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104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Speaker Lilly: "The House will be in order. Members, will you please be in your chairs? We shall be led in prayer today by Representative Nicolle Grasse. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting your laptops, turn off your cellphones, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Grasse: "So, in this shared moment together, let us come together as one body and remember who we are called to serve. We are called to serve the families stretching every dollar. We are called to serve the children whose futures are shaped by the choices we make here in this room. We are called to serve the middle class, working hard people just stay.. trying hard to stay rooted. We are called to serve our neighbors facing the steepest of challenges and counting on us to see them, to hear them, and to act for them. So, together, may we be guided by the common good, by the belief that affordability and fairness are not aspirations but responsibilities, that dignity belongs to everyone, and that our work must always uphold the constitutional rights that protect the freedom and equality of all of us. Call us to lead with compassion and courage, to lift up those who are too often overlooked, and to build a future where stability for all is not a privilege but a promise. So, with humility for the task before us and hope for what we can do together, let us begin. Amen."

Speaker Lilly: "We shall be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Syed."

Syed - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands,

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one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Lilly: "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 Faver Dias, Ford, Jones, Olickal, and Ann Williams are excused today."

Speaker Lilly: "Leader Windhorst is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would you please excuse Representative Stephens and Sosnowski today?"

Speaker Lilly: "Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would you also please excuse Representatives Reick and Jacobs?"

Speaker Lilly: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr.... Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 108 Members answering to the roll call, a quorum is present. Representative Mason, for what reasons do you seek to be recognized?"

Mason: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Mason: "Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, yesterday was a really special day on the House floor. But today is extra special for me because, as a proud mama, my son is visiting today, and I would love for everybody to welcome Grant to the House."

Speaker Lilly: "Welcome. Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Blair-Sherlock, Chairperson from the Committee on State Government

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Administration reports the following committee action taken on February 18, 2026: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4261, House Bill 4309, House Bill 4669; recommends be adopted is House Resolution 555, House Resolution 575. Representative Didech, Chairperson from the Committee on Gaming reports the following committee action taken on February 18, 2026: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4171. Representative Ortíz, Chairperson from the Committee on Counties & Townships reports following committee action taken on February 19, 2026: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4265, House Bill 4266, House Bill 4267, and House Bill 4361. Representative du Buclet, Chairperson from the Committee on Museums, Arts, and... Culture, and Entertainment reports following committee action taken on February 19, 2026: recommends be adopted is House Resolution 586 and House Resolution 603. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 678, offered by Representative Mason; House Resolution 679, offered by Representative Lisa Davis; and House Joint Resolution 55, offered by Representative Harper, are referred to the Rules Committee."

Speaker Lilly: "Representative Ryan, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ryan: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Ryan: "Member of the chambers, one of my constituents, Abbey Murphy, is playing in about a half hour to be a gold medal winner for the U.S. hockey team. Abbey's been a part of my life since she was born 23 years ago. All right. Members of the Assembly, a constituent of mine, Abbey Murphy, is about to start the game for the gold medal for the USA women's

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hockey team. Abbey's been a... Abbey's parents, Ed and Lynne Murphy, are in Italy now to watch their son. They've been friends of my family and my wife for... for over 20 years. I've watched Abbey grow up to be the tremendous athlete that she is. She is considered the heart of the U.S. women's hockey team. She's their toughest player, her most resilient player, and the proudest member of our Evergreen Park community. I'd like to wish Abbey and the American team well. Go out and win the gold. Kick Canada's dot, dot, dot. And if we can have a USA chant: USA, USA, USA, USA, USA. All right, go America. Let's get it done."

Speaker Lilly: "Representative... Leader Keicher, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Keicher: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. My apologies. Due to miscommunication, Representative Wilhour should have been excused for today as well."

