

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024**

**2:51 P.M.**

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

In the absence of clergy, let us pause for a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Aubry led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Friday, January 26th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Friday, January the

26th and ask that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you so much, sir. I certainly want to welcome our colleagues back into the Chambers as well as guests. And I would like to share this quote for today, Mr. Speaker. This one is from Albert Einstein. No need to describe who he is. Everybody has had some opportunity to read his works. This one says, *Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.* Again, these words from Albert Einstein. The members have on their desks, Mr. Speaker, a main Calendar. It has 22 new bills on it, and after you've done any introductions or housekeeping, we're going to begin with Calendar Resolutions on Page 3, which I understand a number of our members would like to speak on. We will then take up Calendar No. 284 by Ms. Cruz. Following that, we will go directly to, again, our consent work of the other new bills beginning with Calendar No. 268, it's on Page 4 and we're going to go all the way to Calendar No. 289, which is on Page 8. There may be a need for further floor activity as we proceed, Mr. Speaker. If so, I will dutifully let members know that. However, to be clear, Majority members, is that there will be a need for a conference immediately following the conclusion of our work on the floor today. And as we always do, Mr. Speaker, we'll confer with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to determine what their needs

may be. That's a general outline of where we are, sir. If you have introductions or housekeeping, now would be a great time. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: No housekeeping, Mrs. People-Stokes, but we do have a introduction by Ms. Cruz.

MS. CRUZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I rise today to welcome back one of our former colleagues and one of my dearest friends Aravella Simotas. Aravella Simotas leads the State in Local Government Affairs Strategy at BNY Mellon, a 240-year-old innovative global banking institution with operations across 22 states and the District of Columbia spanning a wide range of financial services. Previously, Aravella served for a decade as a member of our House where she authored groundbreaking labor, insurance and Penal Code legislation and shared the Body's Ethics and Guidance Committee and co-chaired the bicameral Legislative Ethics Commission. During her legislative tenure, she served on the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee and the Board of Economic Advisors. In her legal practice, she represented clients in State and Federal courts and in alternative dispute resolutions and high-dollar, high-risk commercial litigation. Aravella also served as Policy and Strategic Advisor to a member of the US House of Representatives and began her long tenure in government as an aide to former New York City Council Speaker Peter Vallone. She received her Juris Doctor from Fordham Law School where she served as the managing editor for the *Environmental Law Review*. She graduated summa cum

laude from Fordham University with a degree in Economics and Philosophy with a concentration in Business Administration and served on the Board of Advisors to Fordham College at Lincoln Center. Last year, SUNY awarded Aravella an honorary Doctoral Degree in Humane Letters in recognition of her significant work supporting higher education and healthcare in the State of New York. Aravella currently serves as a board member of the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens and SUNY School of Optometry. But I get to call her my friend and one of the favorite people that I get to go have some amazing Greek food in Astoria. She is a wonderful attorney, possibly one of the best debaters I've ever seen, and so help me welcome her back into our House and afford her all the cordialities of the House, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Cruz, the Speaker and all the members, Aravella, always a pleasure to see you, so good to have you back as one of the premiere sisters of Queens. We hope that you enjoy your stay. You always have privileges as a former member, and our best to your family. Glad to see you.

(Applause)

We will go to resolutions on page 3. Assembly No. 798, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 798, Ms. Septimo.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 26, 2024, as the 211th Anniversary

of Juan Pablo Duarte Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Septimo on the resolution.

MS. SEPTIMO: Thank you. I am proud to stand and celebrate Juan Pablo Duarte who was born 210 years ago on January 26th, and is recognized as one of the Founding Fathers of the Dominican Republic after -- often being referred to as the Father of the Nation. Duarte was largely responsible for financing the Dominican Republic's War of Independence, but most importantly, he also served as the inspirational leader for the war. Duarte's visionary leadership and honorable spirit and genuine commitment to ideals of democracy, fairness and an enlightened state serve as the foundation for the Dominican Republic as a nation and the Dominican community as a people. Duarte was once quoted as saying (speaking in Spanish), which means we work for and because of our homeland, which means working for our children and for ourselves. It is clear in this quote and in so many others, that Juan Pablo Duarte understood that the bettering of a state, a government and its people are all inextricably linked. And that we are all made better in pursuit of excellence for ourselves and for each other. I am proud to be a Dominican woman whose community bears the fruits of a such an important message on a daily basis, and I bring that same spirit to my work here in New York every single day. So thank you for joining me in celebration of Juan Pablo Duarte and the Dominican Republic.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Tapia on the resolution.

MS. TAPIA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Juan Pablo Duarte was a visionary statesman [sic] and an intellectual who played a pivotal role in the formation of the Dominican Republic, and is one of the Founding Fathers of the Dominican Republic. Born in 1813 in the City of Santo Domingo, he was close to the injustice and suffering of his countrymen from a young age. This inspired him to seek change and work towards a better future for our people in the Dominican Republic. In 1838, Duarte founded a secret society called La Trinitaria, which aimed to secure our independence. Juan Pablo Duarte was a man ahead of his time. He was a visionary leader who devoted his life to the cause of independence and freedom for the people of the Dominican Republic. His tireless efforts, dedication and sacrifice continue to inspire Dominicans today and his legacy is a testament of the power of one person to make a difference in the world. Duarte will always be remembered [sic] as one of the Founding Fathers of the Dominican Republic. A symbol -- and a symbol of hope and inspiration for our future's ahead generations. And like you said, quote, Living without a homeland is the same as living without honor. And in Spanish, (Speaking in Spanish). Juan Pablo Duarte.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Alvarez on the resolution.

MR. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to talk on this resolution. Much like the constituents that I'm so deeply honored to represent from the beautiful 78th Assembly

District located in the northwest of Bronx, Juan Pablo Duarte was born into a humble working class in 1813. If Juan Pablo Duarte were alive today, he would advocate for a better New York State, a better Bronx and is in large part because of his vision that I'm fighting for the 78th Assembly District. If he were alive, he would boldly fight for a better, fair and more just 78 Assembly District for all. He will fight to keep New York and Americans safe, clean and sustainable, just like we are doing here, and he will be tireless in his fight just like you, Mr. Speaker, and just like all of the colleagues that I'm privileged to serve with. (Speaking in Spanish). Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 799, Ms. Rozic.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 27, 2024, as Holocaust Remembrance Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Rozic on the resolution.

