

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate February 3, 2023

**KELLY:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the 22nd day of the One Hundred Eighth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain today is a guest of Senator DeKay, Pastor John Nelson, Jr. of the Christ Lutheran Church from O'Neill, Nebraska. Please rise.

**PASTOR JOHN NELSON, JR.:** Dear God, Heavenly Father, the giver of all good gifts, we thank you for the opportunities of a new day. We come before you this day to ask your blessing upon the work of this assembly. We thank you for the gifts and skills of all our senators. Bless them with a spirit of cooperation based on what is best for the people of Nebraska. Thank you for all the support staff who assist the smooth operation of government in our state. We are truly blessed in Nebraska with a diversity of talents, even as our state is diverse in its bounty of resources. Grant your favor upon all the branches of our government, our Unicameral, our Governor, and our judicial system. Protect and uphold all those who are entrusted to enact and carry out the laws of our state. We thank you for the freedoms we enjoy. Even this time of prayer is one of the blessings of those freedoms. We humbly ask your continued blessing upon us as we serve you and one another. Grant success to all God-pleasing commerce in our state. We ask that you would give us favorable weather and protection from storms and calamity. In your mercy, please bless us with more rain and less snow. We entrust ourselves in this day to your divine protection and mercy. May all that we do this day honor you and your will for our lives and our state. Make us quick to listen, slow to speak, and rich in understanding and compassion. Respecting all faiths here present, I humbly offer this prayer in the precious and holy name of Jesus. Amen.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Pastor Nelson. I recognize Senator Kauth for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**KAUTH:** Colleagues, please join me in the pledge. 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.

**KELLY:** Thank you. I call to order the 22nd day of the One Hundred Eighth Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

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**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** No corrections this morning.

**KELLY:** Are there any messages, reports or announcements?

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, there are. I have a report of registered lobbyists for the current week, as required by statute. An announcement: the various agency reports have been filed electronically and are available on the Legislature's website. I have notice of committee hearings from the Revenue Committee, the General Affairs Committee, the Urban Affairs Committee, Transportation and Telecommunications, Agriculture, Judiciary, Education and Natural Resources, as well as a notice of-- from the Appropriations Committee. In addition, amendments to be printed: Senator Hunt to LB606 and to LB371; Senator Walz to LB517. I have reports from the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee regarding gubernatorial appointments. In addition, the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee reports LB136 to General File, LB138 to General File, LB140 to General File, LB247 to General File. And a series of name adds: Senator Dover to LB31; Senator Hardin to LB64 and LB65; Senator Day to LB80; Senator Hunt to LB274; Senator Slama to LB274; Senator Aguilar to LB274; Senator Hardin to LB419; Senator Blood to LB588. Senator Ben Hansen to LB588; Senator Sanders to LB712; Senator Brewer to LB805.

**KELLY:** Senator Geist would like to recognize Dr. George Voigtlander, who's serving as the family physician of the day. Please recognize Senator Voigtlander [SIC]. Speaker Arch for an announcement.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. It's Friday. for my end-of-the-week wrap-up announcement here, what's coming next week. First of all, I want to thank you very much for your hard work this week. We had a very full schedule with hearings all day and in some cases, evenings. We also had some very difficult hearings on issues with, with-- on issues that senators felt very strongly about, with passionate testimony from the public as well. And that has been really our first two weeks of, of committee meetings. Next week, Monday is a recess day and I would encourage you to recharge and get some rest. And Tuesday through Friday next week, we'll resume our last week of all-day hearings. Thank you, too, for continuing to pursue our goal of maintaining respect for each other and the process during these hearings. I know it's not been easy. Given the topic of the bills in some of these hearings, we've all been tested. We will need

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to keep reminding ourselves of this goal throughout the session as we continue to deal with some very difficult issues. So I thank you for that. I encourage you to keep that in the front of your mind. So thank you again for your hard work this week and we'll see each other again next Tuesday at 9 a.m. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, the Reference Committee will meet in Room 1525 upon completion of the Executive Board public hearing today. Finally, a priority motion. Senator Kauth would adjourn until Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 9 a.m.

**KELLY:** The question is, shall the Legislature adjourn for the day? All those in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. We are adjourned.