

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

9:56 A.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 Tuesday, February the 6th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

the 6th and ask that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, sir. To members that are in the Chambers, as well as our guests that are in the Chambers I'd like to share a quote today. This one is coming from Dorothy Vaughan. She was a mathematician and NASA's first Black manager. Rarely seen as the face of the space program, but she was the face of it. Her words for us, *separate and equal are two different things. Just because it's that way, doesn't make it right.* Again, these words from Dorothy Vaughan, a stellar mathematician who helped usher us through the space movement in this country.

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, members have on their desks a main Calendar. After you have done any introductions or housekeeping, we're going to begin with Calendar Resolutions on Page 3. Then we're going to take up the following bill on debate, it's Calendar No. 265 by Mr. Meeks. And then we're going to go on consent to Calendar No. 19 by Mr. Bronson. Following that, we're going to pick up where we left off on consent from Calendar No. 101 which is on Page 17. There may be a need for additional floor activity. Mr. Speaker, if so, I will be pleased to announce it at that time. However, that's the general outline of where we're going for today, and now would be a great time for your introductions and/or housekeeping. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes. No housekeeping, but we do have a introduction. Mr. Conrad for the purposes of a introduction.

MR. CONRAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce the Erie County School Board Association members - if you would stand, please. These folks are fine folks here to advocate for the public schools from all of the Western New York delegation. And I want to introduce Kathleen Chiavetta, who is one of the co-legislative chairs and Erik Polkowski. If you know Chiavetta's Chicken in Buffalo you know the Chiavetta family and their advocacy, but also their advocacy for public schools is renown. And I'm also joined by members of my own Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda and I want to thank them for coming and advocating and I wish that you would welcome them to the People's House and wish -- and grant them the privileges of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Conrad, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome these school board members here and association here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor, and our appreciation for the real patience that you showed waiting for us to begin. It's admirable that you have that kind of patience and that kind of patience, I'm sure, will ensure that the schools in your district are operating as they should, well and teaching our children. We thank you for your work. Congratulations.

(Applause)

We will go to resolutions on Page 3, Assembly No. 837, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 837, Ms. Wallace.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 7, 2024, as Girls and Women in Sports Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Wallace on the resolution.

MS. WALLACE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to bring this resolution forward asking Governor Hochul to proclaim February 7, 2024, as Girls and Women in Sports Day in the State of New York. This day marks -- is also the National Girls and Women in Sports Day which pays tribute to the incredible achievements of women athletes everywhere. Girls and Women in Sports was established 37 years ago to celebrate the accomplishment of athletes and to recognize the important positive influence that sports have on young women and to advocate for more gender equity in sports. Since Title IX was adopted 51 years ago, we have seen generations of women athletes and their peers stun competitors, audiences and perform outstanding athletic feats. So we ask this Body to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of athletes like Simone Biles, Katie Ledecky, Suni Lee, Sha'Carri Richardson and so many others who will represent the nation in Paris this summer at the 2024 Olympics. We also recognize Flo Hyman who was the inspiration behind the First National Girls and Womens

in Sports Day in 1987. Participation in youth sports is associated with so many positive developments from improved physical health, to better grades, to improved mental health, less risky behavior and ultimately lifelong higher earnings. But despite the progress we've made, girls and young women's participation in sports remains still lower than their male peers even at the rates that we have, and especially at the rates for -- for lower income and minority households. So as we recognize Girls and Women in Sports Day, we must commit to providing more opportunities for girls and young women to play sports so that they can realize their full potential, accomplish their incredible athletic feats and perhaps inspire the next generation of girls to follow in their footsteps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 838, Mr. Thiele.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2024, as Turner Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 839, Mr. Lemondes.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor

Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2024, as Lamb Lovers Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Lemondes on the resolution.

MR. LEMONDES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we celebrate Lamb Lovers Month this February in accordance with the American Lamb Board Ewe Complete Me campaign, that's e-w-e, let me say a few things about the superb tasting, highly nutritious meat source of which New York ranks among the top 20 sheep producing states in the country having 2,133 sheep farms.

