

STATE OF ILLINOIS
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/14/2015

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GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

The Senate will come to order. Will the Members and our guests please be seated? Thank you. Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois reads in part as follows: On the first day of the January session of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years, the Governor shall convene the Senate to elect from the membership a President of the Senate as presiding officer. Representatives of the media have requested permission to record the proceedings. Hearing no objection - I'm a little surprised by that - leave is granted. The following are appointed to the Committee of Escort for the members of the Judiciary: Senators Clayborne, Bennett, Mulroe, Barickman and Connelly. Will the Committee of Escort please report to the front of the Chamber to escort the distinguished members of the Judiciary into the Chamber? Will the Members and our guests please rise? The invocation will be offered by Father Brendan Curran, St. Pius Church. Father Curran.

FATHER BRENDAN CURRAN:

(Invocation by Father Brendan Curran)

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Will the Members and our guests please remain standing for the Presentation of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance? The Colors will be presented by the Color Guard of Lincoln's Challenge Academy from Rantoul. Permission to post the Colors is granted. Senator Cunningham will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Cunningham)

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

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Please remain standing for our National Anthem, which will be sung by Michael Lynch.

MICHAEL LYNCH:

("The Star-Spangled Banner", sung by Michael Lynch)

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Please be seated. I hereby appoint the following persons as temporary Senate Officers of the 99th General Assembly: Tim Anderson, Secretary of the Senate, and Joe Dominquez, Sergeant-at-Arms. The Secretary will now read the Letter of Certification from the State Board of Elections of Senate Members elected on November 4th, 2014, to the 99th General Assembly. Mr. Secretary, please read the letter.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Letter dated December 4th, 2014.

Dear Mr. Anderson - Enclosed is a list of individuals who have been elected to serve as Members of the State Senate in the General Assembly and have been duly certified by the State Board of Elections at their Board meeting on November 30th, 2014. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully, Jane Gasperin, Director of Election Information.

Newly Elected Senators: 3rd District, Mattie Hunter, Chicago; 6th District, John J. Cullerton, Chicago; 9th District, Daniel Biss, Evanston; 12th District, Steven Landek, Bridgeview; 15th District, Napoleon Harris, Harvey; 18th District, Bill Cunningham, Chicago; 21st District, Michael G. Connelly, Lisle; 24th District, Chris Nybo, Elmhurst; 27th District, Matt Murphy, Palatine; 30th District, Terry Link, Waukegan; 33rd District, Karen McConnaughay, St. Charles; 36th District, Neil Anderson,

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Rock Island; 39th District, Don Harmon, Oak Park; 42nd District, Linda Holmes, Aurora; 45th District, Tim Bivins, Dixon; 48th District, Andy Manar, Bunker Hill; 51st District, Chapin Rose, Mahomet; 54th District, Kyle McCarter, Lebanon; and 57th District, James F. Clayborne, Jr., II, Belleville.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Will Justice Mary Jane Theis of the Illinois Supreme Court please come to the Rostrum to administer the Oath of Office to the Members of the Senate? Will Senators-elect Anderson and Nybo and Senator Bennett please rise and be sworn into office?

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

Senators-elect Anderson, Nybo, and Senator Bennett, will you please raise your hand, repeat after me, and insert your own name in the proper place. I - state your name - do solemnly swear I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of State Senator to the best of my ability. Congratulations to you all. Will the remaining Senators who were re-elected in 2014 please stand? Please raise your right hands, repeat after me, and insert your name in the proper place. I - state your name - do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of State Senator to the best of my ability. Congratulations.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Please be seated, for those of you who may still be -- couple of the kids might need to be included in that group. Mr. Secretary,