Speaker Lilly: "Representative Mah, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Mah: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Mah: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. I would love to have the attention of the Members of this body. February 19... February 19 is a date of particular significance to Asian Americans. Every year, on this date, Japanese American communities across the country organize Day of Remembrance programs on the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 in 1946... 1942, with authorized.. which authorized the internment of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, the majority of whom were U.S. citizens. The first Day of

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Remembrance was held in Seattle in 1978, initiated to support the Redress Movement and ultimately successful effort to call for reparations for Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during this shameful period in our country's history. Since the first gathering and re-enactment, which drew over a thousand people, these commemorations have grown to become a national tradition, with programming hosted each year by Japanese American communities across the country to remind us of the continuing threat to civil liberties and the ongoing need to protect our democracy. In Chicago this year, the Day of Remembrance will be fittingly marked with a gathering at the Broadview ICE facility today and a documentary film screening on Sunday sponsored by such venerable community organizations as the Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese American Service Committee, Chicago Japanese American Council, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, and the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago. It is important to recognize the Day of Remembrance each year, along with commemorations like Korematsu Day on Fred Korematsu's birthday, January 30, to remind ourselves of the fragility of our democracy; the fact that our own government trampled upon the rights, the civil rights, of its own people; the important role that everyday community members can play in raising the alarm about the threat to our rights and freedoms; the authoritarian decisions that our own government can make; and the need, especially today, to stand up to the distressing erosion of our civil liberties and the growth of what look alarmingly like internment camps across

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our nation's landscape. Let us heed the warning calls of the Japanese American community. Never again is now. Thank you."

Speaker Lilly: "Leader McCombie, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

McCombie: "Thank you, Speaker. I would just like to make a quick point here. Representative Ryan just got up and talked about one of his district hockey players, and I would like to say congratulations. I also, from the 89th District, have Tessa Janecke from Warren, Illinois on that same team. So, congratulations, girls."

Speaker Lilly: "Representative Swanson, for what reasons do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Swanson: "Thank you. It is really my honor today to introduce the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation. If you could all stand, thank you. The Illinois Agricultural Leader Foundation is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to developing informed, engaged leaders for agriculture and rural communities. Through a rigorous two-year fellowship experience, participants deepen their understanding of agriculture policy, food systems, leadership, and civic engagement, preparing them to serve Illinois in a meaningful way. Joining us today are members of the current Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation fellows class representing communities across our state, including Katherine Arndt from Malta; Ethan Ax from Heyworth; Rebecca Biernacki from Tinley Park; Jason Bollivar from my community, Galesburg; Samantha Bourke,

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Nokomis; Jessica Carter from LeRoy, Teri Foster, Freeburg; Miriam Gay, Geneva; Marlee Giacometti, Granville; British Griffis, Calumet City; Andrew Killian, Lexington; Lane Kreiling from Mason City; Lance Muirheid from Oakley; Eric Muller from Deerfield; Collin Ryan from Dixon; Selma Sims from Chicago; Luliia Tetteh from Normal; Andrew Vigna from Dwight; Jenna Wicks from Bloomington; Kyle Yontz from Bloomington. I'd also like to bring to your attention that our former director of the IDNR, Colleen Callahan, serves on the board for the IALF. They are accompanied by Amanda Martin, president and CEO of the Illinois Agricultural Leader Foundation, and Jenna Wicks, director of strategic programs and education, who support and lead this... this important work. We thank them for their commitment to leadership, agriculture, and the future of Illinois. Thank you, and glad to have you here today."

Speaker Lilly: "Representative Davidsmeyer, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Davidsmeyer: "If you look right behind me in the gallery, if you all could stand up, my Pike County CEO... this is a Pike County CEO program, and they're learning about entrepreneurship and growing their communities and things of that sort. It's an awesome program. If you don't have it in your communities, I would suggest it. But it's a great program that... that brings these folks up to be leaders, future leaders in... in their community. So, I want to welcome them to your House, and I

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look forward to coming up and talking to you here in a minute."

