope we weren't doing that when we weren't supposed to be. We were there. And I sponsored a bill which I introduced, LD 855, you can look it up if you want to, it's "An Act to Provide that the Minimum Wage Increases by the Rolling Average of the Cost of Living of the Previous 3 Years." And that's a wordy title but what I'd like to point out is that the Department of Labor spoke against that bill and this is one of the arguments that they made, the points that they made. They said the purpose of increasing the wage by the cost of living is to help workers maintain the purchasing power of their paychecks, especially in times when the prices of necessities are rising rapidly. The effect of this bill would be to delay increases in the minimum wage. And I'm thinking back, I was going to speak in favor of the Good Representative from Waterford's amendment but I didn't get a chance to do so, but this speaks to the same thing. That \$200 million, about 2% of our budget, could go into the pockets of people who desperately need it. And I don't see how anybody in good conscience could object to that. We hear it over and over; they need the money. Voila, here's the way to

do it. Why should we object to that? I hope that you would follow my light and vote against this Majority budget. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise just to comment as the lead on the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee for the minority party that we don't have the same problem that my fine colleague the lead on Transportation has. We're not worried in EUT about money that's not in this budget because we don't have to worry about the taxpayers of Maine funding what we do. Everything we do in our EUT Committee doesn't have to go through this process, it automatically goes to the ratepayers of Maine. So, I can tell you that I am not concerned that there's not money in here for the energy portion in the budget. But I will say this; as you recall, monies that were negotiated for by the minority to give tax dollars back to the people of Maine who had sent them more than what was needed here for us to spend here in Augusta was labeled as relief for your energy needs, to help pay your heating and your electric bills, although that wasn't really what that money was coming from, it was money they had sent here in the first place to cover things like this budget or the budget preceding it. But we sent that money back to them because, guess what, because of what EUT has done over the years and because what Vladimir Putin has done and what the federal government has done, at least constituents in my district needed that relief.

And for just one moment, I will speak to what the fine leadership on this side of the aisle had negotiated with leadership on that side of the aisle to try to gain a very small return of taxpayer money to those who are most in need, the low- and middle-income working people of Maine. If that money doesn't go to them, please keep in mind you're going to need to help them out even more with their heating and electric bills in the days to come. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in opposition of the pending motion and I just wanted to say and echo what the Representative from Buxton and the Representative from Orrington stated; it's a sad day. Today is a sad day. And not just because the Red Sox lost 10-9 to the Orioles. It's a sad day because I enjoy being a legislator. I enjoy my committees, I enjoy my colleagues. Sorry. It's very disappointing that we have to have this day and these dissertations.

I go back to Carmel and Hermon and I'm afraid they're going to call me Chicken Little because I make it sound like the sky is falling, that I'm ineffectual, that I; 80-63, 81-63, 79-64, 80-63, 81-60. To explain to non-legislators what it's all about that we vote and we lose. When do we lose? Every time we vote. And I don't want it to be that way but I listen to the experts that have the appropriations, the ones that have the tax committees that convey to us where we are. Nobody up in House District 35 said Representative Thorne, see if you can go down there and increase our budget, our State budget, by \$1.2 million; \$1.3 billion. Nobody said that to me but yet that's what we're happening. And I ask them if I asked you a multiple-choice question, do you want your taxes to go up, do you want your taxes to stay the same or do you want your taxes to go down? Obviously, C is the answer. People want their taxes to go down. But yet here we are, Madam Speaker, talking about spending more. And the thing about budgets are once they go up, they

don't come down. I urge you to follow my light and vote down the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are here today voting on a budget that should not be before us on March 30th. This is a perversion of the constitutional process and it's made possible by a loophole that is rarely used and, in fact, only used by one party since the Civil War. But since it is before us today, we should address the realities instead of the altruistic picture that's being painted in the media.

