

**THE FIFTY-SEVENTH DAY**

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CARSON CITY (Monday), March 30, 2009

Senate called to order at 10:52 a.m.

President Krolicki presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Reverend Jeffrey Paul.

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: we beseech You so to guide and bless the Senate in the Legislature of this fair State, that they may enact such laws as shall please You, to the glory of Your Name and the welfare of Your people. In Your Name, we pray.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Senator Horsford moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with, and the President and Secretary be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

*Mr. President:*

Your Committee on Commerce and Labor, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 214, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

MAGGIE CARLTON, *Chair*

*Mr. President:*

Your Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation, to which were referred Senate Bills Nos. 18, 114, 147, 165, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

MICHAEL A. SCHNEIDER, *Chair*

*Mr. President:*

Your Committee on Health and Education, to which were referred Senate Bills Nos. 341, 342, 344, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

Also, your Committee on Health and Education, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 161, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

VALERIE WIENER, *Chair*

*Mr. President:*

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which were referred Senate Bills Nos. 84, 113; Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

TERRY CARE, *Chair*

*Mr. President:*

Your Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 111, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

Also, your Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Be adopted.

Also, your Committee on Natural Resources, to which were referred Senate Concurrent Resolutions Nos. 3, 5, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and be adopted as amended.

DAVID R. PARKS, *Chair*

#### MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, Carson City, March 27, 2009

*To the Honorable the Senate:*

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day passed Senate Bill No. 39; Assembly Bills Nos. 248, 322, 469.

Also, I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day adopted Senate Concurrent Resolutions Nos. 20, 21.

Also, I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day adopted Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

DIANE M. KEETCH

*Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

#### WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS

##### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

March 26, 2009

The Fiscal Analysis Division, pursuant to Joint Standing Rule 14.6, has determined the exemption of: Senate Bill No. 226.

Also, the Fiscal Analysis Division, pursuant to Joint Standing Rule 14.6, has determined the eligibility for exemption of: Senate Bills Nos. 195, 212, 242, 283, 288, 331.

GARY GHIGGERI

*Fiscal Analysis Division*

March 30, 2009

The Fiscal Analysis Division, pursuant to Joint Standing Rule 14.6, has determined the eligibility for exemption of: Senate Bills Nos. 232, 256, 260, 281, 285, 303, 317, 330, 341, 358, 373, 374.

GARY GHIGGERI

*Fiscal Analysis Division*

#### MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Horsford moved that the following persons be accepted as accredited press representatives, and that they be assigned space at the press table and allowed the use of appropriate media facilities: NEVADA APPEAL/ASSOCIATED PRESS: Brad Horn; THE NEVADA SAGEBRUSH: Nick Coltrain and PROGRESS NOW NEVADA: Erin Neff.

Motion carried.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Senator Care moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

Senator Care moved that Senate Bill No. 227 be taken from the Second Reading File and placed on the Secretary's desk.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

Assembly Bill No. 248.

Senator Care moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

Assembly Bill No. 322.

Senator Care moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

Assembly Bill No. 469.

Senator Care moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 49.

Bill read second time.

The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Labor:

Amendment No. 1.

"SUMMARY—Creates a requirement for a written contract between a client and an architect, registered interior designer or residential designer under certain circumstances. (BDR 54-353)"

"AN ACT relating to design professions; creating a requirement for a written contract for professional services between a client and an architect, registered interior designer or residential designer in certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto."

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 1 of this bill requires that a written contract containing certain provisions be executed between an architect, registered interior designer or residential designer and a client before any professional services are provided. Section 1 also allows professional services to be provided before execution of a contract if the client agrees in writing and allows professional services to be provided without a contract in certain circumstances.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 623 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. *Except as otherwise provided in this section, an architect, registered interior designer or residential designer shall execute a written contract with a client before providing professional services to the client.*

2. *A contract created pursuant to subsection 1 must contain, but is not limited to, the following:*

(a) A description of the services to be provided to the client by the architect, registered interior designer or residential designer;

(b) A description of the basis for compensation and the method of payment;

(c) The name, address and certificate number of the architect, registered interior designer or residential designer and the name and address of the client;

(d) A description of the procedure that the architect, registered interior designer or residential designer and the client will use to accommodate additional services;

(e) A statement identifying the ownership or reuse of documents prepared by the architect, registered interior designer or residential designer; and

(f) A description of the procedure to be used by either party to terminate the contract.

