

THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), May 03, 20233

Senate called to order at 4:41 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Roll called.

All present except Senator Titus, who was excused.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Peggy Locke.

From Matthew 6:33:

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things
will be given to you as well.

Father in heaven, praise Your Name. You are enthroned upon our praises. You are King forever.
We thank You for Your great love to us. Thank You for all that You have given to us, as we seek
You with our whole heart.

We ask for Your wisdom, discernment and understanding in matters that concern us. May we
stay focused on what is important and finish today well.

Bless our families, protect our loved ones. Bless our friends and our coworkers with peace.
Bless those serving in harm's way with hope for the future.

From Numbers 6:24-26:

May the Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

In Jesus' Name,

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

By previous order of the Senate, the reading of the Journal is dispensed with,
and the President and Secretary are authorized to make the necessary
corrections and additions.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, Carson City, May 2, 2023

To the Honorable the Senate:

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day passed Senate
Bill No. 132.

SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblywoman Torres and
Assemblyman McArthur were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblywoman
Torres invited the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear
Representative Steven Horsford.

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

Senate in recess at 5:02 p.m.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:07 p.m.

Speaker Yeager presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senator Titus, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblyman Gray, who was excused.

Speaker Yeager appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Spearman and Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno to wait upon the Honorable United States Representative Steven Horsford and escort him to the Assembly Chamber.

Representative Horsford delivered his message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA

EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION, 2023

Thank you. It is an honor to be back here. I want to thank Speaker Steve Yeager and Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro for accepting my request to address the Nevada Legislature. Thank you to our Supreme Court Justices, our state constitutional officers and all of you for taking the time. I know this is a busy time, a month to go before *sine die*. And it is a great honor to be here as you commemorate the beginning of Asian-American Pacific Islander Month. And, I know there was a basketball game last night. I heard there may be some sore members, and while the Democrats may have come up a little short, it is great to see the camaraderie of that game and the charity that you support continue.

It is great to be back here at the Nevada State Legislature. My first opportunity to serve in this body was as a legislative intern in 1993 while attending college at the University of Nevada, Reno. I recall the opportunities that internship afforded me to learn the important role this body plays and that each of you contribute to making the State of Nevada and the people in it better. I also recall not having a proper tie and being supported by mentors who took me down the street to the local store to buy one so I could come on the house floor.

Years later, I would return to the Legislature, becoming only the fourth African American elected in the State Senate and then the first Black Senate Majority Leader. Fortunately, I may have been the first, but I am not the last. It is great to see our Attorney General here, Aaron Ford. During the six special sessions and four regular sessions I served, we were able to accomplish great work, work that you all are continuing to do and are doing right now. Again, I know that you have 30 days to go. I will not keep you long because I know you are tired and ready to continue that great work. But I want to underscore you are all public servants. The staff that serve along with you to make this institution work, the great people of the State of Nevada, I want to start by saying thank you for your service and for everything that you do for the State of Nevada.

I am now in my third consecutive term and fourth overall serving in the United States House of Representatives. I am honored to have been elected chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for the 118th Session. The CBC is now comprised of 58 members, the largest in our history. It is composed of United States Representatives and United States Senators from all across the country, from every region and ideological perspective. We are often cited as the "conscience of the Congress" because we are able to work with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remind each other of the real and human impact of the legislative proposals we work to advance, from health care to reproductive justice, from veterans and military budgets to the investments in nutrition and retirement security for our seniors. I am now four months into my new term, and while it is keeping me quite busy, I am really honored to be able to advance issues from voting rights to housing affordability to equitable job creation and economic opportunity to achieving public safety, whether from gun violence to police accountability, confronting discrimination against antisemitism and anti-Asian hate. Because all of us should agree, regardless of party, that

all our communities should be safe. In the last Congress, we were able to accomplish many great legislative victories for our nation and for Nevada, like the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

We have a real crisis in our nation and, sadly, right here in Nevada. The gun violence epidemic is taking countless lives, many of them are our young people, inflicting great trauma on our community and our families. Pew Research reports that the number of children younger than 18 killed by guns has increased by 50 percent from 2019 to 2021. Children aged 12 to 17 accounted for 86 percent of all gun deaths for those younger than 18 in 2021. Thirty-three Nevada children aged 19 and younger died from guns in 2019. Many of you know my personal story. I lost my father to gun violence when I was at college. I was a freshman. He was working at a convenience store when someone came in with a gun and shot him. I never got to say goodbye or to tell him that I loved him. For too many families that is the reality they face every single day.

That is why I have worked so hard to secure \$250 million in community violence intervention funding and why I introduced the Break the Cycle of Violence Act. I was proud to see the community violence intervention programs included in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that we passed last Congress, and that is now resulting in real community investments. In fact, my office recently hosted a workshop with nonprofits, organizations and government entities here in Nevada on how we can tap into these resources. Our children must feel safe in school, parents should feel safe sending them to school, and this epidemic of school shootings along with gun violence in general must come to an end. And I want to commend the work you are doing in this Legislature to continue to make gun safety a priority.

Some of the other landmark bills we were able to see signed into law last Congress like the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs law and the CHIPS and Science Act are all providing real returns for Nevada. The Biden-Harris Investing in America agenda is creating jobs and churning our economy here in the Silver State, and I am proud of the work we will continue to do. In fact, since President Biden took office, nearly \$8 billion in private corporate investment has been made here in Nevada. Thanks to the legislative efforts we passed in the last Congress and that the President signed into law, we are creating good-paying jobs, boosting United States competitiveness and rebuilding our infrastructure. It is no longer infrastructure week; infrastructure is finally coming to our communities.