MS. ROZIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Madam Majority Leader. This past Saturday, January 27th, marked the 79th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp where 1.1 million people were killed. In 2005, the United Nations designated this day as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Every year I get up here to talk about that date and its

significance and to recall similar punctuated moments of tragedy. This year however, I'm at a loss. Never did I think that *never again* would be never again is now. The Jewish community is at a loss. This past year has been full of loss. Not a loss of words because there are so many words thrown at us and used to describe us, careless and hateful words, and these words seem to be everywhere, on college campuses, online forums and e-mail inboxes, school hallways, sidewalks and subways. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we should remember not just the unimaginable atrocities of the Nazis, but also stay aware of how quickly anti-Semitic thoughts and words lead to violence. If history has taught us anything, it's that hate can quietly exist for a very long time until it suddenly explodes. The Holocaust did not begin with Auschwitz and the Nazi death camps. That is where the road of life for many Jews, millions of Jews ended. Rather, it began with words and singling out and dehumanizing an entire group of people - Jews, while so many looked the other way or worse, excused or justified it. Auschwitz survivor Primo Levi famously wrote, "Monsters exist, but they are too few in number to be truly dangerous. More dangerous are the common men, the functionaries ready to believe and to act without asking questions." How relevant are his words today? As so many continue to remain silent or worse yet, seek to minimize, justify or deflect from the reality of never-ending anti-Semitism. We have not escaped this past. Anti-Semitism and discrimination continue to destroy the local communities violating our collective humanity and safety. At this



moment, people in the Jewish state are facing unimaginable horrors and are continually subjected to extreme violence. Jewish people across the world are living in fear. Our families, our students, our young people are left searching for safety. Jews make up 2.5 percent of the American population, yet they are targets, more than 60 percent of all religiously-based hate crimes. Amidst a spike of hate crimes, the NYPD actually recorded around 68 percent of all recorded incidents in New York City were anti-Jewish incidents. In Albany just this past month, a man was charged by Federal Law enforcement for firing a shotgun at a synagogue. Looking back is not enough. What have we learned in all these years? Have we really learned anything? When schools are closed because of violent threats, when over the course of one weekend more than 400 Jewish facilities across the US received false bomb threats. When Jewish students on campus are bullied and assaulted just for being Jewish. When congregants are harassed and have water thrown on them as they leave synagogue this past Saturday afternoon. Jewish institutions are vandalized, anti-Semitic slogans chanted. Jewish teachers threatened. It is an intolerable and unacceptable reality that Jews today are afraid to go to school, to take the train, to be on campus or to walk down the street.

Given the nature of anti-Semitism, our response to it must be comprehensive. The need for remembrance, education and action has never been more critical. This includes not only educational efforts like promoting awareness for Jewish heritage, the Holocaust and the dangers of anti-Semitism in schools, workplaces

and public institutions. There is also need for clear legislative and legal action against extremism and terrorism. Dangerous ideologies must not be given a chance to spread. We must confront the dangerous conspiracies and denialism we've seen swarming. I'm almost done, Mr. Speaker. Dara Horn wrote a brilliant book recently called *People Love Dead Jews*. I invite you all to pick up a copy. It should challenge you not to just focus on dead Jews, but more importantly the living. We must use the power of knowledge, memory and empathy to steer society away from a path of hatred, division and bigotry. The real test of your moral courage and conviction and character is not only whether you mourn over dead Jews and to cry the past evils, it is whether you are standing beside the living ones. Whether you are defending the live ones, those who are under attack today and every day. The fight against anti-Semitism is never complete, but must vigorously continue every single day. Otherwise, we are all just lost. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Eichenstein.

(Applause)

MR. EICHENSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this resolution and I want to thank the sponsor for bringing this resolution to the floor. Holocaust Remembrance Day is not just another day on the Assembly Calendar. It's meaningful, it's significant, and it's vital to keeping the memory alive. For years now we've been commemorating Holocaust

Remembrance Day at the State Assembly. We've spoken many times about the dangers of anti-Semitism, the horrors of the Holocaust, the pledge to fight against the forces of evil. We share stories of personal experiences from survivors who are aging but are still keeping the memories alive for all of us. And I think we all understood the importance of never allowing anything like this to happen ever again. And then came October 7th, the worst atrocity against the Jewish people since the Holocaust. For Jews all over the world, everything has changed. Our world changed. So this year, Holocaust Remembrance Day takes on a new urgency. *Never again* has a whole new meaning. Anti-Semitism has become very real, very current and very scary. A modern version of the battle against the Jewish people is being played out on our college campuses, on our streets and on social media all while the world is turning a blind eye. It's real, it's frightening and it's very reminiscent of what took place just over 80 years ago in cities and towns throughout Europe. I don't want to hijack the significance of Holocaust Remembrance Day by speaking about current events. Six million innocent Jews were taken during that horrific era as were other minorities and the disabled, but if we don't learn from the past, we are doomed to repeat the same mistakes. We must not ignore. We must not turn away and we must not allow for evil to flourish. I don't know what would have happened in the 1930s if more would have spoken out, or if world leaders would have intervened. Perhaps it would have made a difference. But I do know, now is the time for all of us to speak out against hate, against

anti-Semitism, racism, discrimination and bias in any form, and by that I mean all hate. Let us remember the famous quote written by Pastor Martin Niemöller. First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak out - because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out - because I wasn't a Socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out on my behalf, end quote. We must speak out. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our children, we owe it to our grandchildren. Most of all, we owe it to the millions of innocent souls who are victims of unfathomable hate. *Never again* is now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Levenberg.