3. An architect, registered interior designer or residential designer may provide professional services to a client before the execution of a written contract only if the client agrees in writing that a written contract is not needed before work begins.

4. A contract created pursuant to subsection 1 is not required for professional services rendered by an architect, registered interior designer or residential designer:

(a) For which the client will not pay compensation;

(b) When, after full disclosure of the requirements of this section, the client agrees in writing that a contract meeting the requirements of subsection 1 is not required; or

(c) To a person who holds a certificate of registration as a landscape architect pursuant to chapter 623A of NRS or a person who is licensed as a professional engineer pursuant to chapter 625 of NRS.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

Senator Carlton moved the adoption of the amendment.

Remarks by Senator Carlton.

Senator Carlton requested that her remarks be entered in the Journal.

The amendment inserts the word "written" in front of contracts so it will specify what type of contract will be applicable in this legislation.

Amendment adopted.

Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 129.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 169.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 215.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 231.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 333.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 74th Session.

Resolution read second time and ordered to third reading.

#### MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblyman Atkinson and Assemblywoman Woodbury were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblyman Atkinson invited the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear Representative Shelly Berkley.

The President announced that if there were no objections, the Senate would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate in recess at 11:12 a.m.

#### IN JOINT SESSION

At 11:24 a.m.

President Krolicki presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senator Nolan, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblyman Horne, who was excused.

The President appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Woodhouse and Assemblywoman Pierce to wait upon the Honorable Shelly Berkley and escort her to the Assembly Chamber.

Representative Berkley delivered her message as follows:

#### MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION, 2009

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have to say what a pleasure it is to be here with all of you. It was awfully wonderful walking around the halls and seeing everyone and having an opportunity to talk and to kiss and to get reacquainted. I think it is wonderful that today was "Matzo Ball Monday" at your lunch in my honor. I appreciated that very, much. I wanted to acknowledge and thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you. You know we have this lovely tradition here, in Nevada, where your federal officials come during your legislative session and speak with you. It was much easier when there were only three of us. Our numbers are growing, which is a good thing. I know how busy you all are, and I know how much time this takes. I will do my best not to take up too much of your time.

A special thank you goes to Speaker Buckley for opening up her House to me. I appreciate it. Of course, Majority Leader Horsford, it is lovely to see you. Senator Raggio, a pleasure, always. Assembly Minority Leader Heidi Gansert, it is a pleasure to see you, as well. And, of course, Lieutenant Governor Krolicki, thank you for being here. Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, thank you, again. Treasurer Kate Marshall, it is always a pleasure to see you. Controller Kim Wallin, it is lovely to see you and thank you for coming. Justices Hardesty and Cherry, thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here.

There are a couple of other people I would love to acknowledge, if you would give me the opportunity. One is Bishop Pepe from Las Vegas. He is here, and he and I have worked closely together. He is accompanied by Bishop Calvo as well. It is lovely to have spoken to them. I understand that this is Canada Day, and the Consul General from Canada is here with a delegation. It is always a pleasure to see our neighbors and good friends from the north. I thank them very much for being here as well.

I served in this body 26 years ago. It is easy for me to know the number of years because I had just had my son Max. Max is now 26 years old and has one more semester left at the Boyd School of Law. So, I actually see a paycheck in his future, which makes me happy. I am now serving in my sixth term as a member of the House of Representatives. Just like for you, the years go by quickly. It means that this is the sixth time that I have had an opportunity to speak with all of you here in this body.

