

STATE OF ILLINOIS
104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

80th Legislative Day

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Speaker Williams, A.: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Representative Nicolle Grasse. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cellphones, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Grasse: "Good afternoon. Today, as we gather in service to the people of Illinois, we come just beyond yesterday's St. Patrick's Day. And we are reminded that's... while that celebration fades, but it's values that that day lifts up endure; the values of resilience, community, and hope, and we honor the journeys that brought each of us here across neighborhoods, across generations, across differences. Like the long roads traveled by so many before us, our work is not always easy, but it is purposeful. So, may we carry forward the spirit of perseverance, the kind that keeps going even when the path is uncertain. May we lead with humility, knowing that not one of us holds all the answers but together we can always find a way. And may we choose connection over division, remembering that our strength is found not in standing apart but in standing alongside one another. And in each decision we make today, may we ask who benefits and how do we ensure that all of our communities benefit, especially those who are too often unheard. May we do this work with open minds, steady hands, and a shared commitment to the common good. And may the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sunshine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen."

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Speaker Williams, A.: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Hirschauer."

Hirschauer - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Gabel is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."

Gabel: "Speaker, let the record show that Representatives Andrade, Croke, Deuter, Norma Hernandez, Huynh, and.. and Kelly are excused today."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Keicher is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Keicher: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Please let the record reflect that both Representatives Spain and Rosenthal are excused for today."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 109 Members answering the roll call, a quorum is present. Leader Hammond, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hammond: "Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

Hammond: "Members, if you would join me in congratulating the La Harpe Junior High School/Dallas City Junior... Dallas City Elementary Co-op eighth grade girls basketball team. If you would all please stand. The Lady Eagles won the 2025 Illinois Elementary School Association Class 8-1A state championship."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Welcome to Springfield."

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Hammond: "The Lady Eagles defeated Oakland Lake Crest Elementary School eighth grade girls basketball team, the Titans, with a score of 35 to 27. They completed the season with 25 wins and two losses and are now back-to-back state champions, having previously won the 2024 IESA Class 7-1A state championships. The Lady Eagles are led by head coach Dave Clover, give 'em a wave, Dave; and assistant coach Jack (sic-Jacki) Wibbell. The '25... 2025 Lady Eagles players are Payton Doss, Jamie Heath, Alyssa Marsden, Madi McCarter, Alex Miller, Journey Miller, Reagan Pindell, Kinley Thompson, Aly Wibbell, and Maci Wibbell. Please join me with a round of applause for the Lady Eagles."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Congratulations. Leader West, for what reason do you arise?"

West: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

West: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. This past weekend, a house of worship in my community who I hold near and dear had a... a mortgage burning celebration of which I was unable to attend. And I want to just take the moment real quick to congratulate St. Paul Church of God in Christ in Rockford, Illinois, under the leadership of Superintendent EJ Parham and under... and under the legacy of Bishop Emeritus James E. Washington. To my St. Paul friends and family, congratulations on your mortgage burning. I see that we are three years from 100 years of being in existence, so I'm looking forward to celebrating with you really soon. Again, apologies for not being able to be there, but congratulations on your mortgage burning. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And if the... if the body will help me

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celebrate them, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Congratulations. Representative Ammons, for what reason do you arise?"

Ammons: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Please proceed."

Ammons: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I can do a couple points. One of them is a memorial for Dr. Bernard LaFayette. Dr. Bernard LaFayette, he passed away on March 5, 2026. Dr. Bernard LaFayette was a colleague of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr. and was part of some of the most important moments in civil rights in our nation. And I didn't want this moment to pass, as his homegoing will be taking place in Tuskegee, Alabama, this week on the 22nd of March. I wanted to lift a couple of things that I think are important in the life of Dr. Bernard LaFayette in remembrance of his service to this nation. Dr. Bernard LaFayette started his activism at 12 years old. He joined the NAACP with his grandmother to address segregated buses. He was also one of the students of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee who joined his activist high school students who went on the Freedom Rides. While he attended Baptist... American Baptist College, Dr. LaFayette roomed with former U.S. Representative and civil rights icon John Lewis, where the two of them were roommates for a short time prior to them joining the Freedom Rides. And on those Freedom Rides, about 300 Freedom Riders at the time were beaten, and he was taken to Parchman prison at that time. At the age of 22 years old, in 1963, Dr. Bernard LaFayette was named director of the Alabama Voter Registrations

