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# NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Eighty-Third Session, 2025

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## ASSEMBLY DAILY JOURNAL

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### THE SEVENTEENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), February 19, 2025

Assembly called to order at 11:40 a.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Reverend Augustin Jorquez.

Dear God, Creator of all creation, we invoke Your great and mighty spirit to dwell among us. We realize the fragility of our existence. In these trying times of uncertainty, let us give thanks for all of God's provision and protection. We give our gratitude for clean air, clean water, the fresh breath of life within us, and the land that sustains us. We are grateful for the relatives among us. We give thanks with a joyful heart for peace and comfort. Our admission of thanksgiving that we may, in turn, be able to give to others' hope in their time of distress. We thank you for the Holy Spirit—our Comforter. Your blessings extend through us toward others in every way: physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually. Allow us to be image bearers of Your graces, mercies, and understanding.

We humble ourselves before Your sight, we speak healing and restoration. We extend a petition of prayers spread as a woven blanket over humanity. We lift prayers to individuals as well as communities. We pray for leaders in high positions and servants in meek service. Open our eyes that each are equal in giftings and talents essential for tasks set before us. As we grow closer to You, allow us to grow closer to one another.

Entrusted to the Almighty, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. In Jesus' name. All Benevolent Father, Son, and Holy Ghost-Divine Trinity.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblymember Jauregui moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and the Speaker and Chief Clerk be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 18, 2025

SPEAKER STEVEN YEAGER, Nevada State Capitol, 101 N Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701  
MAJORITY LEADER NICOLE CANNIZZARO, Majority Leader, Nevada State Capitol, 101 N Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701

DEAR SPEAKER YEAGER AND MAJORITY LEADER CANNIZZARO,

I respectfully request the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the Nevada State Legislature on Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

As Representative for Nevada's 4th Congressional District, I look forward to sharing updates from the United States Congress and discussing current events that impact every Nevadan. I appreciate the opportunity to work together to improve Nevada's future.

I hope that my address will provide an opportunity to identify areas in which we can partner so that we may all better serve the people of the Silver State.

Sincerely,  
STEVEN HORSFORD  
*Congressman Steven Horsford*  
*4th District, Nevada*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC

February 19, 2025

THE HONORABLE STEVE YEAGER, THE HONORABLE NICOLE J. CANNIZZARO, Nevada Legislature,  
401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

DEAR SENATOR CANNIZZARO & SPEAKER YEAGER,

I respectfully request the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the Nevada Legislature on April 23, 2025. I look forward to sharing with you and your colleagues information regarding the important issues the United States Congress will be addressing during the 119th Session and the ways we can work together.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. I look forward to seeing you so soon.

Sincerely,  
DINA TITUS  
*Member of Congress*

UNITED STATES SENATE

February 19, 2025

THE HONORABLE STEVE YEAGER, Speaker of the Nevada Assembly

THE HONORABLE NICOLE CANNIZZARO, Majority Leader of the Nevada State Senate

401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701

DEAR SPEAKER YEAGER AND MAJORITY[sic] LEADER CANNIZZARO,

I respectfully request the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the Nevada Legislature on Thursday, April 17th. I look forward to sharing with you and your colleagues[sic] information regarding the important issues the United States Senate will be facing in the upcoming months and how they will affect the state of Nevada. I thank you in advance for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to seeing you soon. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact my state scheduling and operations director, Alexandra Martinez, at 202-224-6244.

Sincerely,  
JACKY ROSEN  
*U.S. Senator*

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

February 19, 2025

The Fiscal Analysis Division, pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.6, has determined the exemption of Assembly Bill No. 257.

Also, the Fiscal Analysis Division, pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.6, has determined the eligibility for exemption of Assembly Bills Nos. 238, 252, 254.

SARAH COFFMAN  
*Fiscal Analysis Division*

By Assemblymembers Dalia and Backus:

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 8—Proposing to amend the Nevada Constitution to require the Legislature, to the extent money is available, to provide by law for the establishment of a business court.