There is no question that these are challenging times in our Nation—difficult times for our constituents and our fellow citizens. Nevada has been particularly hard hit. We have the highest mortgage foreclosure rate in the country. One out of every 76 people has received foreclosure notices in Nevada. Over 14,000 of our fellow Nevadans have received foreclosure notices in January alone. We have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. Officially, it is 10.1 percent, but I would argue with anyone that it is substantially higher. For the first time in decades, we are actually losing population in this State. Everything I do in Congress, every vote I cast, is cast with what is happening here at home paramount in my mind. My congressional district is one of the hardest hit in the country. It is my job to do everything I can to help create jobs, stimulate the economy, protect jobs here that people already have and provide a safety net for those families who have lost their jobs and their homes. They have also lost hope in themselves and faith in the country. Because the mortgage-foreclosure rate is so high, I have met both publicly and privately on numerous occasions with our new Housing Secretary, Secretary Donovan, to share with him what is going on in the State of Nevada. Our federal officials need to know what is happening on the ground.

Congress recently passed legislation to help homeowners stay in their homes. There were two components to the legislation that we passed. It will help a number of our fellow citizens. It will not be a panacea for everybody losing their homes. For those people that have loans that are held by Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae, if the mortgage is 105 percent of the value of the home, they are going to be able to refinance. For others that are significantly underwater, we are going to bring those mortgage payments down to 31 percent of their gross income. While we are helping, we need to make sure that people can actually afford the homes that they are living in.

The stimulus bill contained \$2 billion for neighborhood-stabilization programs. That allows municipalities to buy up and rehabilitate these foreclosed homes and either sell or rent them. It is very important to do this because we are losing neighborhood after neighborhood. The values of the homes that are remaining are going down, and the revenue to the municipalities is going down as well, so I think this is an important program. It is incomprehensible to me that lending institutions will not willingly renegotiate these loans. It seems that if you can afford to stay in your home and pay a mortgage of \$1,100 a month and the mortgage is \$1,400 a month that the lending institution should want to keep you in your home and renegotiate that loan. We have had a dickens-of-a-time encouraging the lending institutions, nationally, to do just that. They keep telling us that they do not want to cram down, which means that if you are in bankruptcy, the bankruptcy attorney can lower the principal and the interest rates to keep you in your home. A little help from our lending institutions to help these people stay in their homes would make it easier for us to figure how we are going to help our fellow citizens.

Because the unemployment rate is so high, providing extended and expanded unemployment benefits was very important to me—making sure families had money coming in every month so they could put food on the table. An additional \$100 a month is going to come to 195,000 of our fellow Americans, and as you well know, extended unemployment benefits are going to be given to an additional 40,000 laid-off workers. Now, somebody said to me, "Congresswoman, it is only \$100 a month. Is it going to make a big difference?" If you have zero, a hundred dollars a month is a big deal. If you are trying to take care of your kids and pay your rent, and pay your electric bill and keep a roof over your head, that extra \$100 is important and is going to be a

bridge that is going to help our fellow citizens that are unemployed get from here to there when there is an economic recovery in this country and in this State. And, there will be.

Several weeks ago, Las Vegas became the target of every politician who had an axe to grind in Washington, D.C. The result of this barrage of anti-Las Vegas sentiment had a profoundly negative impact on the Las Vegas economy and, quite candidly, on our State's economy as well. The Las Vegas Valley lost 341 conventions and conferences since the beginning of the year. That has devastating consequences to our economy, and it means people get laid off because those hotel rooms are not full. I finally had had enough of the attacks and of the reprehensible comments about my hometown and the district that I represent that encompasses Las Vegas. I went down to the floor of the House, and I answered our critics, rather sharply, again and again. I grabbed a hold of people in the elevator, and I grabbed a hold of people in the ladies room and any place that I found somebody that had said something negative about our State or the City of Las Vegas. I grabbed a hold of them, and I told them how wrong they were.

Unfortunately, they are now avoiding me like the plague, but that is okay. The miracle of miracles is that after I started fighting back, the attacks stopped. Then, we took to the floor last week—Congresswoman Dina Titus and a number of other people that come from tourist-based economy districts. We went down to the floor of the House to talk about the importance of tourism on this Nation's economy. Nevada is still the best bang for the buck. Business travel must come back. They are not going to do better any place else but in the great State of Nevada. I am going to continue to promote our State and our largest industry. Why? It creates jobs and it keeps people working. It creates jobs and keeps those people that are still working, working some more. Until we stop the hemorrhaging and visitors start coming back to Nevada and businesses return to holding their conventions and conferences here in Nevada, I will continue to speak out on behalf of the people I represent—and on behalf of the Nevada State Legislature as well. You would expect nothing less from me.