This Maine budget should not be increased and it certainly should not be increased by \$2 billion. In 2019, the baseline budget was \$7.98 billion. In 2021, the baseline budget was \$8.5 billion. Now, in 2023, we're looking at a \$10 billion budget. This budget is playing games with Mainer's hard-earned money. It's like that carnival game where you go and they put something under a cup, they hide it and then they shuffle the cups around. If we shuffle the money around, maybe Mainer's won't get it. But I tell you what; this process is not fooling me and I don't think that it's fooling our fellow Mainer's. For the first time in our State's history, this budget is going to be over \$10 billion. Now, before someone stands up to correct me and rebut that, the fact is we all know that this is a partial budget. There are supplemental budgets coming right behind this \$9.96 billion budget, as that is the net general fund cost, and that will take it well over the \$10 billion mark. In fact, if this budget were to follow the legitimate process, it would be the \$10.3 billion budget that the Chief Executive first proposed.

So, let's stop playing games, being disingenuous with Maine people and call a spade a spade. If you go to buy a used car and it's marked \$9,900, you know that when you drive it home, you're paying well over \$10,000 by the time you pay taxes and fees. The same here with this budget and the supplemental budgets to follow. At the end of the day, this is a \$10 billion budget. That's a historic budget. And I don't use the word historic in a good context. This is not the kind of historic that I would advertise having voted for. We must stop growing the State budget while Maine families' budgets are shrinking. Their budgets have not increased, so, why should the State budget be increasing by \$2 billion? Are Mainer's lives better off than they were five years ago? Absolutely not. How audacious to increase the State budget by \$2 billion when our citizens are cutting back in response to record inflation and a recession. I cannot be the only person hearing from constituents struggling to pay for groceries, for electricity, for heat. We are facing extraordinary inflation that hasn't been seen before in my lifetime but this budget recklessly ignores that fact. Have we all forgotten, this is not our money. We are to be stewards. This is Maine taxpayers' money.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair has given great latitude today and I will once again remind the Members you cannot question the motives of other Members or impugn their character.

The Chair reminded all Members that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other Members of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Member will proceed.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will not reference memories again. I will remind us all that this is Mainer's money and the people in my district are not working overtime to put food on their table so that we can spend their money recklessly. I asked our fellow Mainer's to share what changes they have made in their family budget over the last year

or two in order to make ends meet. If we are going to spend their money, we should at least listen to their words.

Misty said as a stay-at-home mom who homeschools my kids, I actually started working outside the home. It's a minimum wage job but it's been enough to cover the increases in our electricity, our propane and our property taxes. We are still looking for ways to handle the increase in groceries, gas and other expenses. Bernice says that lucky for us, we burn wood for heat. I keep a big pot of water on the stove. This is used for washing dishes so that we only have to turn on the water heater to shower. If it's broken, we fix it, we mend the clothes, sew on buttons. The only thing I won't mend is socks. That's my luxury. Annette. Thankfully, we have set ourselves up for such a time as this. We have no debt. But I changed how I buy and grow food, heat our house, and we are unable to build our savings up in hopes to retire within the next 10 years. We have thoughts of moving to another state. Megan. We're growing a bigger garden, we don't use our furnace, we only use wood heat. We run all our errands on the same day, no extra trips. We eat less food and we don't use our lights unless absolutely necessary. It's been a huge struggle. I know that my elderly neighbor had to shut off part of his home and he wears two layers of clothes and a winter jacket inside. Christine says that she freezes all winter. The thermostat is set at 60 degrees. Belinda. We buy only necessities at the grocery store and I have two jobs.

