

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate September 30, 2021

**FOLEY:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the thirteenth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session [SIC]. Our chaplain for today is Senator Geist. Please rise.

**GEIST:** Good morning. Let's pray together. Father, we're so thankful to be here this morning. You've brought us this far. We pray for your peace, we pray for your guidance, and we pray for a nice long weekend. Give us strength and vision and help us to do the things that honor you. In your name we pray, amen.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Geist. I call on Senator Lowe for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LOWE:** Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. 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.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Lowe. I call to order the thirteenth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

**CLERK:** I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any corrections for the Journal?

**CLERK:** Mr. President, on page 94, strike line 9. That's the only item.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any messages, reports, or announcements?

**CLERK:** Mr. President, acknowledgement of agency reports received and available to members on the legislative website, also the lobby report, as required by state law, to be inserted in the Journal. That's all that I have, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, before moving to Final Reading, I recognize Senators Pansing Brooks and Brewer for a special announcement.

**BREWER:** Thank you, Mr. President. If you remember last year, we passed legislation to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day, and this coming Monday we will-- or a week from Monday we'll be celebrating that. And the ceremony in the morning will start at 9:30 across in the Warner Chamber. The four tribes that we will be unveiling the flags for-- the

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Ponca, the Santee Sioux, the Winnebago, and the Omaha-- will have representatives there, I think, to include their tribal presidents, and we'd like to invite everyone to come over for that ceremony in the other Chamber. And after that, I'll let Senator Pansing Brooks fill you in on the following event.

**PANSING BROOKS:** Are you-- OK. Well, we're-- we're really excited about this day. It's going to be a wonderful day. This body had a ton to do with this day. Again, doing the two-- the four tribal flags from the tribes headquartered in Nebraska will be placed over in the Warner Chamber with a great celebration. Then afterward, Senator Brewer and I are hosting a-- a coffee and rolls downstairs near the cafeteria. And then afterward, we'll walk over to near the-- the Sesostris Temple [SIC]. Is that right, Sesostris? I'm spacing that off. I'm sorry. Anyway, it's on Centennial Mall where the Susan La Flesche Picotte statue will be placed and we're-- it's going to be dedicated at that point. The plan is that-- that Congressman Fortenberry will be there, the mayor will be there, so it's a big celebration. Tribes will be there doing their dances and powwow exhibition and after that, inside the temple, there is a-- a lunch that's been sponsored. And the university is-- is announcing a-- a wonderful project, so I hope you come. For those of you who didn't go to the Standing Bear event-- oh, Scottish Rite building-- thank you very much-- Scottish Rite building. Thank you, Senator Lowe. And so it's-- it's really going to be a wonderful occasion. For those of you who didn't go to the Standing Bear event in D.C., it will-- it will be similar. There will be lots of similar things, and that event was really special. So there will be some beautiful T-shirts that have been bought by some people and the tribes are all going to be participating, so we really hope you come because this is a large part about what Nebraska has done to-- to celebrate our first peoples. So thank you. Hope you read this and come. Thank you.

**BREWER:** Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senators. Members, we're now going to move to Final Reading. All senators please be at your desks. Thank you, Senators. We now have seven bills on Final Reading. Each bill, members, has an E clause on it. Each bill will require 33 votes, 33 votes. First bill, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** [Read LB3 on Final Reading.]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB3e pass with the emergency

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clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Clements, Day, Dorn, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Williams. Voting no: Senators John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Erdman, Groene, Matt Hansen, Hunt, McKinney. Not voting: Senators Bostar, DeBoer, Wayne, Wishart, Flood. 37 ayes, 7 nays, 4 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB3e passes. Proceeding to LB1e.

**CLERK:** [Read LB1 on Final Reading.]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1e pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Clements, Day, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Kolterman, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama-- Slama, Stinner, Williams. Voting no: Senators Bostar, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Matt Hansen, Hunt, Lathrop, McKinney, Morfeld, Vargas, Wayne. Not voting, Senators Walz, Wishart, and Flood. 35 ayes, 11 nays, 2 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB1e passes. Proceeding to LB6e.

**CLERK:** [Read LB6 on Final Reading.]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB6e pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld,

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Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne [SIC], Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senator Matt Hansen. Not voting: Senators Wayne and Flood. 46 ayes, 1 nay, 1 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB6e passes with the emergency clause attached. Proceeding to LB5e.

**CLERK:** [Read LB5 on Final Reading.]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB5e pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Matt Hansen. Not voting: Senator Flood. 45 ayes, 3 nays, 1 present-- or excuse me, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB5e passes with the emergency clause attached. Proceeding to LB8e.

**CLERK:** [Read LB8 on Final Reading.]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB8e pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, Matt Hansen. Not voting: Senator Flood. 46 ayes, 2 nays, 1 excused and not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB8e passes with the emergency clause attached. LB7e.

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**CLERK:** [Read LB7 on Final Reading.]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB7e pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Clements, Day, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkeman, Hughes, Kolterman, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting no: Senators Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Matt Hansen, Hunt, Lathrop, Morfeld. Not voting: Senator Flood. 41 ayes, 7 nays, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB7e passes with the emergency clause attached. Pause for just a moment, members. Before moving to the final bill, while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following six legislative bills: LB3e, LB1e, LB6e, LB5e, LB8e, and LB7e. Final bill, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, LB14, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Cavanaugh would move to return the bill for a specific amendment, AM44.

**FOLEY:** Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

**M. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. How much time do I have to open?

**FOLEY:** Ten minutes.

**M. CAVANAUGH:** OK, and then two times to speak?

**FOLEY:** Correct.

**M. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you. Colleagues, this bill is the reimbursement for the special session, and I do not intend to take this to a vote, so do my best to be collegial in spite of the circumstances, though I will be voting against it because I don't think that this body is worthy of-- of receiving those funds, but I also believe that the staff is. So I've been doing a little bit of a look back, a historical look back. It's not a very far look back because it's only two years, but I've been going through the 2019 process of LB709 from the One

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Hundred Sixth Congress-- Legislature. LB709 is the bill that I introduced my freshman year to create a mothers' room. LB709 was cosponsored by every single female senator in the One Hundred Sixth Legislature. Every woman in this body cosponsored that bill. It is very loud in here right now, so I guess I will try to speak louder. Can I have a gavel?