First, the story of the sheep itself is simple. No other animal has provided more comfort to humanity than the sheep. They have been there by our sides since the dawn of time not only as a food source for meat and dairy products but also for their fiber, wool for clothing, fertilizer and a host of other applications. As the most efficient ruminant animal, sheep turn the least amount of inputs into the greatest amount of dense, rich protein available. Sheep are truly at the intersection of where nutritious meets delicious. Lamb meat also -- lamb meat also contains the highest amount of conjugated linoleic acid, CLA, as any other protein. It's a highly beneficial fatty acid that aids in the promotion of fat loss, is an anticarcinogen and promotes and provides a host of other significantly positive health and nutritional benefits. Lamb is also the least understood protein source available to us in the US. Most of us, if not all of us, came from countries where sheep and goats were our main source of protein.

That changed in the last 50 years here in the US. So buy lamb, eat lamb, love lamb. It's sustainable, tastes great, is good for you and is locally produced all over New York State and throughout our nation. Enjoy and celebrate American lamb. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

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

Page 36, Calendar No. 265, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08566, Calendar No. 265, Meeks. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to expanding eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation funds; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Executive Law relating to expanding eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation funds by removing the mandatory law enforcement reporting requirement, providing alternative forms of evidence that would show that a qualifying crime was committed and the confidentiality of certain records, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 214-A and A. 2105-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Meeks, a explanation has been requested.

MR. MEEKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is a Chapter Amendment to chapter 695 of the Laws of 2023 which expanded eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation funds. One of the primary aims of that

legislation was to allow for alternative evidence to show the Office of Victim Services that a qualifying crime occurred beyond a police report. This Chapter Amendment seeks to clarify the process whereby individuals file for victim compensation given the expanded eligibility as provided by Chapter 695 of the Laws of 2023. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Meeks, will you yield, sir?

MR. MEEKS: Yes, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Meeks yields.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Meeks. This Chapter Amendment, as I understand it, did a couple of major changes. The first is that it tightened the process, if you will, of determining eligibility by requiring that those who went to a victim services organization, that victim service organization had to document that domestic violence occurred and that the injuries were the result of that domestic violence, as opposed to just a self-attestation, correct?

MR. MEEKS: It goes beyond domestic violence. That is one form of victim compensation, but it also includes an array of other crimes that one may be eligible for compensation.

MR. GOODELL: But getting back to my question. One of the Chapter Amendments was to require the support agency

for survivors of crime, or the records of a criminal justice agency relating to that to then document that the crime actually occurred and that the injuries were the result of crime, right? That's the bottom of Page 1.

MR. MEEKS: Yes, that decision would be made by OVS.

MR. GOODELL: Okay. The second change, which I found interesting, is that the existing law says that upon filing a claim for victims compensation, the Office of Victims Compensation shall promptly notify the District Attorney in the affected county of the crime, provided however that if the referral to the crime victims compensation board came from a victim services provider quote, "the office shall not make such notification." Why do we as a matter of public policy want to make it unlawful to report a crime to law enforcement if the report comes through victim services provider? Don't we want to have these abusers arrested and prosecuted?

MR. MEEKS: Thank you, sir. This is not an attempt to make it illegal. However, we recognize the responsibilities of OVS and this would not become an additional responsibility for them to report said instances to the police department. However, they can take it upon themselves to inform said victim of the different resources that are out there. The fact that they were a victim of a crime and these are the different reporting agencies that they can reach out to such as a police department or a District Attorney's Office.

MR. GOODELL: There's another interesting

amendment in this Chapter Amendment and that is that the existing law requires that if there's a quote, "request for information based on legitimate criminal justice purposes", closed quote, the Office of Crime Victim Compensation [sic] must respond to law enforcement and share that information to aid in the prosecution of the offense. But then it goes on, provided that if the referral came from a crime victim services agency then, quote, "the crime victims compensation board, quote, "shall not provide any personally identifying information or information regarding the crime." That makes it impossible to prosecute a case, right, with -- without that information?