I believe our Nation has a remarkable opportunity to take this challenging time in our history and use it to implement long-overdue changes that will enable us to come out of this recession stronger, more unified, healthier, better positioned to expand our economy and excel in the twenty-first century.

I am going to speak of three issues because each one of these will not only have a profound effect on our Nation, they will have a profound effect on the State of Nevada and the people that we represent.

The first issue is health care. The way we do health care in this country, in my opinion, is "bass ackwards." We spend a majority of our health-care dollars on end-of-life care, taking care of people in the last six months of their lives. What we ought to be doing is shifting the paradigm so that we are putting our health-care dollars at the beginning, frontloading the system so we can have early detection and prevention of diseases that are killing us. To me, it not only will keep people healthier and living longer, it will also save billions of taxpayer dollars if we change the way we deliver health-care services to our fellow citizens.

Let me speak about an issue that has a profound impact on all of us, and that is the 47 million Americans that are currently uninsured. Eighteen percent of the people we represent here in Nevada have no health insurance. If you back out our senior citizens, 33 percent of those people under the age of 65 have no health insurance in the State of Nevada. Now, we are going to provide some sort of baseline health insurance because people that do not have health insurance still get sick. They need to see a doctor. What ultimately happens is that they go to the emergency room. It takes twice as much effort and ten times as much money, and it takes a bed away from someone who truly does need the emergency room. The cost of uninsured citizens in this country is costing all of us that have health insurance billions of dollars more. We cannot continue like this. I am hoping that we will be able to provide something. I am not talking about single pay, but some sort of baseline health insurance for every American. We need to do this. We need to do this for ourselves as well as for our fellow citizens that do not have insurance.

I was so pleased that I was able to vote for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which is Nevada Check Up here. We have provided enough money to insure 4 million more children in this country. We will be able, because of the SCHIP program, to enable 37,000 more Nevada children to be part of our Nevada Check Up program. Right now, the State of Nevada has 70,000 children that are currently eligible for the program. We only provide

funding for 22,500, and there is a cap at 25,000. The federal government passed this law. We are going to be providing the resources. If you could look at lifting the cap, to be able to accommodate the funding for the 37,000 more children that would be covered under SCHIP, I think we are going to keep these kids a lot healthier and give their parents a little peace of mind that when their children get sick, even if they do not have health insurance, they are going to be able to see a doctor, and I cannot imagine not doing that.

Quickly, there are a couple of issues that we are grappling with in Congress. We will have a comprehensive health-care bill before the August recess. We have about 90 days to craft this. The Sustainable Growth Rate, (SGR), is the rate that doctors are reimbursed in providing care for Medicare patients. The SGR is not sustainable, and we have been kicking this can down the road, and there is no more road. If Congress doesn't act in January, there will be a 21 percent cut in Medicare reimbursement to doctors. I believe in extending and expanding health care to our fellow Americans. We are not going to be able to do this if we do not have doctors to take care of these patients, so we are going to change SGR. There has to be a better way of reimbursing these doctors and making sure that we can continue to provide for older Americans. Why is this important? We have the fastest growing senior population in the United States in Nevada Congressional District 1. Short of me going to medical school so that when I go home on weekends I could start examining my senior citizens, we better figure out a way of saving Medicare and providing for reimbursement to the doctors so they will continue to take care of Medicare patients—it is that important.

In primary care versus specialties, I think we can all agree that Nevada does not have enough doctors, period. Now, there is an issue in Congress that we are working on. Let me give full disclosure that my step-daughter is a primary care physician, and my husband is a kidney specialist. What Congress wants to do and the administration proposed, is providing more reimbursement for primary-care doctors to encourage doctors to go into primary care. That is a wonderful thing. I am sure that my step-daughter can use more money. Frankly, we are tired of supporting her. I am all for that. The only thing that I am concerned about is the method by which the proposal works. The proposal says that we are going to help primary-care physicians by taking it away from the specialties. In a State like Nevada where we do not have enough endocrinologists, we don't have enough nephrologists, we obviously don't have enough gastro guys and enough surgeons, the idea that we are going to be taking money, robbing Peter to pay Paul, doesn't make any sense to me. These are both important—primary care and specialists. We need to adequately fund them both.