Maine people are economizing so why isn't the Maine government? Record revenue shouldn't mean free-for-all government spending. To be clear, though, these people are not asking for government assistance. They don't want help to pay their bills so there's no need to grow this budget any further. They simply want to be able to keep more of their; not our; hard-earned money instead of the government stealing it. I read through this budget and there are numerous reasons to vote against it. You know, I keep hearing the words continuing services. Madam Speaker, I call baloney. We have all sat in our committee rooms over the last couple of months and we've heard departments come before us asking for new positions. There are a record number of government jobs sitting empty as referenced, yet there are a significant number of new positions in this budget. Just look for the words continues and makes permanent. It's seen over and over and over again throughout this budget. Those are new positions. That is not continuing services. Why? When thousands of positions are currently empty, why are we purposefully inflating the budget now so as to increase government control later? Creating these positions now, even if they don't get filled for years, increases the baseline and it justifies an even larger budget and more government spending next time around. What will the next baseline be? The next continuing services budget? \$12 billion? There's nowhere to go but up from here. It is disingenuous to call this anything other than what it is; it's a bloated budget that is wasting peoples' money and growing government. Read it for yourselves if you have not yet. Just on page 58, there are three new permanent positions. I think I've made it clear; yeah, I have a few pages left. Thank you for noting. Sorry.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Member will defer. The Member will defer. The Member can now proceed. I will remind the Member to direct all of her comments directly to the Chair. Thank you.

The Chair reminded Representative LIBBY of Auburn to address her comments toward the Speaker.

Representative LIBBY: I think I've made it clear this Session and the previous that I am pro-life. And as I contemplate this budget and I wonder how I could reconcile voting for a budget that appropriates taxpayer funds for other

peoples' abortions, I wonder is it okay if it's only one life? How about two? Or three? Where does that justification lie? How many are a good tradeoff? In this same budget, ironically, that is appropriating funds to taxpayer-funded abortion, Mainers are also on the hook to a tune of \$3.8 million a year to help pay for infertility treatments of other people. I hope that I am not the only one who appreciates the irony of these polar opposite priorities. How about hoteling for illegal immigrants? This is a conversation we had months ago. What are the numbers there with a new shelter opening in Portland to keep up with the number of folks arriving each week from the southern border? If you remember, we heard folks pledge during the work session to address this issue. Is it handled? Once again, pushed down the road to be addressed at the never-quite-now later.

I've heard a lot about meeting 55% for education. In fact, we're spending record amounts on education these days. Surely, we must be seeing record results. No. Instead, our fourth and eighth grade test scores fell below the national average, lagging behind despite record spending. Fortunately, we have free community college. Good thing it's free because more students than ever need remedial help when they enter college these days. More record spending, this time on health care. Is health care in Maine improving at the rate of spending? No. We have staff shortages across the State, huge wait times just to get in to see a primary care, if you are so lucky to find a primary care, and travel staff as the seemingly permanent stopgap while our infrastructure crumbles around us. And, as always, the answer is to throw more money at it. We need structural change. We need to drop the health care worker vaccine mandate. We need to allow the free market to operate in order to lower costs and increase availability instead of increasing the government stranglehold.

One reason that certainly doesn't apply to all in this Chamber but applies to me and my side is that a bloated bipartisan budget is a campaign gift that I am simply not willing to give to my colleagues across the aisle. Why on earth would we help rack up wins by scamming Maine voters and saying that our vote is approved bipartisan. Maine people keep voting to keep this majority in power and that's on us. We don't give them a compelling reason not to. I get it. We are in this position because we've been spineless for years. But why would we support this process when we and our constituents are cut out of the process? Madam Speaker, tyranny of the majority is a situation that can result from a system of majority rule wherein the majority group places its own interests above the interests of a minority group without consideration for the welfare or rights of the minority. Ancient Greek political thinkers realized the potential for a tyranny of the majority to occur in government. The Greeks called this type of government an ochlocracy, defined as government by mob rule. In the early years of the United States, John Adams and James Madison both recognized the dangers of a political tyranny of the majority. In the Federalist Papers, Madison discussed how an overbearing majority faction could take control of the government. Today, the majority party is forcing mob rule on Maine people in regards to this budget.

Representative ROBERTS: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will inquire as to why the Member rises.

Representative ROBERTS: Point of Order; the Member is questioning the motives of other Members.

On POINT OF ORDER, Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick objected to the comments of Representative LIBBY of Auburn because she was questioning the motives of other Members of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is going to remind the Members for the third time today that you cannot question the motives of other Members or impugn their character. I will say that once again. The Chair will remind the Members for the third time today to not question the motives of other Members or impugn their character.