**FOLEY:** Members, please come to order.

**M. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you. March 2019, there was a hearing in front of the Government Committee about my-- my bill, LB709. There were proponents. There was a staff member that came and testified, took a lunch break to test-- come and testify about this. That same staff member, who is no longer a staff member, sent a letter, along with other former employees, this morning to the entire Legislature. Dear Speaker Hilgers and Chair Hughes: As women who have conducted work in the Nebraska State Capitol Building while pregnant and/or nursing and expressing milk-- colleagues, I am reading about staff that have worked in this building-- excuse me, I am reading about staff who have worked in this building as working mothers. You could do the decency to at least be quiet. You don't have to listen to me, but you can be quiet. Thank you. As women who have conducted work in the Nebraska State Capitol building while pregnant and/or nursing and expressing milk, we respectfully request reconsideration of the decision to remove access to the mothers' room in the Nebraska State Capitol. We understand the practical nature of assessing needs and resources during the renovation. However, the consequences of this decision to temporarily restrict access to the privately funded mothers' room for two years is immeasurable. The days of pumping breast milk in closets and next to bathroom stalls are over. A mothers' room in the Capitol means that women will no longer be dependent on their boss's schedule or be forced to coordinate an underground network of pumping time in the most generous offices. We are thankful for the addition of the pod in the copy room, but it is meant for visitors to the Capitol, not mothers who need it several times a day for a year or more. This letter is written for the women-- women-- woman who is pregnant and has yet to disclose. This letter is for the woman who is trying to conceive and weighing whether this workplace is supportive of her future. This letter is written for the women who have worked in the building for decades and celebrated the install-- installment of the mothers' room. This letter is written for the women and young Nebraskans who are considering the workplace culture they want to add their talents to in the years to come. This letter was not circulated among staff of the Legislature or employees in other agencies and branches working in the State Capitol. Why? Because this was a

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purposeful decision reflective of the reality in which many women find themselves: weighing their needs against the security and perceptions of their careers. In short, they should not have to be asked. We respectfully request leadership reinstate access to the mothers' room immediately. Please prioritize this for not only the legal reasons, but to maintain the dignity we should-- shall-- we should give all staff who choose to work in our Capitol. And it is signed by several former staff members who have worked for several people in this Chamber right now. And it is just unfathomable to me that we are still having this conv-- that I am still having this conversation. I realize that not many of you are participating in the conversation, but it is unfathomable to me that this is still happening. In rereading the transcripts from the hearing and rereading the transcripts from the Exec Board meetings where they voted, they voted, Senator Hughes voted for the mothers' room in 2104, the room that it is. That was a vote that was taken, recorded, acknowledgement of the funds that we were receiving from a foundation. We should be held accountable. We get angry when the administration doesn't take into account our laws that we pass, when they flounce their nose at it. We get angry about that because it's our job. But where's the accountability for ourselves, colleagues? Where is the outrage that our Executive Board of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature voted for this and the same people who voted for it took it away unceremoniously, refused to put it back, refused to engage in this? Where is your outrage? If this was something that mattered to you, you would be outraged and you would want me to stand by your side. If something happened that you worked so hard to get to fruition for the people of Nebraska and another senator just ignored it, you would be outraged and I would stand by you. In rereading the hearing-- and this is for the senators that this is your first year or your first year back. In rereading the testimony and the-- the conversation from the hearing, it-- it brought me joy and also made me sad because I saw the potential for the relationships I could have in this body, the way that both Democrats and Republicans in that committee engaged with me and worked with me, the fact that Speaker Hilgers and I made this happen together, the-- the prospect of what we could accomplish if we could treat one another with respect. And for me personally, as a state senator in this body, it has been a downward spiral ever since. Last session was horrendous for me, but I'm not going to stop showing up. I'm not going to stop showing up for you all. I'm not going to stop showing up for my constituents. I'm not going to stop showing up for the state of Nebraska. But it is sad. All I wanted to do was give the women of this state a place to do what they needed to do to take care of their families and the-- the consequences are so vast that I don't think the men in this body can

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even begin to grasp. I heard a story of a woman whose child died almost immediately after birth and part of her grieving process was that she continued to pump and donate the milk to the hospital because a lot of people are able to do that and you sign a form whether or not you would accept donated milk at the hospital. And this woman, that was her grieving process. If she worked in this building--

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**M. CAVANAUGH:** --God bless her, I don't know what she would do. There are women who lose pregnancies every single day and they need a private place to grieve, to step away from their desk. You may never even know that they went through that and you are depriving them of that. This room was so much more than just a room. It's wrong on every level and you don't even begin to understand how wrong it is. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Four senators in the queue. Senator McKinney, you're first.

**McKINNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I support LB14e and Machaela's-- Senator Cavanaugh-- Senator Machaela Cavanaugh is going to pull her motion and I do want to tell you on the mike and on the record that I stand with you and I support the reinstatement of the mothers' room in the Capitol. But I wanted to give a weekly update on the prison situation that we've got from the IG. The other day-- this is the email-- well, yesterday we got this. Yesterday, three man-- three men apparently attempted suicide at NDCS facilities. According to reports from those facilities, one cut his arm at the Diagnostics and Evaluation Center; another tried to choke himself with a t-shirt at the Nebraska State Penitentiary; the third tied a shirt to a vent at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution and tried to hang himself. To have this many suicide attempts or even more than one in a single day is rare. Fortunately-- fortunately, staff were in the area each time and were able to intervene. All three of these facilities are under staffing emergencies. We also wanted to let you know about a call we received from an inmate in the protective custody unit at the Lincoln Correctional Center yesterday. There was a fight on that unit between two cellmates, friends of the caller, who had lived together for more than a year with no problems. This is backed up by reports from staff. The inmate who called sugg-- suggested that locking men down in their cells together for three/four days is raising tensions in the facility. It is worth noting that the corporal who discovered this fight just happened to be on a unit at the time. Due to short staffing at LCC on Monday night, there were actually no one assigned