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That a new section, designated Section 3B, be added to Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution to read as follows:

**Sec. 3B. 1. The Legislature shall, to the extent money is available, provide by law for the establishment of a business court consisting of three judges or such greater number as the Legislature may provide by law.**

**2. If the Legislature provides by law for the establishment of a business court pursuant to subsection 1, the business court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction to hear disputes involving shareholder rights, mergers and acquisitions, fiduciary duties, receiverships involving business entities and other commercial or business disputes in which equitable or declaratory relief is sought.**

**3. If the Legislature provides by law for the establishment of a business court pursuant to subsection 1, the Legislature shall:**

**(a) Provide for the appointment of:**

**(1) Business court judges by the Governor in accordance with subsection 4; and**

**(2) A chief judge of the business court by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;**

**(b) Prescribe by law the powers, duties and responsibilities of business court judges in accordance with subsection 5; and**

**(c) Fix by law the:**

**(1) Terms of office of business court judges in accordance with subsection 6; and**

**(2) Term of a chief judge of the business court in accordance with subsection 7.**

**4. The judges of the business court must be appointed by the Governor from among three nominees selected for each individual seat by the permanent Commission on Judicial Selection described in subsection 3 of Section 20 of this Article. A nominee selected by the Commission must, as determined in the reasonable discretion of the Commission, have substantial experience as a practitioner or judge in one or more areas of law within the jurisdiction of the business court.**

**5. A business court judge must, for matters with the jurisdiction of the business court, have the same powers and duties and be subject to the same limitations and restrictions that are applicable to a district judge.**

**6. Except for the business court judges initially appointed, the term of office of each business court judge must be 6 years. No person so appointed may serve more than 2 consecutive terms.**

**7. Except for the initial chief judge of the business court, the chief judge serves a term of 6 years. The chief judge may:**

**(a) Succeed himself or herself.**

**(b) Resign the position of chief judge without resigning from the business court.**

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 1 of Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. *1.* The judicial power of this State is vested in a court system, comprising a Supreme Court, a court of appeals, ***a business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article***, district courts and justices of the peace.

*2.* The Legislature may also establish, as part of the system, courts for municipal purposes only in incorporated cities and towns.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 4 of Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4. *1.* The Supreme Court and the court of appeals have appellate jurisdiction in all civil cases arising in district courts ~~and~~ ***or business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article***, and also on questions of law alone in all criminal cases in which the offense charged is within the original jurisdiction of the district courts. The Supreme Court shall fix by rule the jurisdiction of the court of appeals and shall provide for the review, where appropriate, of appeals decided by the court of appeals. The Supreme Court and the court of appeals have power to issue writs of mandamus, certiorari, prohibition, quo warranto and habeas corpus and also all writs necessary or proper to the complete exercise of their jurisdiction. Each justice of the Supreme Court and judge of the court of appeals may issue writs of habeas corpus to any part of the State, upon petition by, or on behalf of, any person held in actual custody in this State and may make such writs returnable before the issuing justice or judge or the court of which the justice or judge is a member, or before any district court in the State or any judge of a district court.

*2.* In case of the disability or disqualification, for any cause, of a justice of the Supreme Court, the Governor may designate a judge of the court of appeals or a district judge to sit in the place of the disqualified or disabled justice. The judge designated by the Governor is entitled to receive his actual expense of travel and otherwise while sitting in the Supreme Court.

*3.* In the case of the disability or disqualification, for any cause, of a judge of the court of appeals, the Governor may designate a district judge to sit in the place of the disabled or disqualified judge. The judge whom the Governor designates is entitled to receive his actual expense of travel and otherwise while sitting in the court of appeals.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 7 of Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7. The times of holding the Supreme Court, the court of appeals, ***the business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article***, and the district courts must be as fixed by law. The terms of the Supreme Court must be held at the seat of government unless the Legislature otherwise provides by law, except that the Supreme Court may hear oral argument at other places in the State. The terms of the court of appeals ***and the business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article***, must be held at the place provided by law. The terms of the district courts must be held at the county seats of their respective counties unless the Legislature otherwise provides by law.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 8 of Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8. *1.* The Legislature shall determine the number of justices of the peace to be elected in each city and township of the State and shall fix by law their qualifications, their terms of office and the limits of their civil and criminal jurisdiction, according to the amount in controversy, the nature of the case, the penalty provided or any combination of these.