MS. LEVENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise also to recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day and acknowledge the thoughts that my colleagues shared. I have also shared the story of my own family on my mother's side, specifically that my great grandmother -- I'm sorry, my great-grandfather Julius Schmidt perished in Bergen-Belsen at the hands of the Nazis as one of the six million Jews systematically killed because they were Jewish. This year the Dutch Government memorialized his life with a special

stone placed in front of the location of the butcher shop in Amsterdam, which my grandparents owned before they were sent into hiding. Trien Freek and Willie Rijs saved my grandparents Edith and Ernst Baer in Berkhout in Northern Holland. And Maria Cornelius and Cornelia Schouten saved my mother Lore Baer in Oosterblokker also in Northern Holland. These brave people put their own lives on the line to save others who had been ostracized. And when my grandparents came to this country in the late '40s, they were welcomed in and found a path to citizenship in New York. The German government offered them reparations to make up for their loss. These actions and my family history informed my belief in the importance of social justice and not just remembering but making amends for the wrongs of the past. As we remember this day, we know we must stand up against hate and demagoguery, anti-Semitism, and instead stand for love and empathy and the belief in the good of humanity if we all come together. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Ari Brown.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to Assemblywoman Rozic for putting this resolution together. How apropos that this past week's Torah portion from the *Book of Exodus* falls out on the time of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The text goes (speaking foreign language). The Egyptians pursued the children of Israel and came after them with all the Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen to drive them into the sea. Sounds

familiar. We say in regards to the Holocaust *never again*, but in fact as we have seen after October 7th, it always comes. So on this Holocaust Remembrance Day, we still wish for *never again*, but just remember how the story always ends. The outcome is always the same, whether the Egyptians, the Nazis, or from today's terrorists, the text continues in this week's Torah portion, (speaking foreign language). And the waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and the entire force of Pharaoh ended up themselves in the sea, not even one of them survived.

There are those that continue to drive the Jewish people into the sea, but in fact, as history has proven, they are the only ones left standing. So I say, *never forget*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Rajkumar on the resolution.

MS. RAJKUMAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be clear for anyone that would deny that the Holocaust actually happened, for the record, let me state that the Holocaust was the genocide of European Jews. During World War II between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany systematically murdered six million Jews. That was two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population, murdered. It happened 80 years ago. It is now the year of 2024, and yet violent anti-Semitism remains on the rise. We must stand against this hatred.

Since October there has been a 361 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents. Nationally, a majority of religion-motivated

hate crimes are against people of the Jewish faith. It is the responsibility of all of us to combat all suggestions of anti-Semitism. It is our responsibility to say *never again* will the world allow another Holocaust. And we need do a better job. We cannot be indifferent. As Elie Wiesel once said, the opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference. The opposite of life is not death, it is indifference.

Last year I visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Israel where I learned of Irena Sendler, a young woman who risked her life to smuggle Jewish children to safety during the Holocaust. May we all aspire to have such incredible courage in the face of hatred, because when one group is scapegoated and targeted, any group could be next. Hate crimes against Muslim Americans and Asian Americans spiked in the last few years. If we allow anti-Semitism to continue, any group could be next.

A 15-year-old girl named Anne Frank was sent to her death in a Nazi concentration camp. Just before that, she famously wrote in her diary these words: "In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart." Let us prove her right and show that in 2024, people really are good at heart. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Zaccaro on the resolution.

MR. ZACCARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day observed on January 27th every year marks the date in 1945 of the Liberation of Auschwitz with 2024 marking as its 29th -- 79th anniversary. It was just this time last

year when I had the opportunity to visit Yad Vashem in Israel, and there are few events recorded in human history that matched the horrors of the Holocaust. The systematic persecution, forced deportation, enslavement and murder of millions of Jewish men, women and children across Europe by the Nazis shocked our collective conscience even decades later. And for some in New York the trauma inflicted on them and their loved ones, their neighbors and their friends during the Holocaust, they still feel every single day. And as we remember those who perished during the Holocaust and had their lives -- and those who had their lives irreparably [sic] changed we must never forget the pain -- the pain of that chapter in our past. We must also do what must be done today so that no New Yorker ever lives in fear of persecution, of hatred and bigotry on the basis of their religion or for any reason. Today we don't only remember those we lost, but remember those who still live with the pain of these events and those who still face anti-Semitism today. And I want to thank the sponsor today for this resolution, and I rise in support and thank the rest of my colleagues. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Eachus.

MR. EACHUS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the resolution. I want to thank my colleague for putting forth this resolution and especially for naming it Holocaust Remembrance Day, because truly this horrific event must be remembered. And by



remembered, we don't mean just in the past, we mean in the present and for the future. I, too, would like to recommend a piece of literature that we should all read. I've read it several times, it is called *Night* by Elie Wiesel. It's only a hundred pages long, but it'll give you a good clue on how this horrific event occurred. It shows the lack of caring, the apathy and most importantly the non-belief of what was really happening there. I can't believe that there still are deniers and un-believers of the Holocaust. And to all of those folks I say visit Auschwitz-Birkenau and you will see the truth, the horrible truth. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Glick on the resolution.

MS. GLICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to commend the sponsor of the resolution for bringing this forward. It is a difficult time. We remember the horrors. We wonder how it is possible how so many people lost their basic sense of humanity. How was it possible? But we know that through history people have been brutal to each other. Tribal differences have resulted in unspeakable horrors. But this was a so-called civilized nation that organized the mechanisms and created a systematic attempt to eliminate a people. It is almost beyond belief, except it happened, and it happened as good people turned away. And it has reared its ugly head when there are people invited to speak who deny that it ever occurred. And so despite everything we know, there are people who deny and it is why we must stand here today and every year on Holocaust Remembrance

Day to say it happened, it was evil and too many people embraced that evil.

And the events of this past October have shaken many of us. My niece in Virginia said she did not feel comfortable putting her menorah in the window. And there are many Jews who have likewise taken a step back because of fear. I heard a story on NPR that was about a Jewish and gentile choral group that I never heard of. Men who traveled and apparently were very widely known and sold lots of records in the late 1920s and early '30s but then had to disband. And the wife of one of them, because the survivor is living in California, the wife said she was not Jewish, her husband was. And she said at the time, the problem was that Jews were too hopeful and not fearful enough. And today there are many more Jews who are fearful. I want to be one of those who's hopeful. But I have to say that we need good people to recognize everyone's humanity. Everyone's humanity. And to stand up against the forces of evil that seek to divide and demonize. And it is always easy to carve some group of people out of humanity. And we cannot as good people allow any group to be carved out of humanity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Ra on the resolution.