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Campaign. Later that year, there was an attempted assassination on his life for attempting to get African Americans the right to vote. He has a long history with Illinois, which is important for us to lift him and remember him and his service. Dr. LaFayette was sent to Chicago to do some work with the American Friends Service Committee in Chicago to do open housing. And he was in Chicago at the time of Bloody Sunday, which just passed about a week ago. As we remember the Chicago Freedom Movement's work, it is important for us not to forget people like Dr. Bernard LaFayette, who worked with Dr. King, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, and so many others who are simply trying to guarantee the rights that were supposed to be guaranteed in the Constitution for all Americans. On this day, we in Illinois want to remember and thank Dr. Bernard LaFayette and his family for a long career dedicated to civil rights, equal rights, equity, and justice in the United States. And with that, I would also ask for a moment of silence for losing a brother this week as well."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Members will take a moment of silence. Thank you."

Ammons: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. And just one more acknowledgement. I want to acknowledge also that we have some wonderful students. Many people know that I have a large internship program in my office, and a lot of these bills are reviewed before I even come to Springfield. Some of those students are here from the environmental studies at the University of Illinois. I don't know if they made it into the gallery, but if they are in the gallery, I would certainly like to welcome them to Springfield. Today they will be in

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committee with me. There's quite a bit of them. They will be in committee for E&E this afternoon, so we look forward to them learning how this process works here in Springfield. Thank you so much."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Welcome to Springfield. Representative Faver Dias, for what reason do you arise?"

Faver Dias: "Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Williams, A.: "State your point."

Faver Dias: "Today I'm rising because I have a message for every child and every person in Illinois who has a learning disability generally and specifically dyslexia. Unlike the president of the United States, I understand that dyslexia or a learning disability does not mean you are less qualified to run for office. It simply means you learn differently. But it is not a deficit of intellect or capability. It is not a barrier to leadership. It is not a disqualifier for the presidency or any other dream you dare to chase. And when that difference is understood and harnessed, it can become your superpower. Psychologists are now writing about the dyslexic advantage. People with dyslexia have a keen ability to mentally manipulate objects in 3D space. This is why a disproportionate number of people with dyslexia are successful in fields like architecture, engineering, and surgery. They can see a finished product in their mind's eye before it even exists. People with dyslexia often rely on episodic memory rather than rote memorization of facts. This leads to high emotional intelligence, which means they have a keen ability to read people and understand different perspectives, a skill our current president severely lacks.

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While it is clear our president does not know history, I would remind people that George Washington struggled to read and spell and was suspected of having dyslexia. Thomas Jefferson struggled with sentence composition as he was learning to read and write and then wrote the Declaration of Independence. Woodrow Wilson had dyslexia and became president and won a Nobel... Nobel Peace Prize. So, whether you have dyslexia or another kind of learning disability, you are qualified to run for office, regardless of the ignorance of the person currently occupying the White House. How your brain works is an asset, your perspective is a gift, and you can be president of the United States. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Thank you. Representative Guerrero-Cuellar, for what reason do you arise?"

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams: "State your point."

Guerrero-Cuellar: "I would ask the body if you can help me welcome a very special individual today. She is with us in the gallery. Her name is Monica Ochoa. She is the United States of America Ms. Illinois for 2026. Ms. Ochoa, I also want to recognize something very important to me, very dear. In the 8th District police in the Chicago Police Department, she is also an officer. She is here today. She's joining us. Let me just tell you a little bit about her. She holds a master's degree in engineering and a bachelor's degree in psychological science. Also, she... she is internationally recognized actress, an International Motion Picture Academy Award winner, and her films have been recognized in France,

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Mexico, South America, and, soon, Nigeria. Her films have appeared at the Chicago Latino Film Festival and Chicago Horror Film Festival, on the platforms, including Fox, NBC, and Amazon Prime and Tubi and Plex. She is also part of the Univision's commercial talent roster and is a co-author of the 'I Am Limitless,' launching in 2026. And so, she came down to Springfield today, and I want to just recognize her efforts and her amazing career and talent. And, again, welcome to Springfield. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Welcome. Representative Halbrook, for what reason do you arise?"