*2.* The provisions of this section affecting the number, qualifications, terms of office and jurisdiction of justices of the peace become effective on the first Monday of January, 1979.

*3.* The Legislature shall also prescribe by law the manner, and determine the cases, in which appeals may be taken from justices and other courts. The Supreme Court, the court of appeals, ***the business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section***

**3B of this Article**, the district courts and such other courts as the Legislature designates are courts of record.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 11 of Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11. The justices of the Supreme Court, the judges of the court of appeals, **the business court judges, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article**, and the district judges are ineligible to any office, other than a judicial office, during the term for which they have been elected or appointed. All elections or appointments of any such judges by the people, Legislature or otherwise during said period to any office other than judicial are void.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 15 of Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 15. The justices of the Supreme Court, the judges of the court of appeals, **the business court judges, if the Legislature establishes a business court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article**, and the district judges are each entitled to receive for their services a compensation to be fixed by law and paid in the manner provided by law, which must not be increased or diminished during the term for which they have been elected ~~or~~ **appointed**, unless a vacancy occurs, in which case the successor of the former incumbent is entitled to receive only such salary as may be provided by law at the time of his election or appointment. A provision must be made by law for setting apart from each year's revenue a sufficient amount of money to pay such compensation.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 20 of Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 20. 1. When a vacancy occurs before the expiration of any term of office in the Supreme Court, ~~the court of appeals or the business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article~~, or among the district judges, the Governor shall appoint a justice or judge from among three nominees selected for such individual vacancy by the Commission on Judicial Selection.

2. ~~The~~ **Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the** term of office of any justice or judge so appointed expires on the first Monday of January following the next general election. **Any business court judge who is appointed to fill a vacancy before the end of a term shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.**

3. Each nomination for the Supreme Court, ~~the court of appeals or the business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article~~, must be made by the permanent Commission, composed of:

- (a) The Chief Justice or an associate justice designated by him;
- (b) Three members of the State Bar of Nevada, a public corporation created by statute, appointed by its Board of Governors; and
- (c) Three persons, not members of the legal profession, appointed by the Governor.

4. Each nomination for the district court must be made by a temporary commission composed of:

- (a) The permanent Commission;
- (b) A member of the State Bar of Nevada resident in the judicial district in which the vacancy occurs, appointed by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada; and
- (c) A resident of such judicial district, not a member of the legal profession, appointed by the Governor.

5. If at any time the State Bar of Nevada ceases to exist as a public corporation or ceases to include all attorneys admitted to practice before the courts of this State, the Legislature shall provide by law, or if it fails to do so the Supreme Court shall provide by rule, for the appointment of attorneys at law to the positions designated in this Section to be occupied by members of the State Bar of Nevada.

6. The term of office of each appointive member of the permanent Commission, except the first members, is 4 years. Each appointing authority shall appoint one of the members

first appointed for a term of 2 years. If a vacancy occurs, the appointing authority shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. The additional members of a temporary commission must be appointed when a vacancy occurs, and their terms expire when the nominations for such vacancy have been transmitted to the Governor.

7. An appointing authority shall not appoint to the permanent Commission more than:

- (a) One resident of any county.
- (b) Two members of the same political party.

↪ No member of the permanent Commission may be a member of the Commission on Judicial Discipline.