MR. MEEKS: I would disagree. It doesn't make it impossible to prosecute the case. However, the victim could actually work with -- with relevant agencies as it relates to the police department and the District Attorney [sic] Office if they choose to do so in prosecuting a -- a matter.

MR. GOODELL: Is there anything in the original bill or the Chapter Amendment that would encourage these victim service providers to have the victim report the crime or seek an Order of Protection? Is there anything in the statutory language that would encourage or require a victim services provider to urge the victim to pursue criminal prosecution?

MR. MEEKS: It's my understanding that OVS and -- and those who they may report to have the ability to talk to them about their challenges and suggest to them different avenues that they can take. However, it's not their responsibility to report something on

behalf of the victim. The victim can report and make needed -- make needed reports to relevant parties if they choose to do so.

MR. GOODELL: Well, I understand that the victim services provider can make those recommendations. Is there anything in the statutory language that requires them to make that type of recommendation?

MR. MEEKS: No, there isn't.

MR. GOODELL: Okay. Again, thank you very much, Mr. Meeks. I appreciate your comments.

On the bill.

MR. MEEKS: Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, sir.

MR. GOODELL: In her State of the State message or rather her budget message, the Governor noted the seriousness of domestic violence. And she stated that 40 percent of the felony assaults in New York City and 30 percent of the aggravated assaults outside of New York City involved domestic violence. She further reported that roughly 20 percent of homicides in any year in the State of New York are related to domestic violence. So domestic violence is a huge issue. And the Governor, in my opinion, properly identified it and this Legislature, in my opinion, is very much aware of it.

The Governor then went on to say and I quote, "Absent prosecution, offenders' abusive behavior may continue and escalate," closed quote. Now all of us know that one of the most effective tools to break that cycle of violence is an Order of

Protection. Well, you can get an Order of Protection through family court. The rest of them require a charge be brought against the abuser, and it's sometimes, you know, stalking or harassment or a simple - when I say "simple" a non-felony assault. But without that charge being brought, those people don't get the protection of an Order of Protection, which can be very effective. So here we have the Governor in her message saying *absent prosecution, offenders' abusive behavior may continue and escalate*. And then at the same time we get a Chapter Amendment that makes it unlawful for the crime victims compensation board to report the crime if it came through a victim services organization. Now wait a minute. Is there something here that I'm missing? How is it we're supposed to comply with the Governor's thoughtful comment that we need to increase prosecution, that we need to break the cycle. How is it we're supposed to help victims get an Order of Protection when it's unlawful in her own Chapter Amendment to report the crime? And it's unlawful to share relevant information with law enforcement.

My friends, if we're taking domestic violence seriously, we should both do everything we can to help the victim, absolutely and I'm fully in accord with my colleague and his original bill and this in terms of the desire to help the victim. In helping the victim means not just giving them money, it means helping them break that cycle by giving them an Order of Protection. But my friends, if we're serious about domestic violence, we have to be serious about breaking the cycle. And we know from experience that

the best way to break that cycle is to prosecute the abuser to say this is unacceptable in the State of New York and if you engage in that type of unacceptable behavior, we are going to arrest you and prosecute you. We can do both, my friends. We can help the victim and we can break the cycle. It's not one or the other. Yet, this Chapter Amendment says it's not both. It says we'll help the victim with cash, we won't help the victim with an Order of Protection and we make it unlawful to even report a whole category of these crimes to law enforcement. This seems to follow a disturbing pattern, in my mind, where we make it unlawful to cooperate with Federal immigration officials. We make it unlawful here to report certain crimes. And yesterday we made it unlawful to cooperate with other states when it involves our positions doing something that's illegal in their state using telehealth. Maybe we should consider a different approach and support law enforcement and recognize that effective law enforcement can reduce crime and reduce the number of victims and make New York safer.

Now, as we go to vote on this. As is often with a Chapter Amendment and with the original bill there are great things about this Chapter Amendment and this original bill in terms of helping the victims. And so many of my colleagues will vote in favor of this, and I understand it and I support that aspect of the bill. But for me, I can't vote for bills that make it unlawful to report crimes to break the cycle of violence against domestic violence. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Meeks, on the bill.