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to that unit, meaning the corporal had to leave a different unit unattended to do rounds on the-- on the protective custody unit. Lastly, our office and the Ombudsman's Office continue to hear complaints from inmates about their medications, insulin being handed out at the wrong times or not at all at LCC and DEC. We have relayed these concerns to NDCS administration, but the complaints have continued. Our understanding is this is also related to staffing levels. I also received some more information from the Ombudsman's Office which they consider a point of interest for the con-- correctional system: inmate out-of-cell time. Over the last several years, due to critical staffing and overcrowding issues, more and more has been taken from-- from the-- from the inmate population. Recently, in the Lincoln Correctional Center and the D-- and in DEC modified its operations, a lockdown model, to only allow its inmate population out their cell Monday through Thursday. The population is locked down in their cells the rest of the week, Friday through Sunday. Unfortunately, the feedback from this latest action by the department has frustrated and angered the inmate population. We have to con-- we have to-- we have and continue to express our grave concerns to the department on the long-term impacts of such plan. There's also concerns with this, with how the plans deal with those inmates diagnosed with serious mental illness, TBI, or DD. We continue to have concerns for residual effects that a lockdown will have on this population. Others-- other concerns we have with the lockdown model and the related impact it will have on the inmate population includes issues as expressed-- and I'll get back on the mike after my time and continue. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator McKinney. Senator Matt Hansen.

**M. HANSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Excuse me, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, stand with Senator Machaela Cavanaugh and her efforts to get the mothers' room restored. Unfortunately, with everything I've been working on this week, I've-- remiss that I haven't been able to spoken-- spoken on it until now. One of the staffers that was referenced testifying and then signing onto that letter that we all received was a former staff member of mine. And the-- the things she shared publicly, it was-- largely been focused on the lack of a mothers' room and that informal network of working moms in this building. I do want to rise and say this is a bigger institutional problem from that. Our maternal leave policies, our family leave policies, all sorts of things are simply out of date and inadequate. And I could just say, as an employer who's trying to be generous and who's trying to balance, you know, a quality employee who I want to stay working for me, it's so heartbreaking and so difficult

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to say, hey, I'm going to try and get permission from the Exec Board to give you unpaid leave, and that's the step we leave a lot of staff in our building. That's the staff-- place we leave senators who want to support their staff in this building. It's an embarrassment to this institution that we took so long to get a mothers' room. It's an embarrassment that we've now lost it, and I really sincerely hope that we resolve this as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Matt Hansen. Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, Nebraskans. I'm grateful to senators like Matt Hansen and Senator McKinney, who-- who don't maybe have such a personal stake in this kind of issue because they're not somebody who would ever use a lactation room, but it's really men who have always been needed historically to, like, move these things along. And I'm thankful for Senator Machaela Cavanaugh for making space today and many, many other times throughout this special session for redistricting to talk about this important issue. Even though-- even though it's not directly related to redistricting, it is because it's the same systemic problem that we keep seeing in this building and in this Legislature of we're not listening to the people who are affected by the policies we make. When constituents tell us that they don't like LB1, they don't like LB3, they don't like how these maps are drawn, and then we come in here, we introduce amendment after amendment in-- late in the night, early in the morning, none of us have seen it before we get to vote on it, it comes to our desk, you know, we're-- we're standing at ease for hours to wait for the copier to make copies of the amendment for us so we can read it, of course, the public hasn't seen it. The public tells us constantly that they don't like this process, just as the-- the mothers who are staffers in this building and former staff in this building are telling us that we have a problem with the institutional processes in this building. And people in this body say they care. As Senator Cavanaugh said, every single woman in the One Hundred Sixth Legislature signed onto her bill to create a mothers' room in the Capitol, but if you say you care, that costs you nothing. It costs zero dollars and zero cents to sign onto a bill and say, oh, yeah, we gotta help the moms. When push comes to shove and you have to actually do something about it, you're not there, and that's so weak and that's so embarrassing for you and that's such a shame for the people that you represent that that's the best you can do for them. We can do way better. And of course it took a mother coming into this Legislature, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, to get anything done on this. Senator Matt Hansen is right. It's an embarrassment to this institution that it took us so long to get a mothers' room and it's an embarrassment to

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the institution that now we no longer have one. Without any fanfare, without any ceremony, without any email, without any public notification, the lactation room was removed to create an office for a man. Of course, quickly, the same Senator Machaela Cavanaugh springs into action to solve it. She doesn't just complain, although we got time to do both. We can solve it and we can complain. But she finds a solution. That day, she packs up all her stuff and moves out of her own office, a state senator in Nebraska giving up her office as a senator so that a man in the building can use it and the women of Nebraska and the mothers of Nebraska can have a lactation room back that-- that they should have had decades ago, honestly. A mother identifies the problem. A mother finds a solution. The solution is implemented. We have a lactation room. The lactation room is taken away by a man, Senator Hughes, to create an office for a man. Senator Macheala Cavanaugh, a woman, finds a solution, leaves her office to give something back to the women of Nebraska, and all we have to do is say, OK, thanks, that was really helpful, I guess this will work for now and we'll find a solution longer-term soon, thanks, Machaela. Nobody said that.

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**HUNT:** In fact, it's basically been crickets. The only men we've seen get on the microphone, John Cavanaugh, Senator McKinney, Senator Hansen-- I see a couple men in the queue here, all of them from the same political party, I'll note. I don't see anybody from, you know, the party of life standing up to talk about how we need this lactation room for women who've brought life into this world, and that's a shame to you and an embarrassment to you. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator Vargas.

**VARGAS:** Thank you very much. So I've not actually weighed in here and I just wanted to add a little bit. I do want to thank Senator Machaela Cavanaugh for her efforts here. I have-- not that people know this, but I've been off the mike, not only past year, commended her for her efforts here. And the reason why I want to stand up is largely to say that I support your efforts. I support you in what you're trying to do. I'm obviously not speaking from somebody that has had firsthand experience of this, nor should we ever. I'm speaking as somebody on the Executive Board that has supported the efforts for the mothers' room in the past, voting to support creating it and setting aside. But also, more importantly, I'm standing up here because I want to acknowledge that it is somewhat personal for me. One of my own former

