

NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Eighty-third Session, 2025

SENATE DAILY JOURNAL

THE SEVENTEENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), February 19, 2025

Senate called to order at 11:12 a.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Roll called.

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

Prayer by Pastor Peggy Locke.

The Bible says:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let Your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7.

Faithful Father, we give You thanks for Your protection, provision and Your promises to each one of us and for our families. Everything we have need of is found in You. We invite Your presence and Your peace to fill our hearts and our minds today. Lead us and guide us, we pray.

As challenging circumstances come up, may we always seek You first and Your righteousness. We ask for Your grace, wisdom and discernment as we work together to serve our great State of Nevada.

Bless our families, our coworkers and also for all those who are in attendance today. We pray for Your continued protection for those serving in harm's way.

In Jesus' Name and for His glory,

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, February 18, 2025

To the Honorable the Senate:

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

JASON HATAWAY

Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

COMMUNICATIONS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
406 CANNON HOB
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

February 18th, 2025

Speaker Steve Yeager
Nevada State Capitol
101 N Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro
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 19th, 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,
Congressman Steven Horsford
4th District, Nevada

UNITED STATES SENATE
HART OFFICE BUILDING, SUITE SH-713
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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 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 colleague's [*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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Buck approved the addition of Senator Titus as a sponsor of Senate Bill No. 92.

Senator Buck approved the addition of Senators Doñate and Rogich as sponsors of Senate Bill No. 131.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Senator Lange:

Senate Bill No. 216—AN ACT making an appropriation to United Citizens Foundation, Inc. for the provision of certain services in connection with the K-12 public education system; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Lange moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.
 Motion carried.

By Senators Cannizzaro, Nguyen, Scheible, Pazina, Dondero Loop, Cruz-Crawford, Daly, Doñate, Flores, Lange, Neal, Ohrenschall and Taylor:

Senate Bill No. 217—AN ACT relating to health care; prohibiting a governmental entity from substantially burdening certain activity relating to assisted reproduction under certain circumstances; authorizing a person whose engagement in such activity has been so burdened to assert the violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding; authorizing a court to award damages against a governmental entity that substantially burdens such activity in certain circumstances; providing certain immunity from civil and criminal liability and administrative sanctions for certain persons and entities involved in the provision of assisted reproduction; providing that a fertilized egg or human embryo that exists before implantation in a human uterus is not a person for legal purposes; requiring certain health insurers to authorize a pregnant person to enroll in a health plan during a specified period; requiring certain public and private health insurers to provide certain coverage for the treatment of

infertility and fertility preservation; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By Senator Ohrenschall:

Senate Bill No. 218—AN ACT relating to unfair trade practices; enacting the Uniform Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

By Senator Ellison:

Senate Bill No. 219—AN ACT relating to crimes; increasing the penalty for organized retail theft under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

By Senator Lange:

Senate Bill No. 220—AN ACT relating to economic development; enacting the Nevada Film Infrastructure, Workforce Development, Education and Economic Diversification Act; requiring the Office of Economic Development to enter into a development agreement to establish certain criteria for the development of infrastructure for the production of motion pictures and other qualified productions; establishing requirements for a production company located at such a development to be eligible for film infrastructure transferable tax credits for qualified productions produced at the development; providing for the calculation of the amount of film infrastructure transferable tax credits; revising provisions governing noninfrastructure transferable tax credits for motion pictures and other qualified productions produced in this State; authorizing an additional amount of noninfrastructure transferable tax credits; establishing the Account for Nevada Film, Media and Related Technology Education and Vocational Training and a board to approve distributions from the Account; providing for the distribution of money in the Account; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Lange moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Revenue and Economic Development.

Motion carried.

By Senators Buck and Stone:

Senate Bill No. 221—AN ACT relating to common-interest communities; providing that certain complaints, documents and information filed with the

Real Estate Division of the Department of Business and Industry and certain documents and information relating to such complaints and the investigation thereof are public records; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Buck moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
Motion carried.

By Senator Buck:

Senate Bill No. 222—AN ACT relating to common-interest communities; revising provisions relating to the recording of certain meetings in a common-interest community; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Buck moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
Motion carried.

By Senator Buck:

Senate Bill No. 223—AN ACT relating to crimes; increasing the penalties for sex trafficking a child or facilitating the sex trafficking of a child; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Buck moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
Motion carried.

By Senators Buck, Stone and Hansen and Assemblymember Hansen:

Senate Bill No. 224—AN ACT relating to education; requiring the principal of each public school to prepare an instructional model for the school which may be shared with other public schools; prescribing requirements for the Department of Education to convert certain public schools to Department charter schools under certain circumstances; prescribing requirements for the operation of a Department charter school; providing for the use of certain school buildings by a Department charter school free of charge; requiring a school district to provide facilities or services to a Department charter school under certain circumstances; revising provisions governing the use of school buildings owned by the board of trustees of a school district by a Department charter school; prohibiting collective bargaining concerning the termination of employment or reassignment of the employees of a Department charter school; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Buck moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.
Motion carried.

By the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections:

Senate Bill No. 225—AN ACT relating to elections; requiring a candidate at a presidential preference primary election to pay a filing fee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Ohrenschall moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections:

Senate Bill No. 226—AN ACT relating to legislative affairs; making various changes relating to legislative interim committees and presiding officers of those committees; revising the deadline to submit an application to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education to serve on the Nevada State Teacher and Education Support Professional Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force; eliminating the requirement that the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services review certain regulations; making the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission a stand-alone interim committee; revising provisions relating to legislative committee members and staff regulated by the Nevada Lobbying Disclosure and Regulation Act and Nevada Financial Disclosure Act; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Ohrenschall moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 11:28 a.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 4:58 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Quorum present.