MR. MEEKS: On the bill, Mr. Speaker. According to the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 5,813,000- plus violent victimizations occurred in 2019. Of those victimizations, 59 percent were not reported to law enforcement officials. NCVS also reported that in 2019 only 7.7 percent of victims/survivors of violent crimes received assistance from victim service agencies. In other words, over 90 percent of victims and survivors of violent crimes have a low likelihood of receiving necessary services or support due to not reporting. Victims and survivors do not report crimes for a variety of reasons including things such as fear or retaliation, mistrust of law enforcement, age and/or other demographics of a victim/survivor and the dynamics of an intimate partner relationship. I am one who is a staunch advocate in the space of domestic violence. It's something that I take really seriously. So much so, just here a month ago, I received a phone call from a constituent in my community. She said, *I called the police on this matter and no one showed up, no one showed up*. So I took it upon myself to call that individual by the name of Gabriel Person who's a captain in the Rochester Police Department. I explained my concerns to him. He said *Assemblymember, we'll be sure to get someone out*. They got someone out to the scene. Lo and behold, they found a cell phone of the individual who was harassing this young lady. We connected her with officers that worked with individuals in the domestic violence space, and she was able to move

forward and push for the Order of Protection that she needed. What we find sometime with laws and rules, they affect different groups differently. For instance, White women over the age of 55 living in non-urban areas with incomes over 75,000 a year are the largest recipients of these resources as it relate to victim of violence. Black men under the age of 25 living in urban areas with an annual income below 25,000 experience the highest rates of victimization. And they're least likely to receive these resources. So when we recognize there's challenges or flaws with our system, we as legislators have the right, the power and ability to change policy. And that's what we seek to do with this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Hevesi.

MR. HEVESI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly. I rise to commend the sponsor for this excellent piece of legislation. I just want to address one issue that my colleague raised about Orders of Protection and breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Domestic violence is incredibly complicated, and while Orders of Protection can be helpful to protect victims, in certain circumstances an Order of Protection can be an escalation in a relationship where the victim is through coercive control of their abuser not able to get away. So the idea that you should have OVS or any of these non-profit providers automatically seeking an Order of Protection is a mistake. It's not a one-size-fits-all. So I respectfully suggest that we not have OVS or the others asking for Orders of

Protection or contacting the police because sometimes that actually will make the matters worse and could serve to hurt the victims of domestic violence. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By the way, the one other thing that we could do, instead of Governor Hochul's proposal to increase penalties is for the first time in history pay the domestic violence workforce, which has not received a cost of living adjustment for decades, that's how you break the cycle of violence. That's how you get victims away from their abusers and that's how you teach kids no, this is not an acceptable behavior and make sure that this is not a generational problem. So I respectfully disagree, but I again come back to my colleague for a great job with this particular bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.
Mr. Reilly.

MR. REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, sir.

MR. REILLY: So I was listening -- listening intently to the debate in talking about Orders of Protection and hearing some valid arguments on both sides of the aisle talking about the pros and cons of Orders -- Orders of Protection, hearing about police response to incidents that happen in our community. You know, when we highlight just one incident, sometimes we don't get the larger picture. When it comes to Orders of Protection, I remember responding to

family disputes, maybe just a harassment or a misdemeanor or assault. But it was a must arrest situation. But they were treated as an Assault Three misdemeanor. Really no consequences when you look at it in the grand scheme of the Penal Law whether it's an A misdemeanor, B misdemeanor or a felony.