Speaker Lilly: "Representative du Buclet, for what reasons do you seek recognition?"

du Buclet: "Point of personal preference, Madam Chair."

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

du Buclet: "As most of you all know, this is... February is Heart Health Month, and I would like to ask my colleagues to join me and others here in the Capitol to wear red next Wednesday, February 25. We're doing this in order to raise awareness about heart disease, the leading cause of death for men and women across the country. Wearing red is a simple but powerful way to show our commitment to prevention, education, and healthier communities. Heart health impacts every district and every family. Let's stand together next Wednesday and wear red in... in support and solidarity of saving lives. Thank you."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you. Representative Weaver, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Weaver: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Weaver: "Guys, we all have things that happens in our lives that makes us feel old. And as I stand next to my cousin, Brynna, here, I still think of the 30-pound kid ripping open presents at grandma's house on Christmas morning. And today she stands with me as my page, this beautiful, smart, articulate, athletic young lady that I'm so proud of. And she must be really cool because she brought about 60 of her closest friends, if you guys want to stand up, down with her. They're

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part of the Richwoods High School International Baccalaureate Program. They're some of the best and brightest that the... that the Peoria public school system has to offer. We're so proud of them for coming down. We're so inspired by our future to know that these young leaders are a part of it. Everybody, please give them a round of applause."

Speaker Lilly: "Representative Ammons, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Ammons: "Thank you, ma'am. You look amazing."

Speaker Lilly: "So do you."

Ammons: "Thank you. I would love to take a moment, if the chamber would allow low-noise vibration for a moment. I come to share a words from a Afro-Cuban in my community who wrote me a letter about the conditions of what is happening to Cuba. And I wanted to lift a few of the words so that we can understand and not be blindsided by the humanitarian crises that is developing in Cuba and other portions of South America. It says, 'To all humanity and to the mothers of the world, the doctors without borders, and to journalists with dignity, to the governments that still believe in justice, my name is not like others. I don't have a well-known surname or hold an important position. I am an ordinary Cuban woman, a daughter, a sister, a patriot. And I write with this broken heart and trembling hands because what is happening to the people of Cuba today is not a crises. It is a slow, calculated, and coldly executed murder orchestrated by Washington, D.C. while the world looks the other way. I denounce the fact in... that

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in Cuba elderly people are dying prematurely because the blockade prevents the arrival of medications for heart conditions, high blood pressure, and diabetes. This isn't a lack of resources. It's a deliberate prohibition. Companies that want to sell to Cuba are fined, persecuted, and threatened. Their governments remain silent. And meanwhile, a Cuban grandparent clutches their chest and waits. Death doesn't give us a warning. The blockade does. I denounce the fact that incubators in Cuba have to be shut down due to lack of fuel; that newborns are fighting for their lives while the United States government decides which countries can sell us oil and which cannot; that Cuban mothers have seen their children's lives endangered because of orders signed in Washington's offices is worth more than the cry of a baby 90 miles offshore. Where is the international community? Where is the outrage? We are watching the blockades being programmed hunger. It is not that there is a lack of food for no reason. It's that we are prevented from buying it. It's the ships carrying food are harassed. It's the bank transactions are blocked. It's the companies that sell us the grain, the chicken, and the milk that are sanctioned. Hunger in Cuba is not an accident. It is the state policy of the United States government, refined over 60 years, updated by each administration, and intensified by Donald Trump's administration and viciously implemented by Marco Rubio.' This is the call for economic pressure, a call for justice. And I call on this body to be really concerned about what is happening not just in Cuba but what has happened in Venezuela, what is happening in the cities across America, and what is