Nevada is poised to be at the forefront of our nation's clean energy economy. Lithium is essential to powering the electric vehicles of today and the future, and corporations know that. We look forward to working with those companies as they invest in Nevada and with Nevadans. My only ask is when I talk to any of them, focus on jobs, focus on small businesses and make sure the impact you make is sustaining and long term. Do not come to Nevada if you are not willing to invest in the long-term benefit of our State.

Our State's unemployment rate is at 5.5 percent. We have added 239,300 new jobs and seen 128,000 new businesses created here in Nevada. Across the State, we have seen 103 new projects funded thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Projects like the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada getting \$6.7 million to buy hydrogen fuel cell electric buses to reduce emissions and prevent health issues like asthma—that disproportionately impact children and communities of color—and the \$31 million investment in Harry Reid International Airport, something we will need with the great sporting and entertainment events on deck over the next couple of years.

Our legislation has also helped to lower real costs for Nevada families. Over 493,000 Nevada residents with Medicare will benefit from the \$2,000 yearly cap on out-of-pocket prescription drugs. This was my legislation that I have been pushing since 2019. It is a real impact that will save seniors thousands of dollars a year. We also won against Big Pharma by capping insulin at \$35 per month, and now companies are extending the benefit so that a 10-year-old child who needs insulin can also have the lifesaving medication they need to stay alive. Ninety-six thousand individuals in Nevada signed up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) during the open enrollment period for 2023. That is going to ensure they benefit from up to thousands of dollars per year in savings from lower health care premiums. I want to thank and commend this Legislature and ask you and the Governor to continue to prioritize efforts to keep Nevadans connected to their health coverage either on Medicaid or on the ACA marketplace so they are able to see their doctor, maintain continuity of care and avoid more costly care in hospital emergency rooms. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

The average new homeowner in Nevada will save \$181 annually—or 9.7 percent on their utility bills—if this body and local governments across our State use new grants to adopt the latest building energy codes. Nevada residents will be eligible to get 30 percent off solar panels, battery storage systems, heating and cooling upgrades and weatherization, which can help them save hundreds of dollars every year on their energy bills. It is estimated that 75,000 additional Nevada households will install rooftop solar panels because of these new tax credits.

Over 191,000 Nevada households can access affordable or free high-speed internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program investments made as part of this work. I recently had the opportunity to bring one of the Federal Communications Commission commissioners into my district and speak with seniors at one of our housing facilities. Many of these residents are eligible; they just needed help to sign up. I am here to remind people if you are on SNAP benefits, school lunches, if you receive social security checks or housing vouchers, you are likely eligible for this benefit. My staff is happy to partner with anyone to make sure we get people connected to this program. When they are connected to the internet, they are connected for their health care, for their work, to help their child or grandchild with their homework and most importantly improve their quality of life.

I also am happy to hear about the efforts to create a lottery system for the State of Nevada, which has gotten further than any efforts in years past. When I was in this body, I led the effort then to try to establish a lottery program for our State. I am proud to see the hard work of my friend, Assemblyman Cameron Miller, in leading this bill and to dedicate the funding for something as important as investing in access to mental health care.

I also want to applaud efforts to improve pay and benefits for state workers. As I mentioned earlier, we are all public servants and so are many of our staff that support the work here in Carson City and for much of the work that is done in our State and local government offices. A career in public service should be rewarded with good pay and good benefits, especially to keep from losing some great talent to the private sector.

I also know that you have been working hard to make progress on some important issues around housing, in particular bills to address transitional housing to help deal with the homelessness crisis that is very real throughout parts of our State. I recently had the opportunity to join U.S.VETS for the ribbon cutting of one of these much needed facilities. The BETterment Community Bridge Housing program is serving 46 residents at a time, 184 people per year. But it is more than just housing. It is getting them counseling and employment assistance and helping to get and keep these folks off the street and a roof over their heads. Our efforts on housing need to be laser focused. Residents in Nevada are feeling the pinch of corporate speculators coming in and buying up homes. This is preventing veterans from using their VA loans to buy a home or a first-time homebuyer, who might be a single mom, from utilizing some of the programs we have worked to encourage home ownership. These corporate speculators are paying cash and pricing out working families. That is why I introduced H.R. 702, the HOME Act, to address some of the issues that are making home buying more challenging. I know that the people in my district in North Las Vegas, in the Windsor Park neighborhood, are seeing their homes literally sink into the ground. So I applaud Senator Dina Neal for her proposal to help make sure that all the families in this area, mostly Black and Latino families, all continue to have a roof over their heads in neighboring communities.

On Monday, I am leading efforts of the Tri-Caucus—the CBC, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander Caucus—to hold a summit on affordable housing in Las Vegas. We look forward to hearing the recommendations that will help Nevadans and the policies you all are advancing to actually make those policies part of a national conversation to confront the crises of affordable housing and homelessness in our country.

We must continue to invest in our people. They need jobs; they need homes. Together, we can create the job training they need and the childcare our families require to be able to work and achieve the American dream. We must focus on the economic success of our communities, where many of our constituents feel the most frustration towards government. They want to see our action on housing assistance, childcare and the child tax credit and creating new jobs that improve their quality of life.

It was this place, this very chamber, that gave me the mentoring and, yes, the tie I needed to come onto this floor. I am proud to continue to represent Nevada. I want you to know that I will

continue to work hard to make sure that Nevada and Nevadans have the support they need. Thank you for the opportunity to address you, and I look forward to our continued partnerships to deliver for all Nevadans.

God bless you.

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

Motion carried.

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

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:32 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:35 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Daly, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Apprentice Day attendees Toni Giddens, Vince Saavedra, Dian Vanderwell and Travis Wilrich.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Approved:

STAVROS ANTHONY
President of the Senate

Attest: BRENDAN BUCY
Secretary of the Senate