MR. RA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank the sponsor for bringing this resolution forward. Like several of

my colleagues who have spoken, I had the opportunity to travel to Israel almost a year ago now which is hard to believe, but there's a couple of memories of that trip and we have lots of them but the things that are kind of, you know, burned into my brain. And one of them was, as my colleague mentioned, we visited the Holocaust Remembrance Center, and one of the last things we did on that trip was go into the children's memorial. And you go in and it's dark with just lights, candles, lights, whatever you want to call them, and they go up as high as your eyes can go following them. It's one of the most moving things that I've ever seen to think about. All those lives of children that were extinguished during the Holocaust who would have done who knows what in their lives. Been world leaders, been doctors who cure diseases, could have been anything with their whole futures ahead of them. And then I think about a day or two later we were visiting the kibbutz Kfar Azza, and as we were leaving a group of our colleagues saw a group of children playing basketball and -- and, you know, jumped in and started shooting some baskets with them. And it was one of those moments where you realize that certain things are just, you know, universal, that you can connect with somebody even whether if there's a language barrier or anything else or you're halfway across the world you can connect with. That community was a victim of unspeakable atrocities on October 7th, and children there were murdered on that day. And that kind of brings that whole thing together.

But one of the other things that I recall about that trip

to that remembrance center was them talking about how they're still to this day trying to identify victims of the Holocaust, and -- and how really there's a sense of accomplishment when all these years later they manage to put another name to a victim. And you think about today when you have hostages whose names and faces are on posters and people think it's okay to rip those down. The Holocaust and those actions to me are about erasing the memory of those individuals, making them not an individual, or erasing them from having existed. So I think that's something we have to remember when we think about the over six million Jews that were murdered in the Holocaust, and that's why it is important that we pass these resolutions that we be the witnesses for each one of those individuals who were -- who were lost and we continue to speak out in the face of anti-Semitism so that we know that those who unfortunately all those years ago didn't have anybody to speak out for them. Well, we have to speak out for them now. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the sponsor for bringing this forward. I thank my colleagues for supporting it.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Epstein on the resolution.

MR. EPSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this resolution. I want to thank the sponsor of this resolution around Holocaust Remembrance Day. And so these are really difficult times and we think about 79 years after Auschwitz and the loss of ten million people and six million Jews, and I lost family

members in the Holocaust and it's, you know -- and how traumatizing that was to, you know, my grandfather to lose his siblings and -- but it's bigger than that. It is about hate across the world and it's about how we confront hate with disinformation that we see every single day, whether it's the rise in anti-Semitism, the rise in Islamophobia. We all have a collective responsibility to look at hate and try to make a path forward to focus on what we can do together to how to avoid these kind of incidents. So when we talk about never forgetting, we're not never forgetting what happened to the Holocaust, you're never forgetting the inhumanity of how people treat each other. How inhuman people can be to someone who may look different from them or someone who acts different from them, whose family might be different than them. And our responsibility to each other is to find the things, the commonalities amongst all of us, and that's the only way we're going to deal with it. That's the only way we're going to deal with fighting the rise of anti-Asian hate, the anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. And so Holocaust Remembrance Day should mean one thing to us, which is how we, individually, can take responsibility to avoid those hate, to bring down the barriers and bring people together so when we say *never forget* it's because we are actively doing something about it. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Seawright on the resolution.

MS. SEAWRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak on this vitality important resolution urging the Governor to

proclaim January 27, 2024 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day and to thank the sponsor for her dedication. From the 1930's until 1945 Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically persecuted and murdered six million Jews and millions of others. Jews were forced to wear yellow stars and banned from public schools, but the world did not object. Jewish businesses and homeowners lost their properties and belongings, yet the world did not raise alarm. People of Jewish heritage or faith were forced into ghettos, but the world did not stop it. Jews were sent on train cars to labor and death camps, yet the world did not intervene. Two-thirds of Europe's Jews were killed through the Nazis' industrialized efforts. The world acted, but it was too late. This horrific and unprecedented crime prompted Polish-Jewish attorney and survivor Raphael Lemkin to propose a new term, genocide; the killing of a people with the intent to destroy them in part or in whole. Despite this indisputable and immense -- the immense evidence, more people have begun doubting the scale of the Nazis atrocities or denying their occurrence all together. Furthermore, anti-Semitism and attacks on Jewish people have climbed to heights not seen since the Holocaust. We must bear witness to the testimonies of the remaining survivors before we lose them forever. We must educate our children and students about the horrors of the Shoah and its pleas for the future. If the world looks away, if we do nothing, then the present or further could echo the past. Now and always we must stand with the Jewish community and other groups to combat anti-Semitism and never let a tragedy like this occur

again. I proudly cast my vote in the affirmative on this resolution.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Berger.

MR. BERGER: Thank you. I'd like to thank my colleague for sponsoring this resolution. And I'd like to speak about my grandparents today Tibi and Sara Berger who both survived the Holocaust. My grandfather grew up in Debrecen, Hungary with one brother and two sisters. His father owned a glass and mirror shop, which I have a picture of in my office. Shortly after he finished paying the mortgage on that store the Nazis came in March of 1944 and they took that shop away. The Nazis put my grandfather and his father into a labor camp where they built the high fences of a ghetto that was to be their prison. All for the heinous crime of being a Jew.

At one point the Nazi soldier went up to my grandfather and hit him in the back of the head with his gun causing my grandfather permanent hearing loss in one of his ears. My grandmother grew up in Czechoslovakia where her father and her brother were taken to camps and murdered. And her eldest sister Rela for whom my younger daughter is named after, was experimented on by the Nazis and was unable to have children as a result. Despite all of this, I didn't grow up thinking of my grandparents as survivors. My grandpa used to tell me stories of when he first came to America, how he had nothing. And he lived in the subway for weeks and weeks and every day he would get up, he would read the paper to learn English and he would apply for a job, and he worked as waiter, like his father

before him, he worked making glass. At one point he had a little boat that he would sail around Coney Island where he would sell ice cream and soda, until one night there was a storm that came and sank his boat. And as he used to tell me, it was the first time I ever understood what it meant for a business to go under.

After fleeing the Nazis with her mother, my grandmother made her way to Israel. And at the age of 16 she lied about her age so she could join the Israeli Army because she felt it was important that she could protect her family and Jewish lives. My grandmother despite everything that she'd been through find a way to smile every day. And my grandfather learned that although someone can beat you in the back of the head and knock you to the ground, you can always get back up. Like the Nazis and those who have come before them and those who have come afterwards as we've seen with Hamas, more than killing the Jewish people these different groups have always wanted to extinguish the Jewish peoples' will to go on. They've wanted to leave us hollow, but although tragedy can shape us it doesn't have to define us. My great-grandparents survived the Holocaust but they weren't survivors. They lived. They came to America and they built a home in Forest Hills, Queens with their three sons including my father. They had 14 grandchildren, myself included, and 24 great-grandchildren. On this International Holocaust Remembrance Day, I remember them and I remember the values they stood for. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.