The Chair reminded all Members that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other Members of the House or impugn their character.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The biennial budget is the most significant, most important and only constitutionally required piece of legislation that the Legislature is to pass. Forcing this ill-conceived biennial budget by majority vote disallows me and my colleagues who represent hundreds of thousands of Mainers to have a voice in the process or the final outcome of the budget. Unlike many of my colleagues, I was confident that we would face this scenario as soon as I woke up on November 9th. The only thing that surprises me is that anyone was surprised. If we could have props, I would be holding up a State of Maine to illustrate how Portland and the coast is now forcing their will on the entire State of Maine, placing their interests above the interests of the rest of the State of Maine, without consideration of the welfare or rights of those 576,000 Mainers whose representation is being voided today.

At times, we have amnesia, but over the last few years under the Chief Executive, it has become clear that the majority are committed to ruling the State as a uni-party. To be here today, voting on a budget on March 30th, this is not about us as a Body on this side of the aisle individually or collectively, but about the 400-plus towns, the 576,000 that have their voices silenced by silencing their representation. Today's vote inflicts the will of the majority on the rest of the State without their consent. If I voted for it, I would be complicit. It was never our founders' intention that the system would be manipulated in that way through a constitutional loophole. I'm here to vote against this budget, against this process, and against this new precedent, the unfortunate new normal. This is tyranny of the majority. Follow my light and vote no on this budget.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Skold.

Representative **SKOLD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Members of the Legislature. I rise to acknowledge my appreciation for the Good Representative from Waterford, the Good Representative from Vassalboro, and many other of my colleagues today who have expressed their commitment and desire for acting in a bipartisan way. I am only a first-term legislator, Madam Speaker, but I have already seen many opportunities that this Body has moved in a bipartisan manner. Including today, when we voted overwhelmingly to support our retired teachers, and I thank my colleagues for that. I also thank my colleagues for bringing forward the need for relief. Relief for Maine's people, especially low- and moderate-income Mainers. There is, indeed, Madam Speaker, need for tremendous relief all around the State. Relief from rising housing costs, relief from out-of-control medical costs, relief for workers when they need to start a family or get sick and, indeed, Madam Speaker, relief for our teachers and all State retirees. There is tremendous need for relief in this State and I understand, Madam Speaker, that this budget responds to that need for relief by continuing the services that many of our citizens rely on. My understanding, Madam Speaker, is that we will have another opportunity to continue discussing the relief that is needed to meet the challenges and tremendous needs all

around this State. Madam Speaker, that's why I will be supporting LD 424 and in appreciation to my colleagues, I do look forward to working together as we move forward to discuss and continue working together to find relief that truly meets the needs facing the members of this State. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you said, I come from the town of Turner, which is a town my family has called home for over 200 years. At one time, we had the DeCoster Egg Farm in the town of Turner that is still there but at one time they were the largest brown egg producer in the world. And now as we go to the grocery store, we see the price of eggs, of a dozen eggs, at over \$6 a dozen. And we know what that does to our families' budgets. In the last few years, we have seen prices rise in part because of policies passed by government, not just here in the State of Maine but federally, that have seen prices rise for Maine families. The cost of groceries is up, the cost of electricity is up. The Good Representative from Auburn alluded to the \$3.8 million in the budget for fertility care. That's what the State has to pick up for that mandate. But imagine what that's doing to individual insurance premiums as well as to small business premiums, having to pay that mandate as well. In fact, next year, the cost of an individual health insurance premium is up 15%. Gas is \$3.40 a gallon.

This budget does nothing to address how we are helping those people who are struggling right now with these higher costs of \$6 a dozen eggs, 15% increase in health insurance, groceries up, \$3.40 for a gallon of gas. We have the opportunity to put more money back into their pockets. Yes, I have supported in the past continuing to send out rebate checks because that was the best opportunity at the time to get money back to people as we are dealing with this record inflation. But I think people need to have the opportunity to budget and to plan and to know that more money is going to stay in their paychecks and not continue to be sent to Augusta. And I would just ask my colleagues that we have the opportunity to keep working through June to come up with a budget that addresses these concerns and I ask that you follow my light and vote against the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lebanon, Representative Adams.