Halbrook: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Williams, A.: "State your point."

Halbrook: "Thank you. The current scandal involving commercial driver's licenses and illegal aliens should alarm every resident of this great state. This is a serious public safety failure. Commercial driver's licenses are meant for individuals who have been fully verified, lawfully present, properly trained, and qualified to safely operate massive commercial vehicles on our roads. When that system breaks down, Illinois families are the ones that are put at risk. And right now, Illinois is once again at the center of a growing scandal over improperly issued CDLs. Federal investigators found that nondomiciled CDLs were issued to individuals with questionable and unverified statuses and that may have been given the authority to operate heavy trucks on our highways. That is unacceptable. Illinois is a transportation hub of America. Our roads carry traffic from

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every direction. If Illinois fails to protect the integrity of commercial licensing, the consequences do not stop at our state line. This threatens Illinois families, interstate commerce, and public safety across the nation. We've already seen the tragic results of such failures in other states. In January '26 in Indiana, an illegal alien truck driver caused a crash that killed four Hoosiers. In California, October '25, another illegal alien truck driver slammed into multiple vehicles on Interstate 10, killing three and injuring three more. In Washington state in late '25, an illegal alien driver was involved in a fatal crash that claimed the life of another individual. And in Florida in August of 2025, a similar crash killed three motorists, again involving a driver whose legal status was in question. These incidents are not isolated. They are warnings, evidence that when unqualified, unverified individuals are allowed behind the wheel of massive commercial vehicles lives are lost. Illinois residents deserve to know that every person driving an 80,000-pound truck next to their family has been legally cleared, fully vetted, and properly licensed. Anything less is a betrayal of public trust and a direct threat to the safety of our communities. It's time for action. The Illinois secretary of state must immediately review all recently issued nondomiciled CDLs; number two, halt issuance of any new nondomiciled CDLs until the verification protocols meet federal standards; number three, work with federal authorities to ensure full compliance with FMCSA rules; and number four, report transparently to the public on steps taken to protect Illinois families. Madam Speaker, the safety of

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our families cannot wait for bureaucracy. Every delay puts lives at risk. Illinois must restore integrity to the CDL system, and the secretary of state must act without hesitation to guarantee that our highways are safe, our laws are enforced, and our trust in government is not betrayed. Thank you."

Speaker Williams, A.: "I'd like to welcome State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, and my constituent, to the House floor today. Under the Order of Resolutions, we have House Resolution 586, offered by Representative Crawford."

Crawford: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. House Resolution 586 declares the week of July 5 through July 10, 2026 as Blues Kids... Blues Kids Week in the state of Illinois. Can I have everyone from the Blues Kids Foundation please rise? Thank you. Illinois, and particularly Chicago, has played a central role in shaping and preserving the blues, a uniquely American art form that has influenced generations of musicians around the world. HR586 also recognizes the work of Fernando Jones, who is here present with us. In case you don't... you don't recognize him, this is him. He's a famous Chicago blues man and fellow educator who founded the Blues Kids Foundation in 1991. So, for more than three decades, Mr. Jones has dedicated himself to teaching young people not only how to perform the blues but also to understand its history, cultural significance, and role in American music. And, yes, Dr. Jacobs, that includes your friend, Muddy Waters. This resolution... absolutely. This resolution highlights the foundation's signature program, Blues Camp, which provides free, immersive music education to youth. Participants receive instruction in