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happening to your own neighbors. We should care more than what is happening right now. Please contact your congressperson and ask them to intervene and don't allow another humanitarian crisis to grow. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you. Representative Severin, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Severin: "I would be remiss if I didn't give you the MISO report. And so, I want to share that with you, with the energy that is being produced and shared throughout the states and the southern part of this state, 77,972 megawatts. That power is produced by 26% coal, 26% natural gas, 15% nuclear, 22% wind, and 13% solar. And before I finish, I don't know if I would ever be able to do this on the House floor, but if we're going to do a cheer for USA, we're going to do it right. So, everybody ready to make a little noise before we get out of here today? Can you hear me? Give me a U. Give me a U. Give me an S. Give me an A. What's it stand for? I can't hear you. What's the greatest country on the face of the earth? Thank you."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you. Representative Johnson, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Johnson: "Thank you. Recently, Republican State Senator Neil Anderson, who, with me, represents the Quad Cities,

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introduced legislation that would effectively ban all abortions and continue the erosion of reproductive freedoms that we've seen across our nation. But he doesn't stop there. His plan would treat the procedure as a homicide, targeting women and medical professionals with murder charges. And he doesn't stop there either. He has another bill to reintroduce the death penalty. Paired together, we've got a dangerous effort that would target and punish women with execution for their personal reproductive health decisions. This is reckless, this is dangerous, and this is wrong. This position is so extreme that even Darren Bailey, the Republican standard bearer, asked that the bill be pulled. It's an extremist act that puts the lives of women at direct risk, and in Illinois, as we know, we're better than that. We're going to support women. We're going to trust women. We're not going to roll back those hard-earned rights. It's not what the Quad Cities wants, and it's not what Illinois wants. Because in Illinois, as I said earlier, we are better than that. We should never, ever be targeting women when they're receiving fundamental health care services. The people in our communities... and I'm not just talking about the 72nd District, I'm talking about protecting women in all 118 districts across the state of Illinois... they didn't ask for this. Senator Anderson went against his own constituents in the 72nd, in that part of it, in our district, in the Quad Cities, and his community when he introduced this. Illinois is supposed to be a state that anyone can call home. But Senator Anderson wants to target women during one of the most vulnerable moments in their lives. We're not going to roll back these rights. Women

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deserve to have the right to make their own decisions, and here in Illinois, they will. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you. Representative Croke, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Croke: "Being a mom is one of the most rewarding aspects of my life, and I would think that everyone who is a parent in this chamber would agree. I always get concerned... I'm always scared when Representative Johnson speaks that I'm going to start crying. So, I'm happy to have my stuff together right now 'cause I know as a... when I was pregnant after the fall of Roe, I didn't travel outside of the state of Illinois 'cause I was so scared that if something happened that I would not be able to get the health care that I desperately needed. In 2024, Alabama decided to criminalize IVF, stripping citizens of their... of their state the right to have children and forcing medical clinics to cease all in vitro services for the fear of prosecution. This week, as was mentioned, a Republican Senator from Illinois introduced legislation with the same intent: to punish women, punish medical professionals, and punish those unable to carry children. When Alabama passed that bill, Republicans across the country swore up and down that such laws would never be implemented in their states. And yet, a subset of the Republican Party continues to introduce legislation that's shockingly similar to the extremist bans in Alabama. So, we keep having this conversation, year after year. You say that you will protect IVF access, but you don't. You say that you will protect women

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and children, but you don't. You say that you are pro-life, but I don't see that a pro-life about sentencing young parents to death for trying to start their family. I know many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't agree with Senator Anderson, and that you reject Senate Bill 3572, but recognize that this is a Member of your party who has filed this bill, and I believe you have an obligation to speak out. Please don't be a party that thinks wanting a child is punishable by death. I don't see how that is pro-life. When we criminalize reproductive health care, it puts lives at risk: the lives of our sisters, our daughters, our family, and our friends. It puts the careers of hardworking medical professionals at risk. To say that I am disappointed is an understatement. I'm outraged, and I hope you are too. Thank you."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you. Leader Avelar, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Avelar: "Thank you. Today I rise as a woman and as a member of the House Dobbs working group. I'm proud to live in a state that respects women's health decisions and reproductive freedoms. And I am proud to have helped pass laws that protect reproductive care and expand access to health services for women. But let me be clear that these are not privileges, these are rights. And this week's news is a stark reminder that there are elected officials who want to punish women for seeking care, care that saves lives, care that saves our mothers, our sisters, our daughters. It is shameful that