8. After the expiration of 30 days from the date on which the Commission on Judicial Selection has delivered to him its list of nominees for any vacancy, if the Governor has not made the appointment required by this Section, he shall make no other appointment to any public office until he has appointed a justice or judge from the list submitted.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 21 of Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21. 1. A justice of the Supreme Court, a judge of the court of appeals, *a business court judge, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of this Article*, a district judge, a justice of the peace or a municipal judge may, in addition to the provision of Article 7 for impeachment, be censured, retired, removed or otherwise disciplined by the Commission on Judicial Discipline. Pursuant to rules governing appeals adopted by the Supreme Court, a justice or judge may appeal from the action of the Commission to the Supreme Court, which may reverse such action or take any alternative action provided in this subsection.

2. The Commission is composed of:

- (a) Two justices or judges appointed by the Supreme Court;
- (b) Two members of the State Bar of Nevada, a public corporation created by statute, appointed by its Board of Governors; and
- (c) Three persons, not members of the legal profession, appointed by the Governor.

↪ The Commission shall elect a Chairman from among its three lay members.

3. If at any time the State Bar of Nevada ceases to exist as a public corporation or ceases to include all attorneys admitted to practice before the courts of this State, the Legislature shall provide by law, or if it fails to do so the Supreme Court shall provide by rule, for the appointment of attorneys at law to the positions designated in this Section to be occupied by members of the State Bar of Nevada.

4. The term of office of each appointive member of the Commission, except the first members, is 4 years. Each appointing authority shall appoint one of the members first appointed for a term of 2 years. If a vacancy occurs, the appointing authority shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. An appointing authority shall not appoint more than one resident of any county. The Governor shall not appoint more than two members of the same political party. No member may be a member of a commission on judicial selection.

5. The Legislature shall establish:

- (a) In addition to censure, retirement and removal, the other forms of disciplinary action that the Commission may impose;
- (b) The grounds for censure and other disciplinary action that the Commission may impose, including, but not limited to, violations of the provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct;
- (c) The standards for the investigation of matters relating to the fitness of a justice or judge; and
- (d) The confidentiality or nonconfidentiality, as appropriate, of proceedings before the Commission, except that, in any event, a decision to censure, retire or remove a justice or judge must be made public.

6. The Supreme Court shall adopt a Code of Judicial Conduct.

7. The Commission shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its hearings and any other procedural rules it deems necessary to carry out its duties.

8. No justice or judge may by virtue of this Section be:

(a) Removed except for willful misconduct, willful or persistent failure to perform the duties of his office or habitual intemperance; or

(b) Retired except for advanced age which interferes with the proper performance of his judicial duties, or for mental or physical disability which prevents the proper performance of his judicial duties and which is likely to be permanent in nature.

9. Any matter relating to the fitness of a justice or judge may be brought to the attention of the Commission by any person or on the motion of the Commission. The Commission shall, after preliminary investigation, dismiss the matter or order a hearing to be held before it. If a hearing is ordered, a statement of the matter must be served upon the justice or judge against whom the proceeding is brought. The Commission in its discretion may suspend a justice or judge from the exercise of his office pending the determination of the proceedings before the Commission. Any justice or judge whose removal is sought is liable to indictment and punishment according to law. A justice or judge retired for disability in accordance with this Section is entitled thereafter to receive such compensation as the Legislature may provide.

10. If a proceeding is brought against a justice of the Supreme Court, no justice of the Supreme Court may sit on the Commission for that proceeding. If a proceeding is brought against a judge of the court of appeals, no judge of the court of appeals may sit on the Commission for that proceeding. If a proceeding is brought against a district judge, no district judge from the same judicial district may sit on the Commission for that proceeding. If a proceeding is brought against a justice of the peace, no justice of the peace from the same township may sit on the Commission for that proceeding. If a proceeding is brought against a municipal judge, no municipal judge from the same city may sit on the Commission for that proceeding. If an appeal is taken from an action of the Commission to the Supreme Court, any justice who sat on the Commission for that proceeding is disqualified from participating in the consideration or decision of the appeal. When any member of the Commission is disqualified by this subsection, the Supreme Court shall appoint a substitute from among the eligible judges.