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musicianship, songwriting, performance, and the historical foundations of the blues while engaging in mentorship and cultural exchange. This resolution further acknowledges that thousands of young people have been impacted by this programming, strengthening their artistic development and deepening their connection to Illinois' rich musical heritage. Because of their participation, Blues Kids have had the opportunity to learn and travel nationwide and even internationally. Today, with us, we had students from Owen, Esmond, and Powell schools, 60 of them. Unfortunately, they had to leave us this afternoon so that we can return them in due time to their parents. But they gave a rousing performance in... in the rotunda this morning, well, this afternoon, of several of youth blues hits, as well as solicited the participation of this State Representative in his first harmonica lesson and several of our Speaker's staff members who accompanied them. By declaring Blues Kids Week, we honor the enduring legacy of the blues in our state and recognize the educators and organizations committed to preserving its future for many more generations. I thank you, and I ask for adoption."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Crawford moves... moves for the adoption of House Resolution 586. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the resolution is adopted. Congratulations. The clerk is in receipt of a Motion in Writing to waive the posting requirements for this afternoon's committees. If there is leave, we will take the

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motions together in one motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Leader Gabel on the motion."

Gabel: "Speaker, pursuant to House Rule 21(e), I move that the posting requirements for the bills posted to the following committees be waived so committees can meet at an earlier time, for the following 5 p.m. committees to meet at 3:30: Cities & Villages Committee, Consumer Protection Committee, Energy & Environment Committee, Financial Institutions & Licensing Committee, Health Care Availability & Accessibility Committee, Judiciary - Criminal Committee, and Veterans' Affairs Committee."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Gabel has moved to waive the posting requirements. All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? OK, there being 71 votes in 'favor,' 33 'against,' 0 voting 'present,' this motion, having received a majority, the posting requirements are waived. Speaker Welch in the Chair."

Speaker Welch: "Shhh. Members, today it is my privilege to welcome to our chamber the Honorable Charlotte Montel, the consul general of France in Chicago. Consul General Montel began her posting in Chicago in 2025 after successful postings in Canada and at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in Paris. As we all know, Illinois and France have a special partnership dating back to the 1600s when French explorers Marquette and Jolliet explored the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers and French traders established the first relationships with the Indigenous People of this land. Today we keep these bonds strong through our economic partnerships and cultural

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exchanges with the French people. So, Members of this distinguished body, please join me in celebrating this great friendship by welcoming the Honorable Consul General, Ms. Charlotte Montel."

Consul General Montel: "Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Distinguished Members of the Illinois General Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, it's a great honor to address you today in this historic chamber. Mr. Speaker, I'm deeply grateful for the invitation to speak on behalf of France and to celebrate the long-standing... long-standing friendship between the state of Illinois and my country. As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence, and in particular Illinois 250, under the wise stewardship of Gabrielle Lyon, I must start by recalling that the ties between Illinois and France are deeply rooted in history, indeed. Long before Illinois became a state in the 17th century, French explorers and fur traders, and excuse my French, I'll pronounce them in... with my French accent, La Salle; Marquette; Jolliet; not forgetting Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, who founded Chicago, traveled south the Great Lakes from New France, in what is now Canada, along down... I mean, down along the Mississippi River, adding their mark and footprint in this region. French names and heritage remain visible throughout Illinois, once again, Rochelle, Sublette, Bureau County, DePue, La Moille, La Salle, Hennepin, Joliet, Champaign, and even Paris, I understand. These names reminding us that the relationship between France and this part of America stretches back more than three centuries, way before American independence. I'm happy to discover that the revitalization of the French

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heritage is actively promoted by the French Heritage Corridor, supported by the French Heritage Society. We are grateful to the state of Illinois for financing some infrastructures, such as a ferry on the Mississippi River between Fort de Chartres and Ste-Genevieve in Missouri. Thank you. We are ready to work with Illinois on more projects to preserve French heritage in the state. Beyond this shared history of exploration and commerce, we share a history of ideas, of enlightenment that has mutually shaped our countries and their political systems. This is what is so beautifully illustrated and curated in the incredible exhibit 'The Promise of Liberty' at the Peoria Waterfront Museum in Illinois. Peoria, yet another French-founded town. This is why being in front of this honorable assembly today is so important, as you represent the essence of democracy as it was conceived 250 years ago. Today, more than ever, as the war in Ukraine still rages and democracy is under attack in many places in the world, and in Europe in particular, we must stand firm together in defense of what has been achieved over the past 250 years. The same way we helped strengthen the new American republic and democracy, the same way the 370th Infantry Regiment, commanded by African Americans from Illinois, save... saved France during World War I, the same way you saved us on D-Day in 1945, France and the U.S. are and must remain the strongest guardians of these values and the longest allies in the future. Celebrating 250 years of French-American friendship is therefore a responsibility. We must keep building bridges between our societies, our communities, our young generations. Building bridges and friendship can