Representative **ADAMS**: Madam Speaker, thank you. I rise and oppose this budget and the reason I do that is it doesn't matter whether you have a D or an R next to your name, we that work have to pay for this and then not only that, it's kind of like the old adage, if you take wood, add it to the fire, and don't replace the wood, you got no more wood. And then we're talking about relief and I think for a lot of us, especially down in my neighborhood, some of the biggest relief we need is tax relief. And that seems to be being ignored here and I don't think that's a true representation of a budget when you ignore tax relief. So, like I said, I do oppose this and I would support it and I would actually rather see more than \$200 million. They were nicer than me; I would've asked for at least half a billion, to be honest with you. But thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Windham, Representative Bagshaw.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I worked very hard to get here. I knocked on doors almost every day for nine months and listened to what concerned the people in my district. I spoke to them, I heard their concerns, I wanted to be a voice, I wanted to serve them, and the first day I came

here, I spoke to a woman and she said; I hope we can do some good and I said I have hope that we can, but hope deferred makes the heart sick. My heart is sick today. I want to be a voice for my constituents and I feel; somebody said are you surprised that the budget is being passed now and I said yes, I was because I had hope that we were going to have a two-thirds majority bipartisan budget. And I would just make a plea for people to consider that; that we have a bipartisan budget, and thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Ellsworth, Representative Worth.

Representative **WORTH**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am speaking in favor of this budget but please don't be too surprised when I begin with a story that might sound a little off topic. This past winter, my wife became very sick and she died. Madam Speaker was very supportive of me and I wish to express my appreciation. The Majority Leader was very supportive. Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle were very supportive and sympathetic and reached out to me. Staff also reached out to me and they were very helpful to me. Especially, I want to note today that I received a card with a personal note from the Minority Leader and Assistant Minority Leader on behalf of the entire Republican Caucus. And it was a beautiful note and I appreciated it very much. When we were at ease one day, I had an opportunity to go over and thank the Minority Leader and Assistant Minority Leader and Representative Faulkingham said to me we are a family here. And it touched my heart and I really appreciate that.

In a family, there are sometimes disagreements and today I hear a good deal of disappointment and frustration coming from many of my esteemed colleagues on the other side of the aisle. When I vote for this budget today, it will be because I believe that the discussion is not over, the dialogue is not over, that we will continue to listen to one another, to talk with one another. The listening, I think, is the more important part of those two and that we can come through this remembering that we are a family. And so, today I wish to express my thanks to all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle; Democrats, Republicans, Independents, staff, everyone here. I think we are indeed a family and that when we leave today, I hope we will all remember that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will simply remind all Members to direct their comments directly to the Chair.

The Chair reminded all Members to address their comments toward the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Good Representative from Ellsworth. You expressed what I feel. I, too, am very sad because we do have true bipartisanship here. It has not gone out the window. I served in the 125th Legislature, when the Chief Executive was from the other party, when the Speaker was from the other party, when the Senate President was from the other party. And I developed great relationships. In particular, the Good Representative from Waterford had at that time been working with the Chief Executive and I grew to know him, listen to him, and I'm so happy he's here. And I listen to him today. I urge us all to continue to move forward together in a bipartisan way. Several of the Members on the other side of the aisle served with me in that previous Legislature and the subsequent one. Let's move forward. We have a chance to do good things. On my committee, I know we've worked so well together, often in a

bipartisan way. So, I urge all of you; support the motion before us. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Albion, Representative Cyrway.