The Order of Protection, what that does is if you have just a harassment case of an offender, which is a violation, but when it's a family offense it gets treated as an arrest, because otherwise a violation could be just a summons. But when it comes to a family dispute, they can get arrested and go through the system. What that Order of Protection does is that it escalates future interactions to make sure that it is a felony contempt of court. Violating an Order of Protection. That is an extra layer that the prosecutors have to ensure the safety of the victim. Because if they are convicted of violating that Order of Protection, it is now a felony conviction and they look at more time in jail, or it opens them up to more services like we were talking about earlier, like my colleague mentioned, because that's the ultimate goal here, right? Is to make sure that we don't do it again, and that we offer the services to rehabilitate them. Without having the ability to ensure that they look for those services, which an Order of Protection can help do, this is all for naught. So the idea is to improve the lives of both the victim and the offender, because that's how we become a productive society. So I think there's a way that we can come to a compromise and we can do better as a State and as a legislature and I think we will and I think this bill is good in some

ways and in some ways it's not. But it's like everything else we introduce in the legislature, there's a compromise, and not everybody is going to be happy. But I just wanted to give you some perspective from how it is when you're a police officer and you're involved in those domestic incident reports and those incidents and how it transitions through the court and the services that we hear about that are happening to the offenders and to the victims. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.
Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I find it interesting how we transform a conversation about how to protect victims who are afraid, literally are afraid, into something that's about domestic violence. Even though people who are engaged in domestic violence they're afraid as well. And so when you're involved in an issue where you know somebody is going to hurt you if you say something, of course you don't want to say anything, because you don't want to be hurt. But there are plenty of women, tons of them, who have had Order of Protections, and then they were followed to work in Orchard Park, and when they got out of the car at 6:00 in the morning they were shot in the head, dead. Another woman, Order of Protection.

She went to West Seneca to the mall. The man followed her in there and stabbed her to death in front of people. Order of Protections don't protect you necessarily. So let's don't make this a blanket issue about whether or not you tell someone that somebody is hurting you and they still hurt you or you don't want to tell somebody that someone is hurting you when they save your life, and the system supports you in that decision. That's all this is about. Everybody lives a different life. Don't make me have to live the life that's safe for you in your suburban community because that's not my community. Don't make me have to suffer consequences because you don't understand it because it's not your experience. This is the experience people live, Mr. Speaker. This is not frivolous. This is important. It's very important. And I'm a little concerned that people want to just, you know, sweep it off as another political opportunity to point out something the Governor said that they agree with but they don't like her response in this -- in this Chapter Amendment. That, we need to stop doing. There's nothing frivolous about this piece of legislation and I really want to applaud the sponsor for putting it forward and to having the discussions with the Second Floor about Chapter Amendments, because at the end of the day it's about protecting the citizens that live in his district, that live in my district and give them the opportunity to receive support from the office of crime victims without necessarily telling the police why they're doing it. And I know the police are supposed to be here to protect us all, but honestly, I've been around a long time, Mr. Speaker, and I personally know

police officers, some of them are in my family and a lot of them I don't know, but I don't always feel protected by them. I respect the job that they have, I honor the job that they have, but in reality it doesn't work that way in everybody's community. And so don't make us try to live in a life that's not ours. Allow us to live the life we have and move the laws forward, it will make us feel safer where we are in our space. We're comfortable there. Let us have an opportunity to feel safe where we are. Thank you, and thank the sponsor for his piece of legislation.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Angelino.

MR. ANGELINO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, sir.

MR. ANGELINO: So I'm a little confused. I've heard both - Orders of Protections are good, they're bad and quite often things that happen in this House when they get passed into law, police officers are required to -- to have to enforce that. And somehow, some way, law enforcement always ends up on the dirty end of the stick when this stuff happens. So if there's no Order of Protection, then prosecution and law enforcement did nothing to protect this person from domestic violence. If there is an Order of Protection, now I hear that it can escalate domestic violence. I guess every situation is different but the cops that are out there on the scene have to sort this out in hectic circumstances. And you want to know

what really escalates in a domestic violence scene? The requirement that every police officer has to go through the domestic incident report form at every scene before he leaves and have the victims sign it, and I've been on those. One maybe, two officers, trying to separate chaos but the requirement to fill out the domestic incident report, we have to know was your hair pulled? Did a -- did a phone get broken? What is the -- what's the racial makeup of the offender? Are there children present? Are there guns in the house? All good things, but this form is two-sided in I don't know how many different languages, but this -- we have to ask these questions of the victim. A lot of times the offender is right there, we're trying to keep them separate in another room and we've escalated it there out of the requirements coming out of this room. So, I don't know. Police officers are going to have to figure this out now. The words that I heard from my colleague that Orders of Protection don't always help. So that's going to -- be careful when you're in a position of leadership and you say these things because it trickles down, and I think I was no on this bill last time and I'll probably be no again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Walker.