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staffers signed onto this letter, who I'm very, very proud of. We have worked-- if you don't realize, one, this is public service, what we're doing, but our staffers are doing public service too. They are getting paid very, very little. And as to what all the senators have been sharing, Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Hunt and Senator Hansen, the resources and support mechanisms they have pale in comparison to other jobs, which is in-- even more so for the women that are staffers in this-- in the Legislature. I know it may seem insignificant to some-- I've had some of these conversations with people-- but it is an extreme slight when there are already so many lack of resources and support mechanisms provided to working mothers. And I wanted to stand up and say that out loud because if you haven't realized that by now, then you're not listening to Senator Cavanaugh. It should be made abundantly clear that this isn't about a "nice to have," it isn't about something that is making it just easier. It's fundamentally whether or not we tell staffers we value you, we value the work that you do, we value you as a working mother, we also value your kids, and we want to make it easier. I'm also saying that as a husband of-- my-- my wife has had similar experiences as a working mother having to navigate being able to pump, to store, to do it in her own privacy around a working schedule as a-- as a young attorney. And I've seen that same-- that's actually-- actually why I'm lucky to have my own staffers that have had kids while my time in the Legislature. My staff-- my staff, my office has been one of the places where people have pumped over the last several years. It shouldn't had to have been a structure that makes people jump through hoops and schedule things secretly to make it work. Luckily, we have a mothers' room or had a mothers' room. I just hope people understand. You know how hard it is for a staffer, period, in the Legislature and how even more difficult it is for the women that are staffers that are working mothers and what they have to navigate and how difficult it is to even voice their opinions, let alone on this letter, and that we should be listening. I do applaud Senator Cavanaugh for bringing these bills. Not just that, she brought the paid family leave bill.

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**VARGAS:** I hope we can agree that there's something that we should do. I do applaud-- I've had conversations with some Executive Board members myself that agree, and I hope we get to a conclusion here very, very soon, but it is absolutely-- the word is not "tragic." It is just unacceptable that it had to take this to get light to address this. And from one Executive Board member, I'm-- I'm sorry it took this long. Thank you.

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**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Vargas. Senator McKinney.

**McKINNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I'll continue my conversation on the prisons, but I do want to point out that currently the department is sort of manipulating the law around restrictive housing by keeping individuals in their cells Friday, Saturday, and Sunday because it's based on time during the week and not time during the day. I also got from the Ombudsman that secretaries that are unqualified are being pulled off-- pulled off of their post to supervise those that are incarcerated, which is another problem. And then there's programming and library issues: (1) limited access to programming because-- because of understaffing; (2) limited access to library-- law library because of understaffing, which is a whole-- whole problem in itself; (3) reduction in case management services; (4) due process issues that impact timely hearings. And to kind of give some context on that, because of the understaffing, those incarcerated are not getting their legal situations taken care of in a timely manner, which could and potentially result in them being with-- in-- in the-- in the Department of Corrections any-- for longer times or their case is not being heard, which is an issue. And then on the diminished quali-- quality-of-life issues: (1) limited showers, showers not planned Friday through Sunday-- I just heard today that just as of yesterday or today, individuals in Tecumseh are not-- I can't even say all of them, they're finally being allowed to get some showers-- (2) reduced family visit opportunities; (3) outside consultant issues for medical, dental, and mental health services; (4) the pairing of inmates is a problem, especially when there is limited staff to provide supervision--this can lead to an increase in complaints with the Prison Elimination Rape Acts [SIC], physical assaults such as fights, suicide attempts, an increase in making hooch and smoking K2 inside the cells, assaults on custody staff, staff members-- (5) we are seeing an increase in COVID cases throughout the system. I just hope as we end this special session and go into January, everybody in his body starts to pay attention to the-- our prison overcrowding issue, our staffing issues, and criminal justice as a whole because it's a problem for our state and it's going to be on the table in January. And I hope, you know, everyone takes some time after we get finished here and really research what is going on and what needs to be done to fix this problem. And one solution that is on the table that I don't believe in, will never vote for, is building another prison. It makes no sense. We won't be able to staff it. We have some beds that'll probably come online here in Lincoln, about 3-- 300-plus. And during the hearing a couple weeks ago, the staff members said that even if-- once it opens, it probably won't

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even be utilized because it won't be able to be staffed. I think we should be investing in people and communities, community corrections, halfway houses, transitional homes, making sure when individuals get out, they have proper-- they-- they got jobs, transportation, and things like that. It shouldn't be invested in-- a half a billion dollars into a prison that we can't staff, that will eventually be overcrowded. It just makes--

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**McKINNEY:** --no logical sense. So I would hope that everyone begins to pay attention to the prison crisis in this state because it's an issue that is not only-- it shouldn't only be a concern to me, but it should be of concern to the whole body. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator McKinney. Senator John Cavanaugh.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Obviously, I rise in support of Senator McKinney's comments and in support of Senator Machaela Cavanaugh's comments. And I read that letter that she referenced from the former employees, staffers who work here, and I applaud the courage it takes to stand up and to attach your name to something that obviously I agree with, but I think that some people around here don't want to hear. And so I support those statements. I encourage everyone here to take the opportunity to read that letter. They make some very good, succinct points about the reasons we need this space for women, and I don't know if I can add more to that, but I'm humbled by the courage it takes for people to stand up and bring the-- these issues to the attention. And I-- I appreciate Senator McKinney getting up and bringing the-- to light the emails from the Inspector General. After he brought that up last week, I asked to get on that email because I wasn't receiving it, and so I received that email this week and I actually reached out to Senator McKinney after I read that email yesterday and I asked if this was a normal report or if it was a particularly bad one. And I reached out to the Inspector General with the same question and what I heard was that it was bad in the sense that there were-- having three suicide attempts in one week is particularly bad, but other than that, it was a pretty normal report. So I would encourage everyone to seek out that email, as well, so you can stay abreast of what is going on. This is an important issue, as Senator McKinney points out. I have been thinking about all of the issues that have been going around here. We've been talking about the redistricting. You can all see how I voted on the bills. I voted for some and voted against others. And I was thinking about this, particularly last night. Senator Hunt and I actually went to the

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airport and re-- welcomed a family of eight refugees from Afghanistan who came to Nebraska to resettle after the 20-year war that the United States engaged in, in Afghanistan, and I was thinking about that in the context of what we're talking about here. And I've heard from a lot of my constituents in particular who are not happy with where we have settled on these maps and I was thinking about their comments of feeling powerless. When 50-100 people came and testified against some of these maps and then we took those up and contested the maps and people commented and we asked people to give us their input and we ultimately-- a lot of people didn't feel heard. And I'm here to tell you that you were heard and that many people-- we-- your concerns were factored in as we discussed the maps, and ultimately where we settled and the maps that were adopted were a deviation from the original maps. They did consider input from people. Obviously, I voted against the legislative maps and the congressional map because I was not satisfied with where we ended, but enough people were that that's the maps we have. But I don't want people to think that your contribution is not welcome, was not considered, is not valuable, so continue to voice your concerns. And that is similar to Senator McKinney here raising these issues, bringing them to the floor so we know what we need to consider. It's the same with Senator Machaela Cavanaugh raising this issue, getting the room, fighting to keep the room, fighting to bring it back. These are things-- it is important. Input is important and the--