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summarize my roadmap as the new French consul general in Chicago, be it through economic, academic, scientific partnerships. The French community... maybe I should start with the French community in Illinois is growing and vibrant. About 404,600 French citizens living in Illinois are registered at the French consulate in Chicago. Chicago and its closest suburbs gather a majority, obviously, of our French citizens, but many live across various part of Illinois. Forty-three percent have double citizenship, dual citizenship, French-American, and it's actually a growing number, meaning more Americans are applying for French citizenship. And more... more than 45% of this French community has lived in Illinois for more than five years, meaning there are strong ties and they keep settling in... in Illinois. These links seem to be strengthening year after year as the number of French citizens in... in Illinois is rising. It increased by 12% in 2025. On the economic field, France is the fifth foreign investor in Illinois. French companies such as Veolia, specialized in water and waste management; Schneider Electric; VINCI, in construction; Stellantis, automobile, in Belleville; Savencia, in dairy, contribute to the vitality of the state's economy, creating jobs and strengthening key sectors, such as manufacturing, transportation, energy, and technology. In 2024, French companies were employing 47,500 Illinoisans. So, that's quite a lot. French economic presence can be spotted all over the state. I will take some examples. I was mentioning our top construction company, VINCI. It is building the future of Chicago, working on the extension of the Red Line for a \$2 billion project that will bring

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prosperity to new areas of the city, but we hope it will not suffer from defunding of the CTA. Another example of French company in Illinois, last January, in Kolb-Lena, I attended with Governor Pritzker the inauguration of a new cheese facility of the Savencia plant, fully supported by Illinois investment incentives, such as EDGE. Present since 1987 in the state, this plant contributes to sustaining a whole community and creating jobs in the area. Let me eventually mention the success story of the French company Innovafeed, which inaugurated in 2024 its first factory in Decatur. It produces protein from insects and is a clever collaboration with ADM. Conversely, we are proud to welcome around 100 Illinois companies in the... in the French market in France, in all sectors, and you will recognize your giants: Mondelez Mondelēz; Griffith Foods; McDonalds, obviously; ADM; John Deere, Hyatt, AbbVie, Motorola Solutions, and so on. Illinois' companies in France employ more than 20,000 employees, without even counting all the McDonalds restaurant employees. So, that tells a lot. Just for you to know that there's a great dynamic going on, 47 new investment projects of Illinois companies to France were initiated in 2025. So, this is ongoing and going very well. So, these economic ties demonstrate how our cooperation can drive innovation, competitiveness, and shared prosperity. Our collaboration also extends deeply into the academic world. Universities and research institutions in Illinois maintain strong partnerships with their French counterparts: Northwestern University, obviously; UIC; UIUC; and so on. As you may know, France is the key international partner of UChicago. Each

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year, for the past 18 years, 20 STEM research projects are jointly funded for an amount of \$365,000 per year. The world-renowned competence of Illinois physicists, thanks to Fermilab and Argonne National Laboratories, attracts the best French scientists on nuclear, quantum, and particle physics. France also tries to support the best French departments around the state universities. We are supporting the Center of Excellence at University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign that enables the southern part of the state to keep the French language and culture vibrant. But this is just an example. On top of that, numerous student exchanges, joint research programs, and academic mobility allow young people and scholars to learn from one another and to work together on the challenges of the future. Talking about building bridges between our young people, in the America 250 context, we have just launched a new grant program called Lafayette Fellowship aimed to fund each year 30 top master's students from the U.S. universities and colleges to our best French universities because we want to build a new generation of Francophile Americans. I cannot conclude the French roadmap in Illinois without mentioning culture. The presence of French educational institutions and programs in Chicago area and in the entire state play a vital role in strengthening our cultural and intellectual ties. We have two French international schools in Chicago that enroll 850 students, Lycée Français de Chicago and the École Franco-Américaine de Chicago, so two different schools. They allow new generation of students to grow up immersed in both languages and both cultures. We also sustain three Alliances Françaises, which