(Applause)

Mr. Lavine.

MR. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Speaker Carl Heastie who has issued a very compelling statement recognizing Holocaust Memorial Day. And I also want to thank the sponsor of this resolution. I was very moved as she spoke with her beautiful little daughter right next to her. Now there is a saying and expression in Jewish culture which is Am Yisrael Chai, and what it means is the people of Israel live. Am is the people, Yisrael refers to the Nation of Israel or the people of Israel, the Jews and Chai means live. And it is an expression of hope. Now I had thought that this expression had been around for centuries, but as it turns out, this expression is first heard on the day the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp was liberated and it was recorded by the BBC and that's what the survivors we're saying. Am Yisrael Chai, the people of Israel live. Now in my family, just very briefly. Most of those who came to America left their extended families behind. Not one person survived. The Nazi ritualized slaughter. Not one. So we know that as Jews we are what many people call *the other*. That's no secret and that's one of the reasons for rising anti-Semitism. *The other*, it's always easy to have someone to be the scapegoat. Well, we Jews have found refuge in America. And we thought we had found refuge in Israel as well. And why should we not find refuge in America when this is the heart and soul of our nation. We hold these trues to be self-evident that each of us is created equal. Each of us is

endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. So now with Jews being -- Jews and other minorities, marginalized communities being *the other* and with the dangers that are opposed to democracy throughout the world and in certain parts of the United States as well, I think that the future of the Jewish people and the future of every other American minority community are so inextricably intertwined with the future of democracy that as we say in Jewish culture Am Yisrael Chai, we may as well take a moment and say Am America Chai as well. The people of America must live.

I thank you for letting me share this with you and I'm very impressed that people are speaking on this resolution on both sides of the aisle. We are all in this together. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Weprin on the resolution.

MR. WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the sponsor bringing this resolution forward. Just yesterday in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, I had nine survivors of the Holocaust in my district at a particular event, we had a number of our colleagues were there, but the amazing thing of all nine survivors and they ranged in age from 90 to 103. And three individuals were over 100. A hundred, 101, and 103. But the one thing that they all said about their lives is that they want to live longer so they can tell the story, their stories so people will remember and

not forget. We all know that there are many Holocaust deniers and we've heard about it. There are even deniers of the October 7th attack, which was just a few months ago. And the anti-Semitism in this country and throughout the world has risen very similar to what happened in Nazi Germany prior to the Holocaust. So it's been building and it's so important that we all speak out that we all remember and make sure that the Holocaust never happens again. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Hevesi.

MR. HEVESI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to my colleagues and especially Assemblymember Rozic for bringing this resolution.

So I'm ashamed of my own behavior over the last couple years and I want to explain why. I've been in the legislature for 19 years and I think this is the first time I've ever spoken on a Holocaust Remembrance resolution, and I'm ashamed of that. And let me tell you why. I am the son of Carolyn Stanton, a Catholic mother and Alan Hevesi who was a former member of this Chamber who was not only Jewish but also a prominent Jew in New York State. And for many years I sat in awe and deference to his ability to speak on these topics. So my father has taken trips of legislators to Israel, he's been there over 28 times, my father just recently passed, but his legacy was such that it deterred me from even attempting to get into this almost impossible topic to deal with. He brought legislators to Israel. He

went to Bitburg to protest Ronald Regan going to the same cemeteries as -- as the Nazis were buried in and his singular greatest achievement, I believe, in elected office, and I'm proud of this one, I want to mention it, is he as State Comptroller organized 900 financial offices throughout the United States, brought that power to bear on the Swiss Banks to say listen, we know -- we know that there is jewels and money stolen from Jews during the Holocaust and you're going to have to pay them back. And after years of fighting it didn't happen, we don't have it, every lie that they could come up with, they paid that restitution, followed by France, followed by the other European countries. Great achievement for my father and I'm incredibly proud. And I sat here as a kid saying to myself, I could never hope to achieve anything like that. Well, that wasn't the point. And the point was to raise your voice as a good human being like so many of my colleagues are today when you see something is wrong. And it's especially dangerous now. So I'm trying to understand the history of my own family. Fifty-five members of my family were murdered in the Holocaust, slaughtered. My dad's father, who was a Hungarian diplomat, was told by his father who was the Grand Rabbi of Hungary, stay in America. Somebody has to survive because we're going to be killed. So now I'm an elected official sitting here saying look at the parallels between now and prior to Nazi Germany. We have people using the term "globalists" any chance they can. Globalists, as if we don't know what that means. We have people who are even in this Body who are comfortable saying yeah -- what is it

push the Jews into the sea, whatever the disgusting phrase is. We have people who are holding up Nazi symbols when they go to protest. We have the ugliest, ugliest of anti-Semitism you can see. We even have anti-Semitism so disgusting that a terrorist group initiates their action with war crimes, war crimes. The kind of thing I can't believe. Then you look back home I've got communities that are scared. Kids in yeshivas that are scared. We've got a teacher in Assemblyman David Weprin's district who was chased around by other kids, okay, because she's Jewish and she said she was in Israel. I can't believe what's happening. It's shameful of my own behavior that it took to this critical mass for me to come here and tell you never again, we're not going to let it happen. And I'll tell you one other thing that my father imparted to me and it's not going to be popular in this time, but he said that the hand that gets raised against the Jewish people should be cut off and I agree. And so I will do the best I can in the future to speak on these issues on the Holocaust so we remember the impact if and only for us to remember we can't allow this to happen again. We can't go down these roads. I am so grateful that my colleagues have stepped up and I will do my best to join them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to be here today.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Brook-Krasny on the resolution.

MR. BROOK-KRASNY: Mr. Speaker, I guess it's my Jewish thought that I'm always speaking after the greatest speaker

in the bunch. Well, I'm just feeling grateful to my colleague Assemblywoman Rozic. Mr. Speaker, when I'm speaking on Holocaust Remembrance Day resolution I feel a huge responsibility. Huge responsibility on my shoulders because I have many members of my family who were lost during the Nazi occupation, even during the Soviet regime. It's not the first time that I'm speaking on this resolution. I've been speaking on this resolution in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and so on until about 2015. I never thought that my remarks in 2024 would be very different from those I was making during those year because the world is different now, this country is different, the State is different, the City of New York is different.