11. The Commission may:

(a) Designate for each hearing an attorney or attorneys at law to act as counsel to conduct the proceeding;

(b) Summon witnesses to appear and testify under oath and compel the production of books, papers, documents and records;

(c) Grant immunity from prosecution or punishment when the Commission deems it necessary and proper in order to compel the giving of testimony under oath and the production of books, papers, documents and records; and

(d) Exercise such further powers as the Legislature may from time to time confer upon it.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 3 of Article 7 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3. For any reasonable cause to be entered on the journals of each House, which may or may not be sufficient grounds for impeachment, the justices of the Supreme Court, the judges of the court of appeals, *the judges of the business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of Article 6 of this Constitution*, and the judges of the district courts must be removed from office on the vote of two thirds of the members elected to each branch of the Legislature. The justice or judge complained of must be served with a copy of the complaint against him, and have an opportunity of being heard in person or by counsel in his defense. No member of either branch of the Legislature is eligible to fill the vacancy occasioned by such removal.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 8 of Article 15 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8. The Legislature shall provide for the speedy publication of all statute laws of a general nature and such decisions of the Supreme Court, ~~and~~ *the court of appeals and the business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of Article 6 of this Constitution*, as it may deem expedient. All laws and judicial decisions must be

free for publication by any person. No judgment of the Supreme Court, ~~{or}~~ the court of appeals *or the business court, if the Legislature establishes such a court pursuant to Section 3B of Article 6 of this Constitution*, shall take effect and be operative until the opinion of the court in such case is filed with the clerk of said court.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

Assemblymember Miller moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

Assemblymember Jauregui moved that the person as set forth on the Nevada Legislature's Press Accreditation List of February 19, 2025, be accepted as an accredited press representative, assigned space at the press table in the Assembly Chamber, allowed the use of appropriate broadcasting facilities, and that the list be included in this day's journal.

AUDIT RENO 911: Drew Ribar.

Motion carried.

#### INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Assemblymember Considine:

Assembly Bill No. 259—AN ACT relating to health care; prohibiting certain actions related to pricing and reimbursement for certain drugs; creating a cause of action for violating such prohibitions; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblymember Marzola moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymembers Gray, Dickman, DeLong, Gallant, Gurr, Hafen, Hansen, Hibbetts, Koenig and O'Neill and Senator Hansen:

Assembly Bill No. 260—AN ACT relating to health care; requiring an abortion services provider to compile and provide to patients a list of persons offering post-abortion counseling and support services; authorizing the imposition of civil penalties in certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblymember Brown-May moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections:

Assembly Bill No. 261—AN ACT relating to elections; requiring, under certain circumstances, that a county or city clerk affirmatively ask whether a registered voter would like to update his or her signature in the voter registration records of the clerk; providing, under certain circumstances, that any signature provided by a voter to cure a mail ballot becomes the voter's signature for purposes of his or her voter registration; requiring the Secretary of State, rather than the county clerk, to send certain notices to persons who



register to vote or update their voter registration using the automatic voter registration system; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblymember Mosca moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections:

Assembly Bill No. 262—AN ACT relating to elections; authorizing officers and trainees appointed for certain elections to choose to work as volunteers who receive no compensation; eliminating certain prohibitions relating to the appointment or employment of persons who have been convicted of a felony involving theft or fraud for a position involving the registration of voters; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblymember Mosca moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

Assemblymember Jauregui moved that the Assembly recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly in recess at 12:06 p.m.

#### ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 4:56 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

#### MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Mr. Speaker appointed Assemblymembers Torres-Fossett and O'Neill as a committee to invite the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear an address by United States Representative Steven Horsford.

The President of the Senate and members of the Senate appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker invited the President of the Senate to the Speaker's rostrum.

Mr. Speaker invited the members of the Senate to chairs in the Assembly.

#### IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:03 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senators Hansen and Neal, who were excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblymembers Brown-May and Hansen, who were excused.