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are French cultural center that teach French to adults, basically, and kids sometimes, and they teach to 2,000 students per year. So, French is vibrant, and we are very happy about that. They all represent living bridges between our societies and communities with their striving programs, and there are strong arguments for the attractiveness of Chicago as a global city. Finally, our cultural network, which is called Villa Albertine, is contributing to the social and cultural fabric of Chicago and Illinois through numerous events, artists' residencies, and collaborations. We organize debates, film festival, dance performances, exhibitions, French museum-curators' tours. We contribute to the Chicago Architecture Biennial, and so on and so on. And you know how much culture is important for French citizen. All these connections, historical, economic, academic, scientific, cultural, form the foundation of a rich relationship that is both resilient and forward looking. In today's world, however, we face a global environment that is increasingly complex and conflictual. The current war against Iran is a challenge, as France wants to keep a defensive position to protect our 400,000 nationals in the... in the region, and we want to support our friends, in particular Lebanon, and contribute to limit the disruptive fluctuation of oil prices. In such a difficult context, diplomacy must operate at every level, and that is why I thank you so much once again, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to reaffirm our friendship today with Illinois and its people. Alongside national governments, states, counties, cities have an essential role to play in maintaining dialogue, fostering cooperation, and building

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practical partnerships with international partners. Diplomacy is at all levels. As an example, Illinois alone has seven active sister city agreements with France. Among them, Hoffman Estates with Angoulême, Galena with Agen, Belvidere with Vaulx-le-Penil. These are examples. We are also proud to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Chicago-Paris sister city agreement this year, and this is quite emblematic, obviously. By working together locally, by building bridges, by strengthening the broader transatlantic relationship and help ensure that international cooperation remains grounded in concrete project and shared interest, we will continue and... and fortify this... this friendship. Illinois and France will continue to share a spirit of innovation, openness, and global engagement. By continuing to deepen... deepen our partnerships in business, education, research, culture, we can ensure that this historic friendship remains a source of opportunity and progress for generations to come. Thank you for your attention, and thank you for your commitment to the enduring friendship between Illinois and France."

Speaker Welch: "Thank you, consul. The honorable consul general has agreed to take photos down in the well for any Members who wish to take a photo. Leader Ann Williams is back in the Chair."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Representative Canty, for what reason do you arise?"

Canty: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Williams, A.: "State your point."

Canty: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in recognition of Women's History Month and know that I stand on the shoulders

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of the pioneering women who came before me. The battles these women fought all centered around allowing us to control our lives and not be subject to unfair restrictions on our economic, civic, and bodily autonomy. That struggle continues today and in this room, covering issues like equal pay and the right to choose, which are good at grabbing headlines. But it's important we not neglect the simple, easy-to-forget inequalities that are just as much a tool of restricting our autonomy and sewn into the fabric of our everyday lives. The women in the room might have already realized I'm talking about pockets. While it might seem like a small thing, the convenience of being able to throw my phone and keys into my pockets makes my life easier. It encourages freedom of movement, and, more importantly, denying that convenience sends a message to women everywhere: Your mobility is unimportant. The message to generations of girls is: Don't worry about carrying the car keys or handling money or even leaving the house. And a lack of pockets was an implicit tool sending that message. Suffragettes, a century ago, were known for fighting for the right to vote. They also fought for women to have pockets. Both were met with hostile backlash from an establishment that didn't want equality. Today, although all American women have the right to vote, millions of girls are growing up in a world that still automatically adds pockets to clothes meant for boys and men but often neglects them in clothes for girls and women. Major designers are starting to see the desire for pockets and make changes, but the fight for pocket parity still has a long way to go. If you disagree, there's a simple way that we can test this, and I'm going to

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do a little call and response. So, could all the male Representatives in the room who have been tired on some long session night and just wished they could put their phone in their pocket instead of lugging a heavy purse around clap? OK, how about the women? Have you ever wished, after a long night, to be able to put your phone in your pockets instead of carrying your purse around? Let's clap if you've wished for that. If someone could explain to me why it's good there's such a difference, I'd like to hear it. Happy Women's History Month."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Thank you. Mr. Clerk, committee announcements."