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please call the roll of the Senators of the 99th General Assembly.
SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Althoff, Anderson, Barickman, Bennett, Bertino-Tarrant, Biss, Bivins, Brady, Bush, Clayborne, Collins, Connelly, John Cullerton, Tom Cullerton, Cunningham, Delgado, Duffy, Forby, Haine, Harmon, Harris, Hastings, Holmes, Hunter, Hutchinson, Jones, Koehler, Kotowski, LaHood, Landek, Lightford, Link, Luechtefeld, Manar, Martinez, McCann, McCarter, McConnaughay, McGuire, Morrison, Mulroe, Muñoz, Murphy, Noland, Nybo, Oberweis, Radogno, Raoul, Rezin, Righter, Rose, Sandoval, Silverstein, Stadelman, Steans, Sullivan, Syverson, Trotter, Van Pelt.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. A quorum is present. It is the intention of the Chair to begin organizing the 99th General Assembly under the Rules of the 98th General Assembly until new rules are adopted as part of the organization of the newly constituted General Assembly. The next order of business is the election of the President of the Senate of the 99th General Assembly. As required by Senate Rules 12-4 and 2-2(b) of the 98th General Assembly, thirty affirmative votes will be required to elect the President of the Senate. And before we open to nominations, I'd like to ask a small indulgence. I'd like to take just a moment to wish my good friend, Senator Marty Sandoval, a very happy birthday. Happy birthday, Marty, and many more. Nominations are now open. Senator Haine is recognized for the purpose of placing a name in nomination.

SENATOR HAINE:

Your Excellency Governor Rauner, distinguished members of our Court, distinguished Constitutional Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen

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of the Senate, and citizens of Illinois, we gather here, pursuant to the Constitution of Illinois, in order to accomplish one of the most important functions of a republic, which is the organization of the legislative branch of government made up of members elected by the people of Illinois. It is here that the laws will be fashioned according to the consent and desires of the citizens - hopefully, for the common good. It is well at this time to recall the twin foundations of our democracy: First, the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth clearly the fact that our nation and its government is based upon the dignity of every human being; secondly, the Constitution of the United States and its -- its derivative constitution, that of -- of Illinois, which limits the powers of government over the citizens and guarantees all citizens access to government. Free government, the consent of the governed, requires elected legislative bodies which function by majority rule after arriving at decisions without coercion or corruption. That is why the founding fathers looked upon the legislative branch as the preeminent of the three branches of government. Free government is essentially, therefore, a process, a process at arriving as to what shall be the law. This legislative process is what James Madison described as "ordered liberty" - ordered liberty - not mob rule, not demagoguery, not threats, but reasoned debates and deliberations and votes by the elected Members of this Chamber. Ordered liberty means the freedom of every Senator of the people to propose laws, to debate such proposals, to freely vote for and against such proposals. To achieve this ordered process of a free government, we need leaders who understand it. We need leaders who have a fundamental respect for the deliberative system, the genius of the American system. We

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need leaders who have a profound faith in the system of checks and balances of free and reasoned debate. We need leaders who are above personal reproach, whose integrity is unquestioned. We have a leader who has a demonstrated record that illustrates these virtues, namely John J. Cullerton. His tenure as President of the Senate began with a contentious trial of a popularly elected Governor, a trial whose fair -- the fairness of which was never questioned, the verdict of which was freely rendered. That began his tenure. To remove a sitting, popularly elected Governor is a grave matter - a grave matter. There can be no question about it. It can never be perceived as a formalized, legalistic coup d'état. It has to be according to law and procedure. As far as I'm concerned, and many others, the reason why it has not been questioned in its fairness and integrity is because of the competence and the dedication of John Cullerton. His entire tenure has been remarkable in the fact that the civility and the decorum of this Body has been maintained. Ladies and Gentlemen, in a nation and a world increasingly divided and riven by passionate attacks upon individuals or groups or races or creeds by fanatic extremism, marked by increasing violence, this Chamber must remain a beacon of order, of reasoned debate, of a process, the hallmark of which is honesty, competence, and civility. The person who will ensure that this Chamber carries out its constitutional function is John J. Cullerton. His tenure for the past three General Assemblies has been marked by distinction, competence, civility, and honesty. Your Excellency, I nominate Senator John J. Cullerton for President of the Senate.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Thank you. Senator Haine nominates Senator John J. Cullerton

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for President of the Senate. Senator Morrison is recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

SENATOR MORRISON:

Thank you, Governor Rauner, distinguished guests, Members of the Illinois Senate. Today, I stand with the distinct honor and privilege of seconding Senator Haine's motion that we re-elect John J. Cullerton President of the Illinois Senate. When I took office nearly two years ago, I did not know Senate President Cullerton very well. As a new legislator, I found an atmosphere where I was allowed to advocate freely for the people that I represent, to do what I believe is right, and to succeed. I also found a leader who was there to give advice - but not orders; a leader who represents independence - but not unruliness; a man who brings people together, finds consensus, finds compromise, and who always works to find the best possible outcome for the State of Illinois. That man - that leader - is John J. Cullerton. While he has served as Senate President, we've seen some truly monumental changes in Illinois law. Under his watch, the General Assembly has reformed the State pension system - twice, reformed our workers' compensation system, strengthened ethics laws, legalized gay marriage, abolished the death penalty, authorized temporary visitor driver {sic} license, found a way to help the children of immigrants pay for college, authorized concealed-carry, set strictest-in-the-nation rules for fracking, created a pilot program for medical marijuana, reformed - and expanded - Medicaid, and passed an education reform law that has been hailed as a national model. I represent communities in suburban Cook and Lake counties, but I grew up in rural Cass County. The people in Lake County and the people in Cass County want the same basic things.

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They want good schools, they want jobs, they want access to healthcare, and they want safe communities. But there are also issues that really only apply to certain areas of the State. In the suburbs, unlike rural areas, public transportation is a big issue. In rural areas, unlike the City and suburbs, hunting and fishing are concerns. The population is not quite evenly divided in the State between urban areas, suburban areas, and rural areas. It's racially diverse. It's linguistically diverse, religiously diverse, and culturally diverse. And I'm proud to say that our Democratic Caucus represents that diversity. But that can't make John Cullerton's job any easier. He's had to build consensus - often not just among those of us who sit on this side of the aisle, but with those Senators who sit on the other side of the Chamber. And he's had to build consensus with the House and the Governor. And he's done it with remarkable aplomb and success. This year, we're going to face many challenges. Some of them - like balancing the budget - we've seen before. Familiarity will not make that any less of a challenge. Others, we can neither nor -- imagine nor anticipate. We have a new Governor. We have new faces in the General Assembly. We have a divided government for the first time in more than a decade. And building consensus may be more difficult than ever. But with John J. Cullerton as our Senate President, I'm sure we can succeed. I hope you will join me in supporting him not only as the leader of the Democratic Caucus, but as the President of the Illinois Senate. Thank you.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Thank you. Senator Morrison seconds the nomination of Senator John J. Cullerton for President of the Senate. Senator Lightford is recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

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SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank -- thank you, Governor. Our distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, to all of our family and friends, I'm so excited to nominate our President that I lost my voice, so bear with me. I didn't want to miss the opportunity to tell you what a wonderful man John is. Not only is John a consensus builder outside of the caucus, he's a wonderful consensus builder within our caucus. We come from all parts of this State, with very different ideals and values and principles, and he's able to bring all of us together to come up with what's the best solution to move this State forward. He is an awesome consensus builder. John is really approachable. He's like this great guy - that I don't think any of us is intimidated by his power. He does have an open-door policy and he allows us to come in and share with him our ideals and values on different legislative matters. What intrigues me most about the President is his love for the legislative process. John truly loves the legislative process. He allows us to negotiate and do our due diligence even if he doesn't believe in where we're headed. But he'll allow us to go there and then allows us to back ourselves out, once we realize we're headed down the wrong lane. And with that, sometimes there's conflict amongst Members and I find the President to be such a -- a -- a consensus resolution -- conflict resolution, excuse me, builder, because he's able to take the time out to research our own initiatives and advocate on both sides and allow us to leave the room feeling like we are truly Members here joined together and we always come up with what we think is an equitable solution. Not all Presidents are able to be fair and allow you the opportunity to come up with an equitable solution. John does that