Mr. Speaker appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Doñate and Assemblymember Monroe-Moreno to wait upon United States Representative Steven Horsford and escort him to the Assembly Chamber.

The Committee on Escort, in company with The Honorable Steven Horsford, United States Representative from Nevada, appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

The Committee on Escort escorted Representative Horsford to the rostrum.

The Speaker of the Assembly welcomed Representative Horsford and invited him to deliver his message.

Representative Horsford delivered his message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA  
EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION, 2025

Good evening, everyone. It is great to be back in Carson City and to see so many familiar faces. It is my honor to address this 83rd Legislative Session of the Nevada State Legislature. Before I begin, I want to thank Speaker Yeager, Senate Majority Leader Cannizzaro, Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony for the opportunity, as well as, Attorney General Aaron Ford, who is working hard to protect our constitutional rights for all Nevadans, as well as, our Secretary of State Cisco [Francisco] Aguilar, and the Nevada Supreme Court Justices, who are here, and to all of you, for taking the time this evening. Now look, I spent eight years serving in these halls. I know exactly how excited lawmakers are to pause your very important work to hear from some federal elected officials. You can be polite, but you cannot fool me. So, I will jump right in, but not before sending my thoughts to Senator Dina Neal and her family. I was able to visit with her and her family this morning before coming to Carson City. I am wishing her a strong and full recovery and I am grateful to the medical professionals who made sure that her surgery overnight was a success.

Tonight, I am not here to list accomplishments; I am here with a warning for our state and a path forward that puts every Nevadan first. I am going to draw on the lessons I learned from my grandmother, Grace Dorothy. This April is 25 years since her passing, but I feel her presence now more than ever. Grace Dorothy had a severe stroke when I was just three weeks old. She fell into a coma and when she emerged months later, the left side of her body was completely paralyzed. For my entire life, the grandmother that I knew and cared for and who cared deeply for me, could not walk by my side, could not walk at all, could not hug me with her left arm, she could barely speak. When she wanted to say something to me, “Good morning” or “It is cold in here; can we turn on the heat” or simply “I love you,” she had to write the words out with her finger. While she could speak, the pain sometimes was just too difficult. Complications from the stroke forced my grandmother to live in a nursing home for 27 years until she passed away in 2000. My visits to her were at her bedside, in nursing homes, as I grew from child to adult.

From that experience I learned what quality care looks like, what it sounds like, and what it smells like. I know what bed sores are, whether a patient is cared for properly, and whether a facility is clean or not. My grandmother did not have private insurance, so when they moved her from Southern Nevada Memorial, now UMC [University Medical Center], they placed her in a convalescent home on Maryland Parkway in Las Vegas. After that, the moves were to wherever beds were available. In the [19]80’s, she was even moved 100 miles out of Nevada to St. George, Utah because of state budget cuts. I did not understand it at the time, but I later learned that the only reason she had the care that she did was thanks to government support—thanks to Medicaid. When there were cutbacks or reductions to the program, it affected her health. It determined the number of nurses that cared for her and the quality of care that she received. It caused tremendous

stress and guilt for my mother. I share all of this for one simple reason, right now, there are some 811,000 Grace Dorothy's in Nevada—811,000 people in our state who depend on Medicaid. And right now, they are counting on their elected officials to have the courage to keep their coverage safe. Now look, I get it; government spending needs to come down, but it matters how we do it. I am one of only two Democrats in Congress, on the DOGE [Department of Government Efficiency] Caucus because I believe that we can root out waste, fraud, and abuse. I believe we should work together to make government work for our constituents, but I am also on the Caucus because I want Nevada to have a say whenever talks come up about cutting anything. Whether it is Medicare or nutrition assistance, privatizing the VA [Veteran Affairs], or changing the eligibility for Social Security. What is the old phrase? If you do not have a seat at the table, you are on the menu. I am not about to leave Nevadans on the menu. And I have the firsthand experience to back that up.