In regards to health information technology, the stimulus package contained funding to computerize health care in this country within the next five years. It is going to reduce medical errors. If you have ever seen a doctor's handwriting, this is going to be nirvana and it is going to end up savings billions of dollars. I was a great proponent of that, and I'm glad that we were finally able to pass it.

Let me talk about another issue that I think is important to our Nation and certainly to Nevada, and that is energy. This Nation must become energy independent, and we need to do it as quickly as possible. In my mind, energy independence is not only an environmental necessity—we are choking on the fossil fuels that we are contaminating our air with—it is an economic necessity. We can create an entire green economy that would be wonderful for the State of Nevada. This is a national security imperative. The United States of America as a superpower cannot continue to rely on unstable and dangerous dictators and terrorist Regimes—like the Saudis, like the Venezuelans, like the Nigerians—to satisfy our energy needs. It is foolish. We should have started doing these 20 years ago, but we didn't, and it is not too late now. That is why these energy issues and initiatives are so important to me. Harnessing sun, wind and geothermal in northern Nevada—Nevada can be the epicenter of renewable energy and a net exploiter to the other western states. What we need to do in addition to developing these resources, these renewable resources, is create the transmission lines that will carry the energy, not only to our fellow citizens here in Nevada but throughout the western United States. In the 1950s, we developed a transportation highway system. My family came to Las Vegas on Route 66, which was one of those transcontinental highways that moved people from the East Coast to the West Coast. In the 1990s, we did a communications and information technology system. All of us are wired and online, Blackberry'd and Blueberry'd. For this decade, what we

need to do is develop an energy-transmission system, and we can do it. American ingenuity and technology are there; we just have to have the will to do it.

In the stimulus package, we provided enough resources to double renewable energy-generating capacity in three years and to be able to power 6 million American homes with renewable energy. I am not saying that this is the panacea that we are going to use to stop using all oil and fossil fuel. That foolish I'm not. Ought we not to be moving in this direction and as quickly as possible? Renewable-energy initiatives are what this Congress is going to be concentrating on in the later part of this year. We will be coming up with a comprehensive piece of legislation that will move us further along. I don't know the details now, but I know it is going to be big, and it is going to be for the future of this great country.

Let me mention briefly Yucca Mountain. President Obama campaigned in Nevada and elsewhere that if he was elected President, Yucca Mountain would not be the national repository for nuclear waste. He is our elected President, and he stated there will be no nuclear waste stored at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. For those that keep talking about an amazing payday from the federal government, I invite you—when you are not looking at your budget's red ink—to look at the federal government's budget red ink. There is no money. If you have to have the federal government pay you for doing something, like storing this Nation's nuclear waste, then there's got to be something wrong with it, or we would be dying to get this stuff for nothing. I think Yucca Mountain is dead. We have a commission that is being formed that is going to come up with alternatives to Yucca Mountain. If we are going to continue to generate nuclear energy, we simply must figure out what we do with the radioactive toxic byproduct. It is not coming to Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

The last of the three issues I wanted to talk to you about is education. Like many of you, I am a product of the Nevada education system. For me, personally, it was the Clark County school system. I graduated from John C. Fremont Jr. High School and Valley High School. I am the first person in my family to go to college. I started at Nevada Southern University, which is now the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. My boys both graduated from Bonanza High School. Max, as I mentioned, has one more semester left at the Boyd School of Law, and my son Sam is in the school of hotel administration. I talk to you not only as your colleague and a Congresswoman but as a mother who has two generations invested in this State and in our school system. There are thousands of our fellow Nevadans just like my family, like my dad, who was a waiter when I was growing up. He was sending his daughters to college. It was the biggest thing in my parents' lives the day that I started at UNLV. Thousands of our fellow Nevadans depend on our system of higher education to educate them, to upgrade their own skills. Our University and Community College System is the very center and core of academics in this State, our cultural activities and athletic activities. It is the very essence of our social life. Now we've been talking about quality education and adequate funding of our education system since I was sitting where all of you are. We cannot keep talking about it; we've got to do something, and we've got to do it fast.