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very well. John is very diligent. He's a hardworking man. And during any given election cycle, he will spend most of his time raising funds. He's attended well over a hundred fundraising events during this last election cycle, because maintaining a supermajority is important to the President - and it's pretty important to all of us on this side of the aisle. So we appreciate him extending himself. John fights for education funding. I'm sure many of you know, that's my passion. It's what I love. And the President's spent years fighting for education funding. I can date you guys back to Senate Bill 750. We were trying to put two billion dollars in education funding and John stood with us and made sure that we passed that bill over to the Chamber -- to the House. Not only did we pass that bill, we passed some corporate loophole bills as well that the President supported that created another five hundred million. Unfortunately, those bills were not called in the other Chamber, but it allowed us to know in the caucus that education is a top priority of not only Members in this caucus but the President as well. John is -- has the characteristics of a kind man. Many of you know that he thinks he's funny. He's got a great sense of humor. And he's really centered in family. He has a lovely wife and children. And for this reason and so many others, I am so proud to stand and second the motion of our wonderful President, John J. Cullerton. Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Senator Lightford seconds the nomination of Senator John J. Cullerton for President of the Senate. Senator Murphy is recognized for the purpose of placing a name in nomination.

SENATOR MURPHY:

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Thank you, Governor, very much. I appreciate that. This is -- this is such a wonderful occasion. We've got family, friends here, new Members, old Members - not looking at anybody in particular. It's -- it's a beautiful occasion and it's -- if -- if it ever gets old, I don't know, but it hasn't for me yet. I want to thank the people of the 27th District for giving me the chance to do this. It's an honor. I want to thank my family for being here with me today. I especially want to take this opportunity to welcome Governor Rauner to the Senate. I cannot tell you how happy I am to see you here, sir. My -- my -- my friends on the other side of the aisle have never had trouble with me speaking for them and I'm sure this is another such occasion. We all want you to succeed, Governor, because if you succeed, our State succeeds. There are a lot of statesmen on both sides of the aisle in this Chamber right now and I think we all want to see Illinois be the best it can be for the people that send us here. The challenges we face are great. And I want to say, our caucus stands here today ready to help our friends on the other side of the aisle and you as well, Governor. And to lead us in that endeavor, I am proud to nominate my friend, Christine Radogno, for Senate President. In Chris, we provide for you, Governor, a strong, loyal, experienced leader that you can trust. For our friends on the other side of the aisle here in the Senate, in Chris, we present to you a leader who's a true statesman, somebody that you know and respect and with whom you have done great things before, such as a number of the things that Senator Morrison referenced previously, and that we believe will have the opportunity to do great things with you in the future as well. And for us on our side of the aisle, for the Senate Republicans,

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I put forward a leader who is inclusive, whose door is always open, who has a management style that's collaborative and welcoming. And for these reasons, I nominate my good friend, Christine Radogno, and I ask you all to please join me in supporting her for Senate President. Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Senator Murphy nominates Senator Christine Radogno for President of the Senate. Senator Barickman is recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

SENATOR BARICKMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Governor. Welcome. Ladies and Gentlemen, I rise to second the nomination of Senator Christine Radogno for the Office of Senate President for the 99th General Assembly. But first of all, let me welcome all of our guests today, those of you in the galleries above and all of our distinguished guests, family, friends who've joined us on the Floor. To our newest Members - Senator Anderson, Bennett, Nybo - you have worked tremendously hard to get here, and you have earned your place in this fine Chamber, the Illinois State Senate. We all welcome you, and look forward to working with you, and I know that you will serve your districts well. Today is a -- today's a day of celebration. And we -- we welcome our -- our families and friends to the Capitol. I'm sure there will be a lot of laughing and joking today, and -- and it's really a -- it's a -- it's a feel-good day in Illinois, where we celebrate the government that represents us. But we know that with these events today, we are simply setting the stage for what will be an historic year in Illinois government. Just forty-eight hours ago, we inaugurated a new Governor, who we are honored to have with us today. Now we must elect our Senate President,