In 2011, our state faced one of the worst budget challenges in our history. To right our ship, the governor at the time proposed across-the-board cuts to health and human services, mental health services, and Medicaid—including nursing homes. I remember one of the budget hearings was about cutting diapers for seniors and other essential services—diapers. I was the Senate Majority Leader at the time, and I knew we could not cut the state budget on the backs of the most vulnerable people in our state. We had to work together to do better—and we did. We passed a bipartisan alternative state budget, overriding the Governor's veto at the time. It did not eliminate all of the proposed cuts, but we kept the fabric of the state together without denying seniors on Medicaid dignified care—including those hotly contested diapers.

Nevada has a history of bipartisan work when it comes to protecting and expanding access to Medicaid, but right now that is under real threat from the current House Republican budget proposal in Washington. The proposal adds \$4.5 trillion to the deficit. To do what? To pay for corporate tax cuts. And to cover that cost, they want to slash federal funding for Medicaid, nutrition programs, the VA, and other critical services. These cuts have nothing to do with bringing down the costs that President Trump promised he would address. Eggs will not get cheaper, gas will not flow faster, and housing will not become more affordable. Make no mistake, these cuts are purely to fund tax cuts for big corporations, tech tycoons, and billionaires. Here is why this is a problem that we have to take on together: if the proposal passes, it will strip Nevada of the 90 percent federal funding match for Medicaid created by the Affordable Care Act. It will cost our state at least \$700 million a year over the next decade. We cannot afford the capital costs and we cannot even afford the human toll that that would cost.

Remember, 811,000 Grace Dorothy's are counting on us in Nevada. Nearly 40 percent of all Nevada children, some 274,000 children—rely on Medicaid. Forty-two percent of moms giving birth and their newborn babies—rely on Medicaid. That is more than 13,200 births in 2023 alone. More than 35 percent of working-age adults with disabilities, nearly 65,000 people—rely on Medicaid. Sixty percent of people living in nursing homes, just like my grandmother—rely on Medicaid. A recent study found as many as 320,000 Nevadans, more than 40 percent of all enrollees in our state, would lose coverage if the congressional Republican budget proposal gets enacted. The choices leaders like us make affect real people. So, it is important we center the stories of those that we represent. Those closest to the pain should be at the center of shaping policy. That is the only way the changes that we all seek can actually take hold and get implemented. That is why I am listening and engaging my constituents from across the district to share what these cuts would mean to them. Nurses and care coordinators in Pahrump at Nevada Health Center shared with me, just yesterday, that they have no birth center in their community and limited OB/GYN [obstetrics-gynecology] services. At Hope Christian Center in North Las Vegas, another FQHC [Federally Qualified Health Center], who is meeting the needs of thousands of patients who have diabetes and high blood pressure, without proper coverage; these costs will continue to rise because you are not addressing the problem if you shift the burden to the states and do not have any way to fund it. Tribal leaders at Walker River Paiute, are struggling to get care from Indian Health Services and depend on the Medicaid services for their tribal members. These are the people who will be affected and so many more like them if the House Republican budget passes and these cuts take effect. And it all comes down to one simple word—priorities. The hospital building that houses the Walker River Paiute Tribe is nearly 100 years old. It has structural issues from a recent earthquake that Indian Health Services must address. We should be

protecting the Affordable Care Act. Instead, President Trump and Elon Musk are focused on cutting the care that tribal leaders depend on. Those are not my values, and they are not Nevadan values either.

What is the alternative? Like we showed here in Nevada, a group of bipartisan members can lead the way. It only takes three, three Republicans, to reject this chaotic and cruel approach and join in a bipartisan coalition to keep the fabric of our country together—three. And it can be done. Nevada was the first state with a Republican Governor, then Governor Brian Sandoval, to implement Medicaid expansion after the Affordable Care Act passed. It reduced the uninsured rate in Nevada by a third—563,000 children who were previously uninsured suddenly had coverage.