MS. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, ma'am.

MS. WALKER: So when I hear conversations as I'm going to a number of public schools for career day, let's say for

instance, and there's talk about young people, generally adolescents, they are the drivers of crimes. The young people, we have to do something about juvenile justice. And many times when I have conversations with them I says [sic], okay, well, what's going on? They say they're afraid. Why do young people carry weapons? Why do they have access to guns? Because they're afraid, and many instances they're afraid to walk down the streets in their very own communities based on whatever the circumstances there are that are going there. Why are they afraid? Because they don't have anyone to talk to because we are defunding the schools and access to social workers within our school systems. We are also defunding many of the social programs, afterschool programs that they have access to to be able to have conversations with people about their circumstances. And then we want to tell them to rush into the police department to look at -- to look at police officers to serve and protect them in which we all want to be protected but in many instances we see time after time after time again when people call the police in order for them to come and help them from a loved one in a domestic violence situation, somebody uninevitably [sic] will wind up being carried away in a body bag, which recently happens [sic] in my old district. And so it -- so it almost sets up a situation like a Catch-22, but we want crimes and peoples' fears and access to criminal justice agencies to be open and to be available to everyone including the very same young people who are possibly committing some of these crimes.

Going into Rikers Island I will never forget having

conversations with young people about why are you here? If you could have anything it is that you want in this place what would it be? Some of them said they wanted to have to be able to watch TV later at night. They wanted to be able to stay up later at night. The same things that these juveniles are asking for in Crossroads, I should say instead of Rikers Island, are the same things that my middle school student who is at home asks me for. And so these children should be protected just like everyone else. And if we wanted to promote public safety we have to make sure that everyone is safe. We don't get to have safety be a subjective terminology that only resides in a certain class, in a certain demographic of people. Just because young people and people who are victims or who may have been -- others have committed a crime, we always know and we always say that hurt people, hurt people. And we have to end the hurt at some point in time, and I believe that this piece of legislation sets us on the right track in order to be able to get at the root of a lot of the crimes and incidences that happens in our community and that is getting a hurt and getting a fear. We hear all of the time that police officers who are in our communities, they just want to go home. And many times when they're instances with police officers and people who are in the community it is because some of them are just afraid. And so this particular bill, it really just provides the resources that people need when they are living in a constant state of fear to be normal, to be able to be -- to feel protected even whether or not they're actually protected by the Orders of Protections or whatever the circumstances are or not.

At least if in their minds they feel as if they are protected. They don't have to walk around in a constant state of feeling like they need to be armed because they don't know what may happen to them because they're walking down the wrong block. And so I want to commend the sponsor for this legislation. It is a very important step to recognize that we are saying to each and every individual who may be living in fear because of someone who is antagonizing them, who is harassing them, who is making them feel uncomfortable that we are hearing you and we are doing something about it and we are not being subjective in our policymaking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Taylor.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak on this legislation. And I really had not intended to, but I think there are two dynamics that are happening right here. And one is, how do we provide that safety? And I know from my experience as a former military police officer, when you're engaging in domestic situations those are the most violent places -- places more often that officers will get hurt in any other scenario just because of the context that has been explained. When you move one partner away, the other one becomes anxious because they're concerned. They come together like nobody's business. So it's dangerous in those situations, but I don't think this legislation speaks to that. This is an opportunity where someone can come and get services for a situation that they're in and I think it's premature to immediately invite officers to that scene