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legislation like this was allowed to be filed under this dome. And I am talking also about SB3572, a bill introduced by Republicans that would abolish abortion rights, eliminate IVF access, and criminalize reproductive care. This bill opens the door to first-degree murder charges for women and doctors, all by granting constitutional rights to a fertilized egg. There are no exceptions: not for rape, not for incest, not for IVF. Under this bill, a woman who survived sexual violence could be charged with murder for refusing to carry her rapist pregnancy. Imagine healing from trauma only to be met with handcuffs and a jail cell. And it doesn't stop there. As we heard before, there's another bill, SB3892, that would reinstate the death penalty in Illinois for first-degree murder and other crimes. Taken together, these proposals are not about public safety. They are about control, they are about punishment, and they are about targeting women and the health care providers who care for them. These bills threaten Illinois' role as a health care sanctuary, not just for our state but for women across the Midwest. Donald Trump has said women should be punished for abortion. He has made it clear that this is the belief of today's Republican Party. And despite promises that Illinois Republicans would never go this far, here we are. This is why we keep talking about reproductive freedom, and we will... we will not stop because legislation that criminalizes women, doctors, survivors of rape, and families seeking IVF will never belong in this state. Thank you."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you. Representative Schweizer, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

Schweizer: "Thank you. For Black History Month, I rise to honor a Marine, a warrior, and a barrier breaker, Major James Capers Jr., United States Marine Corps. Major Capers was born on August 25, 1937 to a family of sharecroppers in South Carolina. He later moved to Maryland, where he met his future wife, Dottie, and made a decision that would change history: He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. That decision would not only define his life, but it would break barriers in one of the most elite fighting forces in the world. Major Capers became one of the first African Americans to serve in Marine Force Reconnaissance, the Corps' most elite reconnaissance team. In Vietnam, he participated in 64 long-range reconnaissance patrols and five major campaigns. These were not routine assignments. These were missions deep behind enemy lines, high-risk, high-consequence operations. He led a specialized recon team known as Team Broadband... or Broadminded, sorry, a group repeatedly selected for the most dangerous missions. They conducted amphibious operations near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, search and destroy missions in Phu Loc, and high-risk recovery operations, including the retrieval of a downed B-57 during the Vietnam War. In 1967, during a brutal mission near Phu Loc, Major Capers and his team were surrounded and heavily wounded. Despite multiple serious injuries, he continued directing his Marines and fighting until extraction. For his extraordinary heroism that day, he was awarded the Silver Star and later received a battlefield commission, becoming the first enlisted African

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American Marine to receive such a commission in combat. As a Black Marine serving during the time when the Corps had only recently completed full integration, Major Capers shattered ceilings. He became the first African American to command a Marine reconnaissance company. In the fall of 1967, while recovering from combat wounds, he was selected and represented the Marine Corps in a national recruiting campaign, becoming one of the most recognizable faces in the Corps during that area. Following Vietnam, he continued to serve with distinction, participating in several sensitive Cold War operations in Eastern Europe and Africa. Major Capers retired in 1978 after 23 years of honorable and distinguished service. He endured personal losses as well, burying both his beloved wife of 50 years, Dottie, and his son, Gary. They rest in Arlington National Cemetery, a testament to a family devoted to service and sacrifice. In 2010, Major Capers was inducted into the inaugural class of the U.S. Special Operations Command.. Commando Hall of Fame at MacDill Air Force Base, a recognition of a legacy that shaped modern special operations training and tactics. Though nominated for the Medal of Honor and supported by a resolution of the United States Senate, that recognition is still pending. But regardless of the decorations, his legacy is unquestionable. Major Capers was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with Combat V, three Purple Hearts, a Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and numerous other commendations and battlefield honors. But perhaps his greatest legacy, he proved that courage has no color, leadership has no barriers, and excellence demands no