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** --reason I mention this in context of those Afghans is because we went to war specifically about the imposition of one group's will upon another because they had the power to do it. And ultimately, we lost that war because power is not the only thing that defines whether or not you can impose your will. And so we have a group here, a body of 49 people, and the power dynamic is such that one group can impose their will upon the state of Nebraska and upon all of us here if they so choose. And power is not strength and it is not the final, so keep speaking up, keep expressing your opinions, and we will continue to consider them and they will be factored in. So to all of you here who have the power, just remember, that is not strength and our objective here is justice.

**FOLEY:** That's time.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator John Cavanaugh. Senator Day.

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**DAY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I figured I would jump in this morning because why not? I did want to mention the redistricting process. As Senator Cavanaugh mentioned, there's a lot of people outside this body, I think, that are disappointed in how some of the maps turned out and I think that's valid. I have been a yes vote on all of these maps all the way through the process and I was today, and I don't discount the feelings of people being upset about how some of these maps turned out. I know there's people in the body and outside the body that are disappointed, but I also-- being a part of the process for the first time, I saw how incredibly difficult this process is. And on top of that, we had to get this process done in two weeks, which is something I'm not sure-- I could be wrong-- I'm not sure has ever happened before. And I respected that process, I saw the sacrifices that were made on both sides of the issue, and because I respected that process and the sacrifices that were made, I ended up being a yes on these maps, even if I was disappointed in how some of them turned out. So there's my explanation for where I am at today. This was a really tough process. I think that both sides of the issue came to the table in good faith and made decisions that they were both equally happy and unhapp-- unhappy about, and I think that this body did a fantastic job of getting that done in a very short amount of time. I also wanted to get on the mike to mention the issue with the mothers' room. The very first day that this was brought up by Senator Cavanaugh, all of us kind of looked at each other and were immediately upset and then pushed our buttons to get into the queue to talk about it, and we were asked to turn off our lights that day to get-- so we could start working on maps, so I did, but I did want to talk about it today. As a mother of two, I-- I've nursed two babies for over a year apiece and I remember nursing my first child at 28 years old. And I grew up with a lot of shame around my body, a lot of modesty in my family, and I remember the days of-- of essentially not even leaving my house because I was afraid to go out in public and nurse a baby. I wasn't comfortable sitting in a restaurant, even with a cover, nursing a baby. And that's no one else's fault, but the thing is, is that there's a lot of emotional issues that surround nursing children that people who never have to do it will ever understand. And additionally, when we talk about issues related to reproduction or-- or-- or childbearing and child-rearing, those are not just issues about reproduction and child-rearing. Those are issues of economics, right? I've-- I've been a working mother. I've worked full time and had a baby. I've worked part time and had a baby. I've been a full-time student and had a baby. I cannot explain to you how incredibly difficult it is sometimes to get even the most basic amount of work done, to even get to work on some days when you're pregnant or you



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have a baby. Some women can't. They're in a bed. They can't get out of bed. There's so many issues surrounding reproduction and child-rearing that don't just center on reproduction. It's about a woman's ability to go to work and make her own money and support her family the way she needs to because we know not everybody's family looks like a husband going to work and--

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**DAY:** --the wife staying at home. And so I think a lot of times the freedom that certain people have when they never have to worry about getting pregnant or nursing a baby is often taken for granted. I remember the days of being at home with a baby and having my partner leave the house and being so envious of them because they could go to work and they could talk to adults and they could eat lunch on their own. They didn't have to feel like they were trapped by the process. And nursing, for me, was both equal parts wonderful and amazing, but really, really difficult, and I think that that's something that needs to be respected and I support Senator Cavanaugh in getting the mothers' room reinstated ASAP. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Day. Senator Blood.

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow senators, friends all, I do stand against Senator Cavanaugh's amendment, but I do stand in full support of her cause and in support of LB14e. With that said, there's two things I want to say on the mike today, friends, friends all. The first thing is I want to thank the Nebraska State Patrol. Most of you are not aware that over the last few months, both my family and I were threatened consistently, multiple times. And for me, I'm not worried, but for my family, I was worried because I don't know about you guys, but nobody messes with my family. And just because I'm silent does not mean that I am not strong and not a kick-ass woman because I am. But with that said, I just wanted to say thank you to the Nebraska State Patrol because we now know who's doing that, and that's just a reminder for all you people that think that you're hiding behind social media and can't be found. We found you. Now let's go on to Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, my friend with the biggest heart ever, a lot of people want to tune you out because you speak truth to power, and I'm not one of those people. What I have learned at the age of 60 as a public servant is that silence and voicelessness are tools of the patriarchy. Never forget that. Having a voice and being heard are two different things. When we put our own well-being in the hands of others, this is what happens. We open ourselves up to disappointment. So I want you to know that today I

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stand in support of Senator Cavanaugh's efforts. I stand in support of women. I stand in support of providing nutrition, love, and bonding to the future Nebraskans that will benefit from this room. I'm disheartened when I hear that we only have one pregnant person or we're not aware of who is nursing and who isn't nursing, but we would likely know because-- I can't hear because there's so much noise in here. Mr. President, can you use your gavel, please?