without understanding the fabric of what's going on in the background, and they're not mandatory reporters and that's what we're talking about. They're not going to be a mandatory reporter. And it provides a safe haven -- safe haven for that individual to come and share their experience. And rather than run through the door, you know, and pushing with force, we want to say, but in the midst of trying to say, more damage can happen because it had to be sought out and put in time and there's so many moving pieces. So it's not about, in my opinion, cops doing their job or not doing their job. This has nothing to do with them. This is whether or not we're going to inform them of what happened. I think that individual - he, or she, or they, should make that decision based on the information that they have and timing is everything. I can come in and say hypothetically this is what's going, this is what is happening in my life. I don't have a second place to go to. I don't have anywhere to go and everything I know is wrapped up in that space so I need time to adjust. If it's immediate, then things can happen but I think we want to move at least in my opinion, in my experience, as a law enforcement officer is that everything has to work and it's not going to be identical by the book, there's going to be some gray areas here. So leave space for the victim to be able to make a cognizant decision about he, or she, or they and what they want to do in that space as opposed to immediately giving it to law enforcement. Thank you much, Mr. Speaker. I support this legislation.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

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. Peoples-Stokes to explain her vote.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to explain my vote. I, again, am very much appreciative of the sponsor for introducing it and I'm pleased to vote for it, even with the changes that have been made through the Chapter Amendment. I will say, though, as a African American woman who was born and raised in the great State of New York, the great country of America and the great City of Buffalo, I'm embarrassed about none of it. But I do realize much like I said in the quote earlier today that separate and equal still is not right. It's not right, but we do live in separate circumstances. And even though we pledge allegiance to justice for all, it doesn't always play out like that. I understand that and I'm okay with it, because I think that there are opportunities for it to be changed when like-minded people get together and think about ways that it can be changed. This is one of them. This piece of legislation, this is one of them, because sometimes people are actually afraid to talk to law enforcement about their circumstances because they fear for their life. There's an agency that's supposed to support them in that and there's an agency that should support them in it. So again, I'm grateful to have the

opportunity to support this piece of legislation.

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

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 6, Calendar No. 19, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00352-A, Calendar No. 19, Bronson. An act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law, in relation to designating as peace officers certain employees of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office serving as court security deputies as Monroe County Court facilities.

ACTING SPEAKER THIELE: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 30th day.

ACTING SPEAKER THIELE: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

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

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 17, Calendar No. 101, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03827, Calendar No. 101, L. Rosenthal, Mamdani, Shrestha, Seawright, Raga, Forrest. An act to amend the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, in

relation to prohibiting naming dependent children under the age of 18 in petitions to recover possession of real property and eviction warrants and sealing any records pertaining to such children.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03866-A, Calendar No. 102, Jackson, Lee, Simon. An act to amend the Public Housing Law, in relation to requiring entities responsible for the provision of vital services to coordinate and work expeditiously to restore service whenever such service is interrupted.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03969, Calendar No. 103, Paulin, Gunther, Thiele, Cruz, Dinowitz, McDonough, L. Rosenthal, Otis, Bronson, Simon, Burdick, Colton, Ardila, Simone, Seawright, Kelles, Gallagher. An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to the prohibition of the use of plastic beverage container packaging.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03978-A, Calendar No. 104, Bichotte Hermelyn, Peoples-Stokes, Aubry, Walker, Cook, Pretlow, Dinowitz, Hevesi, L. Rosenthal, Reyes, Zebrowski, Barrett, Simon, Dickens, Rozic, Epstein, Colton, Hunter, Seawright, Glick, Williams, Taylor, Vanel, Otis, Bronson, Carroll, Cruz, Hyndman, Jacobson, Ramos, Steck, Thiele, Kim, Zinerman, Jackson, González-Rojas, Lavine, Kelles, Gibbs, Ardila. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to bias-based profiling.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03981, Calendar No. 105, Jackson. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to hospital care for mastectomy, lumpectomy, and lymph node dissection patients.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

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. A03986, Calendar No. 106, Fahy, Simon, Gallagher, Epstein, Carroll, Jackson, Hunter, McMahon, Mitaynes, Davila, Burdick, González-Rojas, Kelles, Simone, L. Rosenthal. An act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law, in relation to the operation of bicycles at stop signs and traffic-control signals.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03996, Calendar No. 107, Glick. An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to hunting and fishing licenses.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04011, Calendar No.