Clerk Hollman: "The following committees will be meeting after adjournment: Adoption & Child Welfare will meet in Room 122. Agriculture & Conservation will meet in Room 115. Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education will meet in Room 118. Ethics & Elections will meet in Room D-1. Insurance will meet in C-1. Public Utilities will meet in Room 114. Transportation: Regulation, Roads & Bridges will meet in Room 413. Meeting at 3:30 is Cities & Villages in Room 118, Consumer Protection in Room 115, Energy & Environment in Room 114, Financial Institutions & Licensing in Room 122, Health Care Availability & Accessibility in Room C-1, Judiciary - Criminal in D-1, and Veterans' Affairs in Room 413."

Speaker Williams: "Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 703, offered by Representative Chung. House Resolution 704, offered by Representative Chung. House Resolution 705, offered by Representative Ryan. House Resolution 706, offered by

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Representative Stephens. House Resolution 707, offered by Representative Morris. House Resolution 708, offered by Representative Swanson. House Resolution 709, offered by Representative Halbrook. House Resolution 710, offered by Leader McCombie. House Resolution 711, offered by Representative Spain. House Resolution 712, offered by Representative Ness. House Resolution 714, offered by Representative Johnson. House Resolution 715, offered by Representative Morris. House Resolution 719, offered by Representative Scherer. House Resolution 720, offered by Representative du Buclet. House Resolution 721, offered by Representative Coffey. House Resolution 724, offered by Representative Gordon-Booth. House Resolution 725, offered by Representative Lilly. House Resolution 728, offered by Representative Gabel. House Resolution 729, offered by Representative Tarver. House Resolution 730, offered by Representative Ammons. And House Resolution 731, offered by Representative Sheehan."

Speaker Williams, A.: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. And now, allowing perfunctory time for the clerk, Leader Gabel moves that the House stand adjourned until Thursday, March 19, at the hour of noon. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill

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5723, offered by Representative Rashid, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 5724, offered by Representative Slaughter, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5725, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5726, offered by Representative Buckner, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 5727, offered by... offered by Representative Mayfield, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5728, offered by Representative Chung, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5729, offered by Representative Barbara Hernandez, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. Introduction... correction... Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 713, offered by Representative Windhorst; House Resolution 716, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin; House Resolution 717, offered by Representative González; House Resolution 718, offered by Representative Sheehan; House Resolution 722, offered by Representative Hoffman; House Resolution 723, offered by Representative Guerrero-Cuellar; House Resolution 726, offered by Representative Harper; House Resolution 727, offered by Representative Canty, are referred to the Rules Committee. Committee Reports. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on March 18, 2026: recommends be adopted, referred to the floor is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2088, Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2833, Floor Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 4403; approved for consideration, referred to Second Reading are

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House Bills 228, House Bill 609, House Bill 624, House Bill 645, House Bill 653, House Bill 686, House Bill 727, House Bill 917, House Bill 987, House Bills 1940-2069, House Bills 2071-2075, House Bills 2077-2082, House Bills 2084-2087, House Bills 2088, House Bills 2089-2107, House Bill 2110-2133, House Bill 2135-2138, House Bills 2140, House Bill 2141, House Bills 2143-2154, House Bills 2156-2178, House Bills 2180-2189, House Bills 2191-2195, House Bill 2197-2206, House Bill 2207, House Bills 2208-2263, House Bills 2265-2276, House Bills 2278-2326, House Bill 2328, House Bill 2329, House Bill 2833, and Senate Bill 2102; recommends be adopted, referred to the Order of Resolutions is House Resolution 237. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."