**FOLEY:** Members, please come to order.

**BLOOD:** Thank you. I think if we showed more respect, we could get through this faster, because I know that that's the goal. I think it's really important that we don't sit here and try and problem-solve about why this room should or should not be used. It's just common human decency to provide these types of amenities to the women in this building, period. And the one thing I've learned from HR and our staff-- I mean, I like to go to our staff, right? The thing that's really lacking in this body and the way that the Legislature is run in Nebraska is that we are so far behind in-- in-- than we are with the real world, right? We're far behind the real world. When a staff person uses a state computer and harasses another senator on social media, we don't do anything to that staff person. But if you did that in a business, you would lose your job. You'd lose your job. If that staff person continues to harass the senator outside of business hours, they'd lose their job in the public sector as well because that's not freedom of speech, that's harassment. When it comes to nursing mothers, if you had a female workforce and you could not provide a safe place for that woman to breastfeed her child, to pump, you would be taken to court--

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**BLOOD:** --and there would be a lawsuit. I don't-- we always hear from the executive branch that we need to run government like a business. Well, this is one place where we really crapped out. If we want to run the Legislature, the Capitol like a business, let's look at what year this is-- I believe it's 2021-- and get with the program and let's start addressing all of these issues, not just that one issue, the way we would if we really were a business. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Blood. Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. If we take this conversation to an hour, we'll have to take it to cloture and so I won't take all my times that I would be able to speak because I'd like this to go to

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a vote before it goes to cloture. Everything that Senator Jen Day said, I was just sitting in my chair in awe of these points about how child-rearing and reproduction and motherhood and parenting and everything that goes along with that, it's not just about family values, it's not just about, you know, how we think of women and how we think of families. It's economic and that's exactly right. And the more resources that we take away from mothers who are here in the building, whether they're here because they work there-- work here or because they're here because they're visiting-- I know that all of us have gone up and down the elevator or-- or walked into the cafeteria or whatever and we've seen people visiting the Capitol from all over the country, sometimes all over the world. And we always hear from people who visit our State Capitol in Nebraska that it's one of the most beautiful state capitols they've ever seen, that it's one of the most beautiful buildings they've ever been in. And we should be so proud of this building while we should be so ashamed that we have not adapted this building to serve the families of 2021 or of 1990 or of 1960, for that matter. Women have always needed to feed their children, and there is no reason that we shouldn't give them that opportunity today. After Senator Cavanaugh brought this up last week, it was like a bomb dropping and we all, like, oh, my God, they did what to the mothers' room? I had no idea that this happened because it was so unceremonious, as she said, and there was no way for people to even know it if she hadn't said something. I know that it was brought up in the Executive Board that members of the Executive Committee were speaking about what to do about this problem. And I don't think that members of the Executive Board understand what a-- what a problem this is going to be for them and for us and for the building. Women and parents and families are very activated around this issue. I get letters every day in my official email and I also have numerous, numerous comments on social media and messages and people talking to me in my store, in my district. They come in, you know, when I'm working and they-- they say, thank you for standing up for the mothers' room, or, is it really true that they got rid of it? And, you guys, people are listening. People know that that's going on here. Another elected official in Nebraska, who I'm friends with, contacted the Executive Board about the mothers' room by calling the office, and they were treated so rudely by the person who answered the phone saying, you know, I don't know if-- sarcastic tone, like, I don't know if you're aware that there's construction going on and we have to move a lot of senators around. Well, (a) that's not an excuse because we have space, we have space for the person who took the mothers' room, so that's not an answer; and oh, there aren't even any-- any staffers who are pregnant right now, which (b) why are you the fertility

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police, like, you don't know what you're talking about; and (c) it's not just for staff. It's for the public. It's for all those people that we run into in the elevator and in the cafeteria and throughout the Capitol who are visiting, and we want to make this a welcoming place for them, just as we want to make our state a welcoming place for them. This is the people's house. We pass policies in here all the time that help the people of Nebraska and its visitors or hurt the people of Nebraska and its visitors, and it's no different from the policies that we have internally in this building and in this institution. We have this informal network of women, as exists in every workplace, that says, oh, there's no lactation room, here's somewhere you can go, come into my office, whatever it is, and women have to do this word-of-mouth thing to figure this out and find--

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**HUNT:** --these places. And if you're a visitor, you can't tap into that network, and that's existed here forever. That exists in every workplace, but it's really unfair to women to have to go through that. Once again, from-- from a specific group of folks in this body, the far-right conservative people, "Ricketts' Crickets," we hear crickets. And it's not just that they're not on the mike. They're in their seats. They're not going over to Senator Hughes. They're not going over to Speaker Hilgers. They're not saying, yeah, we all think that Machaela Cavanagh is, like, you know, wild and she's got some dumb ideas, which I know you all think about her, but maybe she has a point here, maybe we should figure out what to do about the mothers' room. None of you are walking around advocating for her. If a conservative woman had brought this up, we would be championing her as the goddess of life, helping everybody get by and get through the day, wow, so nice of her to think of families.

**FOLEY:** That's time, Senator.

**HUNT:** But because Senator Cavanaugh is doing it--

**FOLEY:** Senator--

**HUNT:** --you're not giving her the time of day. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator McCollister.

**McCOLLISTER:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I know we are in a bit of a time crunch, so I'll be brief. I just need to rise in support of the mothers' room. I've supported that-- that idea on the Executive Committee and I just need to go on the record

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today indicating that. Number two, criminal justice reform: All three branches of government are complicit in the terrible criminal justice situation that we have here in Nebraska, and I look forward to working with the Judiciary Committee and the other two branches of government in resolving that next year. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator McCollister. Senator Bostar.

**BOSTAR:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. And I know we have maybe just a minute left, so I'll be very brief. I just want to stand up and say that-- before we adjourn sine die, that I really appreciate the efforts of Senator Machaela Cavanaugh and Senator Terrell McKinney for bringing to light issues that are important to the body and I stand with them in those efforts. So with that, thank you very much.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Bostar. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized to close.

**M. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Colleagues, thank you for your words of solidarity. I do-- Senator McKinney has been bringing up, not only today but during this entire thing, very important issues regarding our prison system, and I'm just going to tie that into moms once more. My freshman year, I-- I think one of the first bills I passed was the Healthy Pregnancies for Incarcerated Women Act, and it's a piece of legislation that is really near and dear to my heart and-- and it just-- i-- I've tried to expound on it to create more opportunities for women who are incarcerated to have time with their children, their young children, and I-- when the state of Minnesota passed a bill to that end, so many people sent it to me and I said, I have a bill for that, it's in committee. I feel like if nothing else, you can say I'm consistent. I care about women and I care about children and I'm here to stand up for them and to give them a voice. I've been a working mom and as outspoken as I am on this microphone every single day, when it came to being a working mom for the first time, I was not an advocate for myself. I, just like so many other women, felt a lot of shame, felt a lot of disappointment in myself, thought that I just needed to work harder, be harder, be tougher. And it was a wonderful time in my life and a terrible time in my life, and to have a workplace-- and I did have-- I-- my workplace at the time was very kind, but to have a workplace that is proactive and showing you that they care about you as a working mom means so much, so, so much. Like I said, like others have said, there are so many uses for women for these rooms, for these spaces. You don't know what your employees or your colleagues are going through every single day. These are the hidden scars and the hidden trauma that we as women