Our Nation is in serious peril of losing its competitive and qualitative edge in science and technology. We are not only competing with Georgia, Montana, and New York, we are competing with China and India. They are outpacing us in a most profoundly frightening way. Our children are falling behind academically. The dropout rate is unacceptable. We are graduating kids that have trouble doing addition, doing math, cannot make change, cannot read full sentences and do not have good comprehensive skills. We cannot continue to underfund our own State's education system and pretend that an undereducated population will have no impact on our future. It does and it will. If we don't do something now, it is going to take us decades to recover from this. Congress voted to provide a \$100 billion in this stimulus package for education. We are providing money for Head Start, tax credits for college, money for early childhood education, school renovation, elementary and secondary school education. Nevada has to do its fair share. We need to step up and support funding for our State's education system. Our democracy is depending on a well-educated electorate that makes informed decisions. This is more than just helping a kid go to school and getting a good education. It is more than the future of our State. Our very democracy depends on educating our children in the United States.

I am hesitant to say this because I know you are faced with a huge hole in our state budget. I am sensitive to it, believe me. I am grappling with the same things in Washington, D.C. I implore you to do whatever you can. I know you will. You are all in the same position I'm in.

We all know how important education is. I think we have put it on the back burner for far too long and did not make the tough decisions when we had the money to do it. Let us not make that mistake again.

I acknowledge and appreciate the challenges that we have in this State and the challenges you have as elected officials. We have a lot of tough choices to make and a lot of tough decisions to make. I want you to consider me, as you always have, as a partner and as a resource to you. We are in this thing together, and we are going to need to work together, as well. Many times our Nation has faced adversity in our history. We have managed to pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off and come back stronger and better than ever. We will survive this financial crisis and be better for it. Recovery will require sacrifice on all of our parts, careful planning, enforcement of existing regulations, implementation of new regulations, the elimination of others that have been counterproductive and a vision for the future—a vision that includes revamping our health-care system, our energy system, our education system and our transportation system. We need to prepare this Nation, ourselves and our fellow citizens to conquer and excel in a world that is far different than the one that all of us were born into. I have no doubt in my mind that we will, but I appreciate the challenges on a day-to-day basis, as you sit here, and try to figure out how you are going to manage and move this State into a brighter future and a brighter tomorrow. It is going to take us awhile. We are going to get there. I cannot thank all of you enough for the extraordinary effort and the time that you spend working on behalf of our fellow citizens. It is not easy. I want to thank all of you for your kind attention. Thank you very much.

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

Motion carried.

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

Senator Breeden moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 11:57 a.m.

#### SENATE IN SESSION

At 12:03 p.m.

President Krolicki presiding.

Quorum present.

#### MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Care moved that Senate Bills Nos. 36, 249, 277, 307; Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 74th Session be taken from the General File and placed on the General File for the next legislative day.

Remarks by Senator Care.

Motion carried.

#### GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Amodei, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to the following students from Saint Teresa's School: Hannah Abbott, Nick Andreas, Brandon Basa, Tyler Bray, Aidan Cantwell, Mackenzie Cartier, Johnny Cavilia, Claire Cochrane, Khyle Dayao, Alejandro Escobar, Zachary Frewert, Brandon Gagnon, Nolan Hogan,

Andrew Honein, Alek Henrickson, Olivia Larkin, Conner Larkin, Olivia Miller, Elaina Marchaegger, Stuart McElhaney, Ramneek Dahmi, Eddie Porter, Maggie Rich, Danny Rich, Derek Schafer, Kaitrin Wilde and Mikaila Wilde.

On request of Senator Carlton, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Mike Murphy.

On request of Senator Horsford, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Royal Canadian Mounted Police Constable Matthew Wright, Marc LePage, Gayle Anderson, Denis Turcotte, Chantal Ramsay, Nadia Scipo del Campo, Yanick Godbout and Monica Arriola.

Senator Horsford moved that the Senate adjourn until Wednesday, April 1, 2009, at 11 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Approved:

BRIAN K. KROLICKI  
*President of the Senate*

Attest: CLAIRE J. CLIFT  
*Secretary of the Senate*