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and then embark on this next chapter of our State's history book - what we call the 99th General Assembly. Undoubtedly, the men and women whom have preceded us here often used the phrase "that the greatest challenges lie ahead of us". And this phrase has never been as true as it is today. Our challenges are mind-boggling when one considers the billions of dollars of unpaid bills, a one-hundred-plus-billion-dollar pension shortfall, a paralyzed economy. The -- the people of our State are suffering from the decisions made by their government and they're looking to us for solutions. And so as we look at what lies ahead for us, we know that Senator Christine Radogno is ready to lead. Our problems require bipartisan solutions and bipartisan leadership. And time and time again, Senator Radogno has demonstrated her willingness to work with all fifty-nine Members of this Chamber. She sits on this side of the aisle. But she never hesitates to reach across the aisle to find a friend or an ally. If we are to move Illinois forward and let our -- let our economy grow, it will come through legislative action embraced by both political parties, working together for the common good. I know that Senator Radogno's commitment will result in the bipartisan cooperation that this Chamber needs to improve our State. On this side of the aisle, we call ourselves Republicans. And -- but within our Republican Party today, and within our own Senate Republican Caucus, we have wide-ranging views and opinions on the many issues of public policy. We come from districts that are quite different. In fact, Senator Radogno's district is distinctly different from the one that I represent. Hers is a much more geographically compact district, touching parts of DuPage, Will, and Cook counties. Mine, a sprawling, rural district that encompasses all or parts of six

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counties and stretches some hundred-plus miles east to west. But regardless of where we come from, regardless of our -- the opinions for which we may have, Senator Radogno's leadership style welcomes us. Senator Radogno's type of leadership embraces our many opinions. She encourages us to speak up. And we are a stronger caucus as a result. Senator Radogno's continued leadership will serve not only our caucus, but this entire Chamber and our State well. Therefore, Mr. Governor, it is my honor and my privilege to second the nomination of Senator Christine Radogno for Senate President for the 99th General Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Governor.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Senator Barickman seconds the nomination of Senator Christine Radogno for President of the Senate. Senator Nybo is recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

SENATOR NYBO:

Thank you, Mr. Governor. And first off, let me tell you how much it -- it feels so good to finally say that, Governor Rauner. So, welcome. I am so excited to nominate Christine Radogno. In fact, I was so excited, I almost spoke out of turn, if you were watching. And for weeks, I've been nervous about this speech. I thought I had the unenviable task of following Senator Murphy. But since I have to speak after Senator Barickman, I feel a lot better, so... And, of course, Jason knows that he's a good friend and that's just a jab for an intended effect. Mr. Governor, we -- we are very excited and honored to have you here today. As was mentioned earlier, this is the first week in over a decade that this Body has convened in an atmosphere free of one-party rule. The people of this great State have clearly indicated that they want bipartisan government, bipartisan cooperation, and bipartisan

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solutions. The Republican Members of this Chamber welcome that mandate. We look forward to working with you, our Democratic colleagues in this Chamber, our colleagues in the House, to give the people what they want, a government that spends their money - but not too much - wisely and that creates opportunities for all residents. And I can think of no better way for this Body to demonstrate a unified commitment to these goals than by selecting a member of the minority party as its President - but not just any member. You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone in this Chamber who is more committed to cooperation and collaboration than Senator Christine Radogno. I first met Christine fifteen years ago and what I've seen since then has shown me that she exemplifies what we should all expect of a legislator and an elected official. She listens instead of lectures. She searches for consensus rather than confrontation. And she puts results over rhetoric. So as we start this new Session in this new era of shared responsibility, let's set the right tone, let's accomplish great things together, and let's begin by electing the Minority Leader, Senator Christine Radogno, as the President of this Body. Thank you, Mr. Governor.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

Senator Nybo seconds the nomination of Senator Christine Radogno for President of the Senate. If there are no further nominations, Senator Silverstein is recognized for the purpose of making a motion.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Thank you, Mr. Governor. I move that the nomination for the Office of President of the Illinois General -- Illinois State Senate for the 99th General Assembly be closed.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