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I appreciate the; wow. So, anyway. Habit's hard to break. So, House Members, I just wanted to stand up because in the Senate, you know, I experienced twice this happening, the two-thirds going to the majority and just in the last four years and you know, this is my ninth year. So, I just think it's a shame when we've gone almost 200 years, you know, without having this two-thirds situation and now having it one, two, three. It's like baseball. We're going to be out. It just seems like when does it stop. And if you think about how much revenue that we got this year, it was more than what we expected. And all of a sudden, it's a crisis, we've got to vote for this. I don't get it. I don't get that because we really don't have to vote for this and we can help the people, you know, we can help the people that overpaid. I remember the conformity bill, we sat in our caucus and we talked about it and we went with that, with the conformity tax and I believed without being able to write things off, they're actually paying a lot more taxes. And this is where you're getting all these extra tax dollars but we haven't even helped the people get that money back. We never even looked at it. Instead, what do we do? Spend it. And I just think that we really made a big mistake and we've gotten greedy. When it comes to three times in a row, when all our forefathers have taken and looked at this and they've always respected that two-thirds vote. That's all we're asking. I think; I've listened to this all day and it's about the respect that they wanted of getting two-thirds vote to make a good budget. That's all we're asking. R-E-S-P-E-C-T. And that's it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wiscasset; and I apologize for the way I'm going to pronounce your name; Representative Polewarczyk.

Representative **POLEWARCZYK**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I never did expect to get up here today and speak. On December the 5th, I walked into this Chamber for the first time for an orientation. I went to go home and I said I can't do that; I have to come back in here to see what I'm a part of. And this big, tall gentleman walks up the aisle and says can I help you, sir. What did I just do? It was the Sergeant-at-Arms and he made me very welcome. And I told him I came back to reflect on what I was a part of here. He welcomed me and I sat down in silence for 10 minutes. This is an incredible adventure for me. It's hard for me to believe I'm actually here. So, four months go by, I'm meeting some wonderful people, glad to be a part of this. I'm in the Education Committee and we're looking at the budget. And it's not just the baseline budget that I would see as continuing services, it's a baseline budget with initiative, initiative, initiative, probably totaling close to \$200 million. I can't come to the conclusion that this is a continuing services budget. It's an expanding budget. And I have to oppose this budget because so many people in my district are hurting. They're dealing with inflation, and we've been hearing it all afternoon, they're dealing with inflation, energy prices, food prices; they're struggling. And for that reason, I cannot support this budget. I believe we owe more to the people of Maine. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, a few hours ago, said that I support this budget because it keeps our promises, the promises we made on a bipartisan basis when we last passed a two-thirds budget just a few months ago. This

budget funds those continuing services to support the very people we've been talking about today. With school meals, with cost of living increases for our health care providers, for veterans, for farmers, for \$101 million to keep our promise for 55%. And, yes, that's expensive, but it is what we promised together to do. When I talked with my good friend, the Representative from Waterford about the long history of part one and part two budgets, we also talked about the fact that when one does a part one budget, one funds current services only, doesn't stack it full of a lot, except for I will note that part two does fund transportation as a continuing service. Just throwing that out there for my Good Friend from Arundel. So, these are important services. We are not spending willy-nilly, Madam Speaker. We are sticking to our promises to the most vulnerable Maine people. We promised \$242 million of tax relief and we are making good on that promise. We promised free meals, we promised support for homeless youth, we promised to keep the lights on. And we have promised, all of us in this Chamber, to continue that good work that we started and will continue to do in our wonderful policy committees in the coming months and I look forward to that. So, thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) as Amended by House Amendments "A" (H-14) and "D" (H-18). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 22

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Andrews, Arata, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Hymes, Lavigne, O'Connell, Osher, Sheehan.

Yes, 79; No, 61; Absent, 10; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) as Amended by House Amendments "A" (H-14) and "D" (H-18)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following item appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(H.P. 226) (L.D. 375) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 570: Uniform Reporting System for Prescription Drug Price Data Sets, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**

Under suspension of the rules, Second Day Consent Calendar notification was given.

There being no objection, the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

(H.P. 243) (L.D. 392)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Final Passage. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 23

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Theriault, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Hall, Henderson, Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Paul, Perkins, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Andrews, Cyrway, Davis, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hobbs, Hymes, Jackson, Lavigne, Libby, O'Connell, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, Poirier, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Sheehan, Swallow, Williams.