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permission. Today Major Capers continues to meet annually with the surviving members of Team Broadminded to honor those who did not return. He resides in North Carolina and remains connected to special operations community that he helped shape. Madam Speaker, today's recognition is especially meaningful. Sixteen years ago, what began as an ordinary day changed forever when I received a phone call from my sister that my best friend, Josh Birchfield, was killed in Afghanistan. Time doesn't ease the pain of loss. It teaches you how to carry it. But remembering his sacrifice, like Major Capers and so many others, reminds us that freedoms we enjoy are not free. We honor Major Capers today, but we honor all those who served and sacrificed for this nation. Thank you."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you. Representative McLaughlin."

McLaughlin: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, I rise to honor one of our great Americans for Black History Month, one of our great thinkers in our generation, Thomas Sowell. If you're not familiar with Thomas Sowell, you're missing out on one of the sharpest minds ever to put pen to paper. Born in North Carolina, raised in Harlem, a Marine Corps veteran, degrees from Harvard, Columbia, University of Chicago, and a professor at Stanford, Professor Sowell didn't just climb the ladder of success, he checked the math on it. Sowell's gift isn't just intelligence, it's clarity. And, boy, could we use a lot more of that these days. He has a way of saying what everyone feels but very few can articulate in one sentence, and usually better than the rest of us can manage in a paragraph. Some of his great quotes regarding government and politics include, 'Never replace what works with what sounds

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good. To get better and more efficient government,' and this has always been one of my favorites, he said, 'elections should be held on April 16, the day after we pay our income taxes. That's how you get efficient government. When politicians talks about taxing the rich.' again, another quote from Thomas Sowell, 'what they usually mean is taxing the productive.' Some of his great books I highly recommend, and when students come to visit my office, 'A Conflict of Visions,' 'Basic Economics.' I have a photo in my office, and all of you are welcome if you can fit. I've got Ronald Reagan, Milton Friedman, Thomas Sowell, and my father, four great mentors. So, let's celebrate one of our country's greatest leaders, economists, great social philosophers, and during Black History Month, please join me in proudly being a Sowell man."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you. Leader West, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Lilly: "Please proceed."

West: "Thank you so much. To the body, this is going to be the third one for the day, for Black... celebrating Black History Month. And I'm really excited as a proud downstater, as a proud son of the city of Rockford and county of Winnebago to highlight the founder of our city, Lewis Lemon: once a slave, forever a founder. He was born a slave in North Carolina in the year 1812, and like most child slaves, he did not have much hope for his future. But after 17 years, his life was about to change and his whole destiny as well. Lewis' master,

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Orrin D. Lemon, moved him to Alabama, and there he was selling Lewis as a slave for life for about \$450. This would equate in today's money of over \$13,000. A businessman by the name of Germanicus Kent purchased young Lewis to most likely be a house servant. Lewis Lemon was then known as Lewis Kent, traditionally taking the last name of the master. Shortly after purchasing Lewis, Kent's brother, the Reverend Aratus Kent, told Germanicus that Galena, Illinois is a place of opportunity. Germanicus Kent had then decided to move to Illinois with his family and Lewis Lemon. Arriving in Galena, Kent and Lewis met a man by the name of Thatcher Blake. Blake and Kent grew into friends and decided to travel to the Rock River Valley together. And in June 1834, they had left Galena in a wagon and set off to Northern Wisconsin. They reached the Pecatonica River and bought a canoe and traveled the rest of the way on the river. Lewis was traveling with Kent and Blake and most likely was doing most of the heavy manual labor, like paddling the dugout canoe, and considering he was a slave for Kent at the time. The men stepped... stopped at a junction with the... with the Pecatonica and Rock Rivers, reaching a small stream that is now known as Kent Creek, named after Germanicus Kent, and decided this was the place to live and start his lumber mill. And in August 12, 1834, that's when the city of Rockford was born. Lewis Lemon and Germanicus Kent had an agreement that Lemon would work for Kent until he had paid \$800 with a 10% interest for Lemon's freedom. It would take Lemon about six years and two months to earn enough money to pay for his life back. Lewis Lemon was a slave in Rockford, Illinois from May 1835 to September 1839, making