As I return to Washington next week, I will be thinking about the hundreds of thousands of Nevadans who could see their lives turned upside down by the Republican budget. I understand that the world is moving fast right now—horrific cuts to the federal workforce, the largest data breach in U.S. history taking place at this administration's direction, federal funding freezes undermining nonprofits and the people they serve, tariff disputes threatening to raise prices across the board, but above all else, the Medicaid cuts will hit Nevada and Nevadans the hardest. I hear from hundreds of constituents calling and messaging my office every week. I will bring their voices, their concerns, and yes, their stories, with me to Capitol Hill. I know who I am fighting for, and I know why I am fighting for them. Grace Dorothy, my grandmother, is no longer here with me to fight for her, but countless others are. They are receiving care in nursing homes, they are seeking health services at community health centers, they are pregnant women in need of maternity care, and newborn babies just getting their start in this world. They are all of us, regardless of party or whether they belong to a party at all. I am proud to fight for them and I am proud to have each one of you as colleagues in this work. None of you would run for office, or spend 120 days, in this sometimes-maddening process if you did not fundamentally believe you could improve the lives of your constituents. The issues before you are serious, and your leadership is needed more now than ever. But we are battle born and battle tested. We will look back on this moment in history and I have no doubt it will be one that dictates the future of our state. If we stand united and center the lives of Nevadans, we may be able to avoid some of the worst budget challenges in our history. But, if we fall to partisan politics, you may see yourselves in special session, after special session, talking about things like diapers for seniors and prenatal care for mothers. I am ready to fight, and I hope you will join me. Thank you very much for allowing me to be with you. I look forward to the work we have to do together and the days, months, and years to come. God Bless you and God Bless the people of the state of Nevada, our troops, and the United States of America.

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

Seconded by Assemblymember Flanagan.

Motion carried.

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

Assemblymember Mosca moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Seconded by Senator Flores

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:24 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5:25 p.m.  
Mr. Speaker presiding.  
Quorum present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There being no objections, the Speaker and Chief Clerk signed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Assemblymember Anderson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ravyn Smith.

On request of Assemblymember Brown-May, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Alyssa Dennison-Glasgow, Laura Henkel, and Samuel Rudd.

On request of Assemblymember D'Silva, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Alex Woodly, Ethan Cohen, Jerrie Merrit, Karen Alonso, Kourtney Wagner, Max Jansen, Meyer Delee, Senator Edgar Flores and Yolanda Morales.

On request of Assemblymember Dickman, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Michael McDonald.

On request of Assemblymember Edgeworth, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to April Augustine, Dawn Mack, and Savanna Sibley.

On request of Assemblymember Goulding, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Adam Czajkowski.

On request of Assemblymember Hafen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Mark Funkhouser.

On request of Assemblymember Hansen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Wyatt Fry.

On request of Assemblymember Hunt, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Linda Weathers.

On request of Assemblymember Karris, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Brittany DePree, Jeffrey Piontek, and John Etzell.

On request of Assemblymember Koenig, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Courtney Vogt, Nicole Lambolely, and Shane Piccinini.

On request of Assemblymember Monroe-Moreno, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to C.H. Miller and Dwayne McClinton.

On request of Assemblymember Moore, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Maricela Gutierrez, Susie Martinez and Tami Hance-Lehr.

On request of Assemblymember Nadeem, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Denette Suddeth, Don Snyder and Rev. Dr. Marta Poling-Schmitt.

On request of Assemblymember Nguyen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Tina Frias.

On request of Assemblymember Torres-Fossett, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ava Valdovinos, Dawnyelle Allison, and Terryion Johnson.

On request of Assemblymember Watts, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Marine Heath.

On request of Assemblymember Yurek, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Mike Carey.

Assemblymember Jauregui moved that the Assembly adjourn until Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Approved:

STEVE YEAGER  
*Speaker of the Assembly*

Attest: BONNIE BORDA HOFFECKER  
*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*