In my district I have -- I have many Holocaust survivors and of course even more people who immigrated from the former Soviet Union. Russian-speaking Jewish people. Those people who were whispering to each other during the Nazi occupation, they were whispering to each other sitting in the kitchens in the former Soviet Union whispering, are you Jewish, are you Jewish, are you Jewish? They've been whispering for many years and then they came to this country. As you know the biggest wave of immigration was in the '70s, '80s beginning of '90s. They thought they would never have to whisper again, but now they're whispering again. The Jewish nation is going through the biggest tragedies when there is a need for the good people to come together.

After the Holocaust, after we lost six million people, the State of Israel was created. Three years later the State of Israel

was created and good people has been voting for the State of Israel. In fact they've been voting for two states, but the other one never happened, that's a different story. I certainly hope that after the tragedy of October 7 in Israel, the good people would come together again so the Holocaust survivors in my district wouldn't have to whisper again, because it sounds like these days in this country, in this State, in the City of New York, good people are whispering and the others are very loud and that's our problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
(Speaking foreign language)

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Pirozzolo.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to thank the sponsor for bringing this bill forward. As many as you may guess, I am not Jewish, but what I am, Mr. Speaker, is I am a human being. And who would ever imagine that in 2023 and 2024 anyone on the planet would consider the acts of October 7th as an acceptable means of rebellion. So I would like to stand with the Governor on this day that she remembers Holocaust Day and I would like to stand with all of my colleagues Jewish and non-Jewish and I'd like to say something that I like to hear more people say. Not only was I proud to stand with you on October 7th, I'm proud to stand with you today. And I will be proud to stand with you every day moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Novakahov.

MR. NOVAKHOV: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the sponsor of this resolution and everyone who commented today on this -- very moved by that. You know there's a Holocaust Memorial Park in my district in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, South Brooklyn where people can sit on the bench, look at the memorial and remember Jews from all over the world killed by Nazis. Last weekend I organized a rally as it was one hundred days since the Hamas terror attack on innocent Israeli men, women and children. Despite the cold, windy weather hundreds of people of different nationalities, not only Jewish, came to the rally. Many we're saying that October 7th was a second Holocaust. We raised an Israeli flag in the park in support of the families of those who were killed and taken hostages by Hamas. But guess what? The flag was torn down after a few days. We raised another flag and it was torn down again. I ordered a box of Israeli flags to be raised at the Holocaust Memorial Park and I will make sure it's there in memory of innocent lives of Jews, of Americans and others whose lives were taken away for no reason back in World War II and the recent October 7th attack. Am Yisrael Chai, thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Chang on the resolution.

MR. CHANG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the sponsor Assemblywoman Rozic for this bill for the sponsor. I represent Brooklyn and a large portion of my constituents are Jewish. And I remember visiting one of the nursing home and a



Holocaust survivor was there, about a hundred years or at least, and fairly vivid showed me her arms and one of those things that touch you. You would hear about the story until you really see it, feel it and experience it. That's survivor. Then of course October 7th is perhaps another Holocaust Day, and I thought I would have never seen it. You know I wear my uniform for 24 years and I fight against Isis, Taliban and Al Qaeda. I guess we will never get rid of these terrorists group. It's important that we have to remember this and October 7th are very similar. They're evil. What they do to innocent people. Not just only Jewish but also other groups. But it's poignant for us to remember that this day must be remembered to never be erased. And I'm aghast that we still in this 22nd Century -- 21st Century that we still have this situation with the Jewish. And I proudly stand to all the people who talk about this, we represent this, we move as affront and my heart is with the innocent victim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Burdick on the resolution.

MR. BURDICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like many in this Chamber I attended many vigils and ceremonies in my district in support of Israel and the Jewish community following the horrific October 7th attacks. The anguish, the fear, the disbelief palpable. Several had friends or relatives who were killed in the attack. As World War II recedes in time and memory and Holocaust survivors are passing on, the need to teach subsequent generations could not be of greater importance. It's not only to refute the deniers,

it is also so our nation knows the depths of the inhumanity of that time and now only a few months ago again. So conveying the history, the facts, the pain, all are essential. In Westchester County the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center carries on that work and similar organizations carry on such work throughout the State. That work could not be more important and more immediate than now. It is so hard to fathom that this resolution takes on enormous significance today, and yet it does. I thank the sponsor for her resolution and for her passionate and heartfelt and heartrending statement. I also thank my colleagues for supporting this resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr.

Burdick.

On the resolution, may we rise, brothers and sisters, on this resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; there is no opposition. The resolution is adopted.

(Applause)

Mr. Goodell for the purposes of a introduction, sir.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. It's my pleasure to be accompanied today by one of our former members and a distinguished guest, Tom McKeivitt. And as you know Assemblyman McKeivitt served for a year as our floor leader and for four years before that as assistant floor leader, and so it's a very unusual feeling for me to be standing here and having him sitting in my chair when he was here and I was there. (Indicating)

One of the interesting things about Mr. McKeivitt is I found out earlier in my career with him that he only has two speeds; fast and fast asleep. I mean there's no middle ground with Tom. When he walks, it's like a jog, you know, to get here. When you call him, he answers the phone "McKeivitt" and you know right away you only have three minutes to get your point out. But what was also astounding about Tom McKeivitt is that he memorized I think our rules. And indeed to this very day here I know we're not supposed to do this, but here on the floor we have the McKeivitt floor book that contains all the rules and all the background information. And whenever I am at a loss at what the rules are, I found it's faster to call Tom than it is to call anybody else and he has the answer because he's memorized it. So if you will welcome our distinguished guest, former floor leader for the Republican Caucus, Thomas McKeivitt. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Goodell, the Speaker and all the members, Tom, welcome back. So glad to have you. As a member you always have the privileges of the floor. We are glad that you took the time to come and share with us and particularly on a day like today when sometimes we outdo ourselves in the right way. Thank you so very much, glad that you're here with us.

(Applause)

On page 7, Calendar No. 284, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08558, Calendar No.