Yes, 78; No, 46; Absent, 26; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 46 voted in the negative, with 26 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Expand Access to Postsecondary Education for Low-income Parents

(H.P. 9) (L.D. 5)

An Act to Amend the Maine Parentage Act Regarding Joinder of Parties

(H.P. 83) (L.D. 137)

An Act to Support Rural Service Programming and Promote Volunteerism

(H.P. 89) (L.D. 143)

(C. "A" H-6)

An Act Regarding the Monitoring of Municipal Abandoned Property

(H.P. 90) (L.D. 144)

An Act Regarding the Definition of "Reportable Accident"

(H.P. 357) (L.D. 552)

Were reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for a Jail in Caribou"

(S.P. 575) (L.D. 1457)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit State and Local Enforcement of Federal Firearms Laws"

(S.P. 569) (L.D. 1451)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase Funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics"

(S.P. 576) (L.D. 1458)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission to Be Popularly Elected"

(S.P. 570) (L.D. 1452)

Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Expansion of Broadband"

(S.P. 574) (L.D. 1456)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Change the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Requirements by Reducing Benefits Commensurate with a Recipient's Salary, Reducing the Special Housing Allowance and Limiting Eligibility for 2-parent Families"

(S.P. 566) (L.D. 1448)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Resolve, to Authorize the Training of Nursing Assistants by Certified Nursing Assistants

(S.P. 565) (L.D. 1447)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Physical Therapist Practice Laws"

(S.P. 571) (L.D. 1453)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Certificates of Deposit"

(S.P. 578) (L.D. 1460)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Violations of Condition of Release"

(S.P. 567) (L.D. 1449)

Bill "An Act to Reduce Abuse of the Civil Ex Parte Attachment and Trustee Processes"

(S.P. 577) (L.D. 1459)

Bill "An Act to Prevent Dating Partner Abuse by Including Dating Partners in the Scope of Domestic Violence Crimes"

(S.P. 579) (L.D. 1461)

Bill "An Act to Provide Financial Incentives for Attorneys to Provide Indigent Legal Services"

(S.P. 580) (L.D. 1462)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Equines and the Raising and Keeping of Livestock in Certain Motor Vehicle and Tax Laws"

(S.P. 581) (L.D. 1463)

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested and ordered printed.

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council"

(S.P. 568) (L.D. 1450)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Weighing Point Preclearance Program"

(S.P. 573) (L.D. 1455)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force on Cannabis Hospitality Establishments

(S.P. 564) (L.D. 1446)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

**ENACTOR
Act**

An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

(H.P. 257) (L.D. 424)

(H. "A" H-14 and H. "D" H-18 to C. "A" H-12)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 24

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Hall, Henderson, Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Paul, Perkins, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Andrews, Cyrway, Davis, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hobbs, Hymes, Jackson, Lavigne, Libby, O'Connell, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, Poirier, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmursal-Burgess, Sheehan, Swallow, Williams.

Yes, 76; No, 48; Absent, 26; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 48 voted in the negative, with 26 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, March 28, 2023, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing Scott Graffam, of Norway

(HLS 81)

TABLED - February 28, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative MILLETT of Waterford.

PENDING - **PASSAGE**.

Subsequently, the Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

At this point, the Chair called for a division to poll members to reconvene for the First Special Session to be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

Pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 1 of the Maine Constitution, the consent of a majority of the Members from each political party being necessary, a vote of the House was taken. The consent of the majority of each political party was not achieved.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator DAUGHTRY of that Body, informing the House that the Senate is ready to adjourn without day.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 594)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that all matters not finally disposed of at the time of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature in the possession of the Legislature, including working papers and drafts in the possession of nonpartisan staff offices, gubernatorial nominations and all determinations of the Legislative Council regarding after-deadline bill requests and policies, be held over to a subsequent special or regular session of the 131st Legislature in the posture in which they were at the time of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that any public hearing, work session or other meeting to conduct the business of the Legislature that is scheduled at the time this order is passed is hereby authorized to occur.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.