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him now a free man. Once again, born a slave, died a free man. Help me to honor the founder of Rockford, Lewis Lemon. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Lilly: "Thank you, leader. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 673, offered by Representative Walsh. House Resolution 674, offered by Representative Lilly. House Resolution 675, offered by Representative Hoffman. House Resolution 676, offered by Representative Coffey. And House Resolution 677, offered by Representative Hammond."

Speaker Lilly: "Leader Gabel moves for adoption of Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And its Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Clerk, please read Adjournment Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Joint Resolution #54, offered by Representative Gabel.

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, February 19, 2026, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 24, 2026, or until the call of the President; and the House of Representatives stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 24, 2026, or until the call of the Speaker."

Speaker Lilly: "Leader Gabel moves the adoption of the Adjournment Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Adjournment Resolution is adopted. And now, allow

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perfunctoral time for the clerk, Leader Gabel move that the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 24. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And it is that the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Committee Reports. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on February 19, 2026: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 2 and 4 to House Bill 3772. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 5626, offered by Representative Buckner, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 5627, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5628, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5629, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5630, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5631, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5632, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5633, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5634, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5635, offered.. offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5636, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning

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appropriations. House Bill 5637, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5638, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5639, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5640, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5641, offered by... offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5642, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5643, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5644, offered... offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5645, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5646, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5647, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5648, offered... offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5649, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5650, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5651, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5652, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5653, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5654, offered by

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Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5655, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5656, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5657, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5658, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5659, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5660, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5661, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5662, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5663, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5664, offered... offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5665, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5666, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5667, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5668, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5669, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5670, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5671, offered by Representative

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Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5672, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5673, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5674, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5675, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5676, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5677, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5678, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5679, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5680, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5681, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5682, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5683, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5684, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5685, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5686, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5687, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5688, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning

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appropriations. House Bill 5689, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5690, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5691, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5692, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5693, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5694, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5695, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5696, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5697, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5698, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5699, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5700, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5701, offered.. offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. Introduction and First Reading in full of House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment #26, offered by Representative Ford.

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the

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electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to amend Article IX of the Illinois Constitution by changing Section 3 and by adding Section 12 as follows:

ARTICLE IX

REVENUE

SECTION 3. LIMITATIONS ON INCOME TAXATION

(a) Except as provided in Section 12 of this Article, a tax on or measured by income shall be at a non-graduated rate. At any one time there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the State for State purposes on individuals and one such tax so imposed on corporations. In any such tax imposed upon corporations the rate shall not exceed the rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5.

(b) Laws imposing taxes on or measured by income may adopt by reference provisions of the laws and regulations of the United States, as they then exist or thereafter may be changed, for the purpose of arriving at the amount of income upon which the tax is imposed.

SECTION 12. INCOME TAX FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Notwithstanding subsection (a) of Section 3 of this Article, and in addition to any other tax on or measured by income, an additional tax shall be imposed on individuals in an amount equal to 3% of the portion of the taxpayer's net income that is greater than \$1,000,000 for the taxable year. All revenue collected pursuant to this Section shall be used to provide property tax relief. The General Assembly by law shall provide for the implementation and enforcement of this Section.

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SCHEDULE

This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act and applies to taxable years beginning on or after the date of its adoption. This has been the First Reading in full of House Joint Resolution Constitution #26. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."