284, Cruz. An act to amend the Penal Law, the Criminal Procedure Law, the Correction Law, the Social Services Law, the Vehicle and Traffic Law, the Civil Practice Law and Rules, the Agriculture and Markets Law and the Judiciary Law, in relation to certain sex offenses; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023, amending the Penal Law, the Criminal Procedure Law, the Correction Law, the Social Services Law, the Vehicle and Traffic Law, the Family Court Act, the Civil Rights Law, the Civil Practice Law and Rules, the Agriculture and Markets Law, the Judiciary Law and the Domestic Relations Law relating to sex offenses, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 3161 and A. 3340, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Cruz, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walsh to explain her vote.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues. In years past we -- we've debated this bill, this is of course a Chapter Amendment to a bill that was previously passed. The concerns about the bill had to do with a very specific thing which was the issue of whether there would be inadvertent, unintended results of a merger of offenses and the possibility that a perpetrator of these

really awful, evil acts towards people would receive one day less or much more less than in prison than they deserved. I would note, though, that it's different this year because in the past the DAs Association had opposed this bill for those reasons. The concerns about merger and consecutive versus concurrent sentencing, they've withdrawn their opposition. And so with that, I'm satisfied that I can support this bill because really my -- as I said many times before, my only concern is that the perpetrators of rape need to be held fully, fully accountable. I'm satisfied now that they will be and I'm pleased to vote in the affirmative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walsh in the affirmative.

Ms. Cruz to explain her vote.

MS. CRUZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our current law only identifies rape as penetration by penis into the vagina failing to understand the reality and complexity of sexual violence. Ultimately this has failed our survivors in seeking justice. Forced sexual contact against your will, whether it involves a vagina, anus or mouth is an absolute violation of your bodily integrity, and calling it anything other than "rape" negates the pain endured by survivors. It negates their experience and we have the responsibility and ability to right this wrong. Once this Chapter Amendment passes, we will clear the way for rape is rape to become law. And we are telling survivors of all forms of rape that they are worthy of recognition and worthy of justice. This change in law is bigger than a simple change in

terminology. It is the profound shift in recognizing who is seen as a rape victim and who is seen as a rapist. I want to make sure that we get into the record what this Chapter Amendment actually does. It makes small changes, technical changes and it extends the effective date to ensure its implementation to September 1st of this year. And it provides clarity to prosecutors on how to bring these rape charges and this goes to what my colleague across the aisle mentioned, because of these changes the DAs Association has withdrawn their -- their concerns, their opposition.

I'd like to thank Lydia Cuomo, the survivor that you have heard us talk about year after year on this floor, and the many survivors of rape who've been told that what happened to them is not rape, who had justice denied because of our outdated laws. Today this changes. I also want to thank our former colleague Aravella Simotas, who for almost a decade fought to bring justice to survivors like me. Thank you for trusting me to carry this to the finish line. And to our Speaker who year after year prioritized this bill because he stands with survivors and he knows that we deserve justice.

We've debated this bill year after year over a decade on this floor and it has not been an easy subject and I want to thank my colleagues on our aisle and across for their professionalism and their understanding. And I want to thank my colleagues and my team and the advocates who've supported us year after year to make sure that we got people the justice that they deserve. With that, I urge my colleagues to once again vote in the affirmative so that this important

bill can become law and we can finally give survivors of rape the justice that they deserve. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Are there -- Mr. Angelino, I'm sorry.

MR. ANGELINO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for not overlooking me. I've had personal conversations with the sponsor of this bill and as my -- the vote board up there indicates I'm voting yes. I do want to point out that even further amendments need to be made to Article 35, the use of force, because rape is such a heinous) crime that it's still one of the ones that you can use deadly physical force in the prevention and termination and that will need to be updated, but I will remain a yes on this with that reservation. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Angelino in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

(Applause)

We're going to go to Page 4, Calendar No. 268, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08090, Calendar No. 268, Kelles. An act to amend the Village Law and the Public Officers Law, in relation to residency requirements for village justice of Cayuga Heights.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms.

Kelles, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08322, Calendar No. 269, Hevesi. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to the establishment and powers and duties of the council on children and families.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08483, Calendar No. 270, Burdick, Sayegh. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to establishing standards for the evacuation of individuals with disabilities from high-rise buildings during an emergency; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Executive Law relating to standards for establishing and maintaining an emergency evacuation plan for individuals with disabilities, as proposed in legislative bill numbers S. 264-A and A. 6291-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mr.



Burdick, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08484, Calendar No. 271, Epstein. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Social Services Law relating to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5897 and A. 2176, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to explain

my vote. So I was a little bit dismayed when I saw this Chapter Amendment. You know, sometimes Chapter Amendments make things better. I really feel like this Chapter Amendment really watered down the creation of information and reporting requirements regarding foster care. I mean we've -- we've debated so many bills having to do with foster care in this Chamber and we talk about the need to really wrap our arms around the good data that we're collecting, and the Governor insisted on this chapter which unfortunately I think really -- really eviscerates the main purpose for the bill in the first place. So I'm not happy about it. I know that the Council on Children and Families isn't taking a position on it, but I'm going to voting no on this because I just really think that the original bill was a lot better. I think that the chapter really, really just -- just doesn't do what I want it to do in terms of really taking this issue as seriously as it needs to be taken. So I'll be voting in the negative and I'm sad that the Governor insisted on this chapter for this bill. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walsh in the negative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08486, Calendar No. 272, Hevesi. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to extending time frames for updated mandated reporter training.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 365th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08491, Calendar No. 273, Magnarelli, Lupardo. An act to amend the Railroad Law, in relation to requiring certain trains and locomotives to have a crew size of not less than two persons.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08496, Calendar No. 274, Kelles. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to funding for the agrivoltaics research program; to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Agriculture and Markets Law relating to establishing the agrivoltaics research program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 7081 and A. 4911, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Kelles, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08499, Calendar No. 275, Clark. An act to amend the Emergency Tenant Protection Act of nineteen seventy-four, in relation to authorizing a civil penalty when owners refuse to participate in a vacancy survey or submits false vacancy information.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08506, Calendar No. 276, L. Rosenthal. An act to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York and the Emergency Tenant Protection Act of nineteen seventy-four, in relation to establishing the legal regulated rent for the combination of two or more vacant apartments; to amend the Emergency Tenant Protection Act of nineteen seventy-four, in relation to exemptions from rent stabilization on the basis of substantial rehabilitation; to define clearly the scope of the fraud exception to the pre-HSTPA four-year rule for calculating rents; and to amend part B of a chapter of the Laws of 2023 relating to defining clearly the scope of the fraud exception to the pre-HSTPA four-year rule for calculating rents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.