READ.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage of the Joint Order. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 25

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch., Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Henderson, Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Paul Perkins, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Soboleski, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Andrews, Bagshaw, Costain, Craven, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hobbs, Hymes, Jackson, Lavigne, Libby, O'Connell, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, Poirier, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Sheehan, Smith, Strout, Swallow, Williams.

Yes, 75; No, 42; Absent, 33; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 42 voted in the negative, with 33 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Joint Order was **PASSED** in concurrence.

The Speaker appointed Representative TERRY of Gorham on the part of the House to inform the Senate that the House is ready to adjourn without day.

The Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to wait upon her Excellency, Governor JANET T. MILLS, and inform her that the House is ready to adjourn without day:

Representative SACHS of Freeport
Representative FAY of Raymond
Representative COLLINGS of Portland
Representative MATLACK of St. George
Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
Representative GATTINE of Westbrook
Representative MILLETT of Waterford
Representative DUCHARME of Madison
Representative BLIER of Buxton
Representative CARLOW of Buxton

Subsequently, Representative TERRY reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

Subsequently, the Committee reported that they had delivered the message with which they were charged.

Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston moved that the House stand **ADJOURNED WITHOUT DAY**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we just heard from the other Body that they've completed all of its business. *Sine die* normally occurs after we are done with our work of the entire State of Maine. This year, June 21 is statutory adjournment date and it's printed on the back of every daily House Calendar. The people back home sent us to represent our communities, not just the communities represented by Democrats here today. The traditional budget process requiring two-thirds support is designed to ensure that the priorities of both parties; I repeat, both parties; are reflected in the budget, not just the priorities of one political party. Anything less than a two-third budget developed by the third Wednesday in June is a failure to do our job. Instead of working together in a bipartisan budget, waiting a couple of weeks maybe to hear from the revenue forecasting committee, we're voting to pretend that our work is done in March, not June. This vote says that 600,000 people and their elected Representatives from over 450 Maine municipalities cannot participate in this budget process. This process that spends their money.

This is a sad day to be in Augusta, Madam Speaker. This is my third term. This is not how we should do our job as directed by the Maine Constitution. Madam Speaker, you have the power to stop this. Madam Speaker, we have the power to fix this by not adjourning sine die tonight, without day. We have work to finish. I have bills, Madam Speaker, you have bills that have not been through the process. We adjourn today; by the Constitution, it says; the Legislature may meet in special sessions if they're called by the presiding officers with consent of a majority of the members in each party. Madam Speaker, that failed. My concern about having another session, a Special Session, as it clearly states in the legislator's handbook on page 1, part 1, Legislative Procedures; there is no statutory limit on the length of a special session. Madam Speaker, we just said we're done but there's still work to do. I urge you to vote no on the pending motion. I further request a roll call. Thank you.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADJOURN WITHOUT DAY**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Parliamentary inquiry?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Section 12, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure states; legislative Body cannot make a rule that evades or avoids the effect of a rule prescribed by the Constitution governing it and it cannot do indirectly what it cannot do directly. Could the Speaker please provide information to the House how this action does not violate this provision? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The House is within its bounds to stand adjourned without day as it sees fit.

The Chair appreciates all of the hard work that Members have done today and truly wants to thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for being respectful and maintaining a level of dignity that this Chamber deserves. I want to thank you for extraordinary resiliency and partnership that has taken place to get us to this point and I truly hope that this Chamber when we come back will be able to work together and do the business of the people of Maine. I wish you all a safe journey home and good night.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adjournment Without Day. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 26

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Henderson, Javner, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Paul, Perkins, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Riseman, Soboleski, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Andrews, Bagshaw, Collamore, Costain, Craven, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Ducharme, Galletta, Geiger, Gramlich, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hobbs, Hymes, Jackson, Lanigan, Lavigne, Libby, Mathieson, O'Connell, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, Poirier, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Sheehan, Smith, Strout, Swallow, Williams.

Yes, 72; No, 41; Absent, 37; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 41 voted in the negative, with 37 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the House adjourned without day at 11:05 p.m. Thursday, March 30, 2023, in honor and lasting tribute to William MacManus of China.