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keep from you because, well, first of all, I don't think you can handle it, but also because it's none of your business and we shouldn't have to keep-- share it with you. But you know the reality. You know that women have C-sections and have to have a longer recovery as a result and you can't carry over a certain weight when you have a C-section for a while, but if you have to return to work and you're pumping, you have to haul around a bag back and forth that has a battery, or you could just keep it in a secure space like a mothers' room. Like I said, I mean, if I had all the time in the world, I could talk about all the different things that this does. It is such an important and essential part of human development and I just-- I'm just so disappointed that more individuals that talk about the sanctity of life and children don't think this is worth standing up for.

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**M. CAVANAUGH:** It is so disappointing. It is the simplest thing and never should have happened, but it did and we can fix it. It's the simplest thing, but not enough of you seem to think that it is worthy of that. I am a woman of my word. I will withdraw my motion. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. The motion is withdrawn. Members, please return to your desks. We're on Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill.

**CLERK:** [Read LB14 on Final Reading.]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB14e pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Machaela Cavanaugh and Matt Hansen. Not voting: Senators Flood, Kolterman, Pansing Brooks. 44 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting.

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**FOLEY:** LB14e passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB14e. Mr. Clerk, items for the record, please.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, first of all, bills read on Final Reading this morning, with the exception of LB14, have been presented to the Governor [LB3, LB1, LB6, LB5, LB8, and LB7]. Pursuant to that, communication from the Governor addressed to the Clerk: Engrossed LB1, LB3, LB5, LB6, LB7, LB8 were received in my office on September 30. These bills and their accompanying maps were signed and delivered to the Secretary of State on September 30. Sincerely, Pete Ricketts, Governor. I have an explanation of vote from Senator Flood. That's all that I have, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Speaker Hilgers, you're recognized.

**CLERK:** Yeah, Mr. Speaker, this is the suspension motion.

**HILGERS:** Do you have the-- did you read in the motion?

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Senator Hilgers would move to Rule-- suspend Rule 4, Section 6, so as to permit the Legislature to consider LR1.

**FOLEY:** Speaker Hilgers.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I think you just heard, I think, maybe the most important news of the day, which is the Governor has returned back all six of the redistricting maps with his signature. Those now become law, which means, among other things, that we will be adjourning sine die here very shortly here yet this morning. This motion is one-- we're going to end the-- what has been a very difficult and I think unprecedented set of circumstances over the last several weeks. We're going to end the special session on a couple of notes of thanks and gratitude and this is the first one of those. So we-- this is a motion to suspend the rule and the particular rule that this motion is suspending is the rule that requires a layover day for the introduction of a resolution. Senator Linehan is bringing a resolution, which is LR1, which is, I think, doing something that we all should be behind, which is recognizing the incredible work of a number of individuals to make-- make sure that we got to this point here today on-- in advance of the deadline that we had from our election officials. Those people are-- and I'm not going to steal all of Senator Linehan's thunder, but I think it's important that they get a number of explicit mentions as we can give them. First and foremost is LRO, all the individuals under

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the direction of Director Thompson: Tim Erickson, LaMont, the entire team worked tirelessly over the weekends, late at night, over holidays to be able to get us to this point. I can't tell you-- I've tried to tell you before, but I think it's very difficult to use words to explain how difficult and complex just the work of making this-- this operational, just mechanizing the work that we're trying to do on the floor when it comes to the maps and the software and making sure everything is done correctly. Those individuals worked overtime. And I want to specifically also mention, and this is in the resolution itself, three other individuals, other staff members who are not LRO who, when they signed up for their tour of duty here at the Legislature, were not anticipating maybe that they would be so heavily involved in the legislative process. But those three people are Trevor in Senator Wayne's office, who I think spent almost more time in the map room helping us out than maybe even Tim Erickson in LRO did. He was-- he also worked overtime. Sen-- Grant Latimer, who is the clerk of the Revenue Committee, was also conscripted as the clerk of the Redistricting Committee, he also worked overtime, and then Beau Ballard in my office, who is my research analyst, who also was conscripted to do all-- all sorts of additional details to help get this process across the finish line. And so we're going to have this resolution. I hope everyone votes for the motion to suspend so we can hear from Senator Linehan as we introduce this resolution, but before we-- before we go to that vote, if you wouldn't mind helping me give a round of applause to our great team? And with that, I would ask for your green light on this motion. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, the question before you is to suspend the rules so we can take up LR1. Those in favor of the rule suspension vote aye; those-- those opposed vote nay. 30 votes required. Record, please.

**CLERK:** 44 ayes, 0 nays on the suspension of the rule to permit consideration of LR1.

**FOLEY:** The rule suspension has been approved. Proceeding to LR1.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, LR1 is a resolution offered by the members of the Redistricting Committee. As noted by the Speaker, it thanks and commends various legislative staff, including the Legislative Research Office, for their work with respect to redistricting.