2980-C and A. 6216-B, in relation to claims of fraudulent schemes and determination relating thereto and in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Rosenthal, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced and the bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08519, Calendar No. 277, Kim. An act to amend the Elder Law, in relation to the naturally occurring retirement community supportive service program.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08520, Calendar No. 278, Kim. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to requiring the Department of Health to provide the state long-term care ombudsman with a report of the status of any issues identified by residential health care facility staff or volunteers of the long-term care ombudsman program.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mr. Kim, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08527, Calendar No. 279, O'Donnell. An act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law, in relation to littering and dumping on state park lands; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08528, Calendar No. 280, Rozic. An act to amend the General Business Law and the Social Services Law, in relation to a model notification regarding electronic benefits transfer scams involving certain public assistance benefits.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Rozic, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08541, Calendar No. 281, Wallace. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to access to certain restroom facilities by employees of a utility entity.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Wallace, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced and the bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08544, Calendar No. 282, Gallagher. An act to amend the Limited Liability Company Law, in relation to the disclosure of beneficial owners of limited liability companies; to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Limited Liability Company Law and the Executive Law relating to the disclosure of beneficial owners of limited liability companies, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 995-B and A. 4384-A, in

relation to the effectiveness thereof; and to repeal provisions of the Limited Liability Company Law and the Executive Law, in relation thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Gallagher, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08556, Calendar No. 283, Reyes. An act to amend the Executive law and the Civil Practice Law and Rules, in relation to sharing of certain information.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Reyes, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced and the bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08569, Calendar No. 285, Chandler-Waterman. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to defining the term "mass shooting" for purposes of emergency response measures and access to emergency funding.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Chandler-Waterman, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mrs. Chandler-Waterman to explain her vote.



MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Majority Leader, on the bill. I appreciate our Senate sponsor, Senator Myrie, my colleagues here in the New York State Legislature and my grassroots community partners of 8058 public safety task force for this important partnership in working and passing this legislation. As a co-chair of the Anti-Gun Violence Subcommittee of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, an advocate for over 20 years, a mother of four amazing children representing predominantly Black and Brown community that is severely underserved and plagued with disparities, I am committed to reducing gun violence and providing proper and a timely cure to the victims and families effected by gun violence. New York State took a step forward in response of the horrific epidemic of gun violence in the State by passing and signing into law this bill defining mass shooting. The bill language amended and reflected the Federal definition of a mass shooting which states that more people killed qualifies as a mass shooting primary to ensure that New York State receive the Federal funding in the event of a mass shooting by their definition. We will continue to work with legislation and advocate for more resources in the effort to reduce gun violence and individuals injured so that these incidents of gun violence and their communities impacted receive attention and solution-oriented resources that they desperately need and deserve.

As you know, even one shooting or murder is horrific. This bill is a commencement, not the conclusion of our work

to address gun violence. I look forward to building upon this legislation in the future to continue to bring the needed resources to our committees to address this epidemic of gun violence. As we notice a multi-layered issue that requires a multifaceted approach and I'm proud to continue to moving this forward and making sure that people that have to go through these unfortunate situations and families don't have to continue suffering in silence. No family should have to bury their loved one when these unfortunate situations happen. Families shouldn't have to navigate the red tape of who is cleaning up the blood of their loved one with relocation plans, culturally-sensitive adequate mental health service and access to wraparound services.

So I am proud to continue to fight for Assembly District 58 and New York State to ensure we have proper resources to help families impact the communities to show proper funding also goes to local grassroots, non-profit organizations with (inaudible) experience on the ground. I invite my colleagues to vote in the affirmative. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms.

Chandler-Waterman in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08603, Calender No. 286, Magnarelli. An act to amend the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, in relation to making a technical change to a

provision requiring a petition in a summary proceeding to recover possession of real property in the City of Syracuse to allege proof of compliance with local laws.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mr. Magnarelli, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08604, Calendar No. 287, Clark, Sayegh. An act to amend the Judiciary Law, in relation to hope card act and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Judiciary Law relating to enacting the "Hope Card Act" as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5935 and S. 5040, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Clark to explain her vote.

MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have talked about this bill when it was originally passed last year. With the chapter, though, I just want to reiterate as we become the eighth state -- or the sixth state to enact the Hope Card Act for domestic violence survivors and those who use the Order of Protections to keep them and their families safe. You know, I really just want to thank the Governor and her team for not only continuing to make sure we put this into law, but also expanding access to not just what we had originally proposed as (inaudible) cards but also digital access for those who prefer that and may want that. So we're really excited to see what that looks like as we are one of the few states to do that and it will just give our survivors more options as they look to ensure that their Order of Protection is carried out and that they and their families are safe. So I'm very proud to be voting for this bill today and I'm proud that we are the sixth state to enact this for our domestic violence survivors. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Clark in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08626, Calendar No. 288, Eichenstein. An act to amend the chapter of the Laws of 2023,

amending the Correction Law relating to requiring religious dietary food options in prison commissaries and visitor's areas, as proposed in legislative bill numbers S. 4748-B and A. 5939, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08627, Calendar No. 289, Bronson. An act to amend the Family Court Act, the Executive Law, the Civil Practice Law and Rules, the Criminal Procedure Law, the Public Health Law, the Education Law and the Insurance Law, in relation to gender-affirming care.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: The bill is laid aside.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, do you have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: No housekeeping but we do have fine resolutions which we will take up with one vote.

On the resolutions, all those in favor signify by saying

aye; opposed, no. The resolutions are adopted.

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 800-805 were unanimously approved.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, would you please call on Mr. Jacobson for the purpose of an announcement?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Jacobson for the purposes of an announcement.

MR. JACOBSON: I'm sure everybody has been eagerly awaiting this announcement that we're going to be meeting -- the Majority is going to be meeting in conference immediately after this Session in Hearing Room C.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned and that we reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January the 30th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 4:56 p.m. the Assembly stood adjourned until Tuesday, January 30th at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday being a Session day.)