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblymembers Torres-Fossett and O'Neill were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblymember Torres-Fossett 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 4:59 p.m.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:03 p.m.

Speaker Yeager 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.

Speaker Yeager appointed a committee on escort consisting of Senator Doñate and Assemblymember 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-THIRD SESSION, 2025

Good evening, everyone. It's great to be back in Carson City and to see so many familiar faces. It's 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 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 and hear from some federal elected officials—you can be polite, but you can't fool me.

So, I'll 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'm wishing her a strong and full recovery, and I'm grateful to the medical professionals who made sure that her surgery overnight was a success.

Tonight, I'm not here to list accomplishments. I'm here with a warning for our State and a path forward that puts every Nevadan first. I'm going to draw on the lessons that 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 couldn't walk by my side, couldn't walk at all, couldn't hug me with her left arm; she could barely speak. When she wanted to say something to me—"Good morning" or "It's too cold in here, can you 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 up from child to adult. From that experience, I learned what quality care looks like, what it sounds like, what it smells like. I know what bedsores are, whether a patient is cared for properly and whether a facility is clean or not.

My grandmother didn't have private insurance, so when they moved her from Southern Nevada Memorial, now UMC, 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 '80s, she was even moved 100 miles out of Nevada to St. George, Utah, because of state budget cutbacks.

I didn't understand it at the time, but I later learned that the only reason that 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 Dorothys in Nevada, 811,000 people in our State who depend on Medicaid. And right now, they're 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'm one of only two Democrats in Congress on the DOGE 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'm also on the caucus because I want Nevada to have a say whenever talks come up about cutting anything, whether it's Medicare or nutrition assistance, privatizing the VA or changing the eligibility for Social Security. What's the old phrase? If you don't have a seat at the table, you're on the menu. So, I'm 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 that 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 couldn't 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 didn't eliminate all of the proposed cuts, but we kept the fabric of our State together without denying seniors on Medicaid dignified care, including those hotly contested diapers.

So look, Nevada has a history of bipartisan work when it comes to protecting and expanding access to Medicaid. But right now, that's 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 assistance 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 won't get cheaper. Gas won't flow faster, and housing won't become more affordable.

Make no mistake, these cuts are purely to fund tax cuts for big corporations, tech tycoons and billionaires. And here's 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 can't afford the capital cost, and we can't afford the human toll that that would cost. Remember: 811,000 Grace Dorothys 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's more than 13,200 births in 2023 alone. More than 35 percent of working-age adults with disabilities, nearly 65,000 people in Nevada, rely on Medicaid. Sixty percent of the people living in nursing homes, just like my grandmother, rely on Medicaid. A recent study found that 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. So, the choices leaders like us make affect real people, so it's important that we center the stories of those that we represent. Those who are closest to the pain should be at the center of shaping the policy. That's the only way that the changes that we all seek can actually take hold and get implemented.

That's why I'm 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 services. At Hope Christian Center in North Las Vegas, another Federally Qualified Health Center who's 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 just shift the burden to the states and don't have any way to fund it. Tribal leaders at Walker River Paiute are struggling to get care from Indian 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 aren't my values, and they're not Nevadan values either.

So, what's 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. So, as I return to Washington next week, I'll 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's 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 that 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'll 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'm fighting for them. Grace Dorothy, my grandmother, is no longer here with me to fight for her but countless others are. They're receiving care in nursing homes; they're seeking health services at community health centers; they're pregnant women in need of maternity care and newborn babies just beginning their start in this world. They are all of us regardless of party or whether they belong to a party at all. I'm proud to fight for them, and I'm proud to have each one of you as a colleague in this work.

None of you would run for office or spend 120 days in this sometimes maddening process if you didn't fundamentally believe that 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'm ready to fight, and I hope that you'll join me. Thank you very much for allowing me to be with you. I look forward to the work that we have to do together in 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.

Motion carried.

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

Assemblymember Mosca moved that the joint session be dissolved.

Motion carried.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:31 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Quorum present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SIGNING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The President and Secretary signed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Buck, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Cheree Boteler and Kat Klehm.

On request of Senator Cannizzaro, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Tony Sanchez and Dominic Sinnott.

On request of Senator Cruz-Crawford, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Eileen Guilbeault, Cathy LaCour and Ray Lucero.

On request of Senator Daly, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Ila Achtabowski, Nancy McCormick and Annie Zucker.

On request of Senator Doñate, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Jenna Palazzo, Angela Rock and Jessica Sayles.

On request of Senator Dondero Loop, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Julie Murray.

On request of Senator Flores, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to James Galos and Shari Netzel.

On request of Senator Hansen, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Addison Clark and William Stednick.

On request of Senator Krasner, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Mitch Cohen and David Taylor.

On request of Senator Lange, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Kristi Honeyestewa and Jaime Waterbury.

On request of Senator Nguyen, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Madisyn Harlan, Lisa Harris and MaryGrace Rendina.

On request of Senator Ohrenschall, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Ethan Cohen and Meyer DeLee.

On request of Senator Pazina, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Jacob Stalk, Angel Williams and Minjia Yan.

On request of Senator Scheible, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Mark Doyle, Oksana Komarnyckyj and Marco Ovando.

On request of Senator Steinbeck, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Crystal Hirschi and Sara Sadrolsadat.

On request of Senator Stone, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Christina Erling and Leslie Goicoechea.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Approved:

STAVROS ANTHONY
President of the Senate

Attest: BRENDAN BUCY
Secretary of the Senate