**FOLEY:** Senator Linehan, you're recognized open on LR1.



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**LINEHAN:** Good morning, every-- Nebraska, Mr. President, and all my colleagues. Thank you all. It's been a hard month for everyone. I do really want to give a shout-out to the legislative staff: Director Ben Thompson, Tim Erickson, LaMont Rainey, Elice Hubbert, Dillon Cornett, Mark Marsh, Jeff Fryman. I want to stop here for a minute. I don't know if Jeff is here this morning. No, of course, Jeff's not here because he's getting ready to go to Texas with my son, to the border. I also want to give a special shout-out to Grant Latimer, who is Revenue Committee clerk and now is the Redistricting Committee clerk, and I don't think he had any extra pay, so-- but he's learned a lot, so it will serve him well. Trevor Fitzgerald, who's legal counsel to the Vice Chair, was instrumental in getting this done. And Beau Ballard was at the beck and call of the Speaker not only Monday through Friday, but Saturday through Sunday and from early morning till late night. And this resolution actually was Senator Wayne's idea, but I've learned a long time ago to steal every idea I can from Senator Wayne, so I'm sure he wants to speak to this too. Before I turn things over to Senator Wayne, I also want to thank the committee. They have-- your colleagues, the members of the committee, have worked every day since Labor Day-- before Labor Day, actually-- and long days, three hearings across the state. I don't-- I don't think I could have asked for a better group of people: John Lowe, who served as our ambassador to the conservatives, I was always, like, are you telling them, are you talking to them; Suzanne Geist, whose strength can be underestimated because of her civility; Senator Morfeld, who worked tirelessly to defend progressives; Senator Tom Briese and Senator Tom Brewer, who held rural interests front and center, even as their own districts were changed dramatically; Senator Steve Lathrop for constantly defending Douglas County and the legislative seats therein; Carol Blood, who served as our constant reminder that transparency was our friend and critical at every step and reminded us of who said what and when; and finally, to Senator Wayne for dealing-- for-- excuse me, for defending progressives' priorities without offending conservatives. I'm constantly reminded of how capable Senator Wayne is. His ability served us all well. In addition to his intellect and rhetorical skills, and I mean this most sincerely, his sense of humor was what kept this-- the glue that kept us all together. I also want to thank the Speaker, who fo-- who focused us and kept us on track. He stepped in when we needed him and, just as importantly, he stepped back when we didn't. That is a true habit of a leader. Again, finally, I want to thank you all. Everyone had to give in an incredibly tight framework. You all deserve a pat on the back and I appreciate all your help. Thank you.

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**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Linehan. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

**WAYNE:** Thank you, Mr. President. And the reason we had to suspend the rules is because I forced Trevor to stay home yesterday, so we couldn't get the resolution in time to get it done, so I appreciate the suspension of rules. This process started with me saying, Trevor, just go draw some maps and we'll figure it out from there. And since then, he was in the map room every day. I think he has maps on every computer down there, multiple ones, and just the collaboration between Grant, Beau, and Trevor sitting down there working on maps, allowing us to go back and continue to have conversations without worrying about how the maps were going to turn out, was a huge, huge, huge time saver for us and life saver. I just want to talk a little bit-- I know people weren't necessarily happy with the process, but I do want to put this in perspective. This has been the most transparent redistricting process ever in Nebraska. Ten years ago, every single Executive-- every single meeting was done in Exec Session. Thanks to Senator Blood, who kept bringing up transparency, we voted not to go into Executive after, I think, the second or third meeting and we were open every single time after that. Yes, it took a while to get data, but every time that the maps were done, they were put on the website for the public to see. That's never been done before in the history of this body, and the internet was around ten years ago. So it wasn't necessarily the most drawn out and get everybody's input, but we did. We went back and changed Grand Island three or four times because Hall County Election Commission would say, hey, what about this neighborhood, we almost split this, we got a precinct over here that isn't big enough. And it wasn't just Hall County. We did that almost every day for the last 14 days across the state. So I just want to put in perspective that last night-- or yes-- two days ago when I said we should do a resolution, we called up there. We didn't realize the Speaker said we couldn't do a resolution, so that's what started this whole process. But I really wanted this to be a resolution to say Redistricting Committee holiday in an unofficial way because it'll never happen again at this time of year. And so LRO and staff could be enshrined forever of having their own holiday, but staff rejected that. They didn't want the attention, mainly because they didn't want to get a subpoena if we get sued. So I just want to put that in perspective that this was a very frustrating process. It was a process, but we got to a good result. And for the record, because I know I'm going to get asked, I was doing discovery during the first map that was due yesterday and Patrick didn't see me and I didn't yell, but the Lieutenant Governor saw me, but that's OK. I actually missed my vote. I didn't not vote because of some objection. I just

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was doing my real job and forgot to vote. So I want to thank everybody. This was fun. My office will again be closed tomorrow due to overtime hours that were done and incurred the previous two weeks. So I thank everybody for being here, thank everybody for putting in the time, but I really want to send a special thanks to the staff, LRO, Grant, and Trevor, for spending countless of hours, till midnight many times, on salary, without extra pay, missing their families and their loved ones so we can get this done. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Linehan, did you care to close? She waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of LR1. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**CLERK:** 44 ayes, 0 nays, on the adoption of LR1.

**FOLEY:** LR1 is adopted. Mr. Clerk, an item?

**CLERK:** One item, Mr. President. LB14 was presented to the Governor at 11:37. A communication from the Governor: Engrossed LB14 was received in my office on September 30. The bill was signed, delivered to Secretary of State. Sincerely, Pete Ricketts, Governor. That's all that I have, Mr. President.

**HILGERS:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. I guess a second note of gratitude is that we will complete all of our work, including LB14, before October 1, the deadline that was given to us. But the last note of gratitude, I think, is one that, frankly, colleagues, is a little bittersweet, and that is-- and I want you to join me in this in a second, please, but I know everyone knows and loves our head Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Donscheski, who is back there. I had the great honor of introducing-- as my last act as Exec Board Chair, I-- I actually made the motion, you may recall, to formally adopt the approval as-- as-- as Mr. Donscheski being our Sergeant-at-Arms. But I also now have-- it's not a dishonor, but it certainly is sad to be able to now say that today is Mr. Donscheski's-- Doug's last day here with the Legislature. He is retiring, I understand, because this job conflicts with his golf game in the spring, which I-- I can completely understand. He-- of course, he all-- he loves all of us. Mr. Donscheski, after, after having 30 years at the State Patrol, he joined us as an assistant sergeant in 2019 and then was named the head sergeant in 2020. And on a personal note, there is-- all of our Red Coats are our friends. We've gotten to know, created those friendships with all the Red Coats, but Doug has been solid, professional, friendly, just a great friend for all of us, I know, just a-- really,

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a rock in the back over the last two years, watching this large family of 49 try to get work done on the-- on behalf of the state of Nebraska. So please join me in giving a big, big thank-you to Doug and all his work for the state and for us the last two years.

**FOLEY:** Senator Williams, you're recognized.

**WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the Journal for the thirteenth day, as prepared by the Clerk of the Legislature, be approved.

**FOLEY:** Members, you heard the motion. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is approved. Speaker Hilgers.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session of the Nebraska Legislature, having finished all business before it, now at 11:48 a.m. on September 30, adjourn sine die.

**FOLEY:** Members, you heard the motion. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are adjourned sine die.