108, Weprin, Dickens. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to requiring the superintendent of financial services to promulgate regulations which provide standardized definitions for commonly used terms and phrases in certain insurance policies.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04060-A, Calendar No. 110, Paulin, González-Rojas, Ardila, Bores, Burdick, Burgos, Colton, Gallagher, Lavine, Lee, Levenberg, Magnarelli, Raga, Rivera, Rozic, Shimsky, Simon, Stirpe, McDonough, Forrest, Kelles, De Los Santos, Seawright, Darling. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to requiring menstrual products in public colleges and universities.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04064-A, Calendar No. 111, Gallagher, Fall, Beephan, Seawright. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to requiring restaurants and persons authorized to sell alcoholic beverages to have tangible menus available upon request.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04066-A, Calendar No. 112, Burgos, Sillitti, Gallagher, Fahy, Braunstein, Clark, Fall, Septimo, Mamdani, Rivera, Durso, Miller, Lunsford, Darling, Santabarbara, DeStefano, J. A. Giglio, Smith, K. Brown, Ramos, Lavine, McMahon, Jacobson, Shimsky, Cunningham, Shrestha, L. Rosenthal, Thiele, De Los Santos, Meeks, McDonough, Williams,

Colton, Dinowitz, Hevesi, Gunther, Burke, Tapia, Cook, Stern, Walker, Weprin, Benedetto, Simone, Jean-Pierre, Norris, Jensen, Bephan, Epstein, Slater, Gray, Conrad, McDonald, Seawright, Burdick, Bores, Brabenec, Hyndman, Zaccaro, Aubry, Stirpe, Reilly, Dilan, Solages, Sayegh, Cruz, Carroll, Tague, Alvarez, Lupardo, Levenberg, Flood, González-Rojas, Morinello, Bronson, Woerner, Zebrowski, E. Brown, Reyes, Ardila, Gallahan, Simpson, Gandolfo, Bendett, McGowan, Steck, Wallace, Maher, Walsh, Raga, Lee, Pheffer Amato. An act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law, in relation to requiring motor vehicle dealer franchisors to fully compensate franchised motor vehicle dealers for warranty service agreements.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04076-B, Calendar No. 113, Paulin, Weprin. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to requiring bicycles advertised for sale or resale in new York State to have an identifying serial number.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04157, Calendar No. 115, Paulin, Vanel. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to the use of automatic license plate reader systems.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04201-B, Calendar No. 116, Stern, Simpson, Eachus, Raga, Rajkumar, Santabarbara, Novakhov, Chang. An act to amend the Veterans' Services Law, in

relation to veterans health care.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 60th 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.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt our proceedings for the purpose of an introduction. Our colleague Aileen Gunther has some committed citizens from the Orange County here. They are on the Orange County School Board Association. She has Joe Flaherty, Bill Cooper, Anthony Monaco, Sarah Messing and Karyn Meier. Mr. Speaker, would you please welcome these great citizens who work with our young people in Orange County to our Chambers and offer them the cordialities of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, Ms. Gunther, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Thank you for coming and visiting us and also thank you for the work that you're doing to ensure

that our children are adequately educated in the County of Orange. Please know that we appreciate the work that you do and you are always welcome here. Thank you again.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Well, we have neither housekeepings nor resolutions, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Well, sir, let me take this opportunity to wish you a very happy birthday and a great weekend.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes. Seventy-six and it ain't so bad.

(Laughter)

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: That's right. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until Thursday, February the 8th, tomorrow be a legislative day, and that we reconvene at 2:00 p.m., February the 12th, Monday being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:09 a.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Thursday, February 8th, Thursday being a legislative

day, and to reconvene on Monday, February 12th at 2:00 p.m.,
Monday being a Session day.)