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Senator Silverstein has moved that nominations be closed. All those in favor of the motion, indicate by saying Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the nominations are closed. The Secretary will call the roll of the Senators. Each Senator should answer the roll by stating one of the names nominated or by voting Present. Please call the roll, Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Althoff. Althoff votes Radogno. Anderson. Anderson votes Radogno. Barickman. Barickman votes Radogno. Bennett. Bennett votes Cullerton. Bertino-Tarrant. Bertino-Tarrant votes Cullerton. Biss. Biss votes Cullerton. Bivins. Bivins votes Radogno. Brady. Brady votes Radogno. Bush. Bush votes Cullerton. Clayborne. Clayborne votes Cullerton. Collins. Collins votes Cullerton. Connelly. Connelly votes Radogno. John Cullerton. John Cullerton votes Radogno. Tom Cullerton. Tom Cullerton votes John Cullerton. Cunningham. Cunningham votes Cullerton. Delgado. Duffy. Duffy votes Radogno. Forby. Forby votes Cullerton. Haine. Haine votes Cullerton. Harmon. Harmon votes Cullerton. Harris. Harris votes Cullerton. Hastings. Hastings votes Cullerton. Holmes. Holmes votes Cullerton. Hunter. Hunter votes Cullerton. Hutchinson. Hutchinson votes Cullerton. Jones. Jones votes Cullerton. Koehler. Koehler votes Cullerton. Kotowski. Kotowski votes Cullerton. LaHood. LaHood votes Radogno. Lightford. Lightford votes Cullerton. Link. Link votes Cullerton. Luechtefeld. Luechtefeld votes Radogno. Manar. Manar votes Cullerton. Martinez. Martinez votes Cullerton. McCann. McCann votes Radogno. McCarter. McCarter votes Radogno. McConnaughay. McConnaughay votes Radogno. McGuire. McGuire votes

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Cullerton. Morrison. Morrison votes Cullerton. Mulroe. Mulroe votes Cullerton. Muñoz. Muñoz votes Cullerton. Murphy. Murphy votes Radogno. Nybo. Nybo -- Nybo votes Radogno. Oberweis. Oberweis votes Radogno. Radogno. Radogno votes Cullerton. Raoul. Raoul votes Cullerton. Rezin. Rezin votes Radogno. Righter. Righter votes Radogno. Rose. Rose votes Radogno. Sandoval. Sandoval votes Cullerton. Silverstein. Silverstein votes Cullerton. Stadelman. Stadelman votes Cullerton. Steans. Steans votes Cullerton. Sullivan. Sullivan votes Cullerton. Syverson. Syverson votes Radogno. Trotter. Trotter votes Cullerton.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER:

The results of the roll call are as follows: Senator John J. Cullerton, thirty-five votes; Senator Christine Radogno, twenty votes. I'm personally stunned by this outcome. Senator John J. Cullerton, having received the constitutionally required number of votes, is hereby declared elected President of the Senate of the 99th General Assembly. Will Senator John J. Cullerton and Justice Theis please come to the Rostrum?

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

Please raise your right hand, repeat after me. I, John J. Cullerton,

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

I, John J. Cullerton,

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

Do solemnly swear

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

Do solemnly swear

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

That I will support the Constitution of the United States

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SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

That I will support the Constitution of the United States

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

And the Constitution of the State of Illinois

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

And the Constitution of the State of Illinois

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

And I will faithfully discharge the duties

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

I will faithfully discharge the duties

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

Of the Office of President of the Senate

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

Of the Office of President of the Senate

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

To the best of my ability.

SENATOR J. CULLERTON:

To the best of my ability.

JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS:

Congratulations.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Thank you. I would like to thank Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis for administering the Oath of Office today. Twenty-four years ago, she swore me in when I was a new Senator and she was a Circuit Court Judge. This is the fourth time she's sworn me in as Senate President. Like to thank Father Brendan Curran for the invocation and Rabbi Moshe Francis for the benediction. Ladies and Gentlemen, I've been re-elected President of the Illinois Senate, but I want to introduce the speaker of my

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house, my wife, Pam Cullerton. Now -- now, isn't -- isn't she cute? Look at that. I -- I -- she likes that picture - I took it. To me, it seems like it was only a couple years ago that she and I were married. But you know, Governor Rauner, this past fall, we were watching TV and this campaign ad comes on, and she watches it and she mutters aloud, "hundred years of Cullerton, tell me about it". Lucky for me, she doesn't support term limits. I'd like to welcome a few members of my family who are here today: our daughter, Maggie, and her fiancé, Brian Hooper; our son, Garritt; and my sisters, Peggy and Trish; and Trish's daughter, Megan. It was Trish's son, Michael Lynch, who sang the National Anthem. And you may have seen him on "The Voice". And today he had to leave for the United Center because he's singing the National Anthem at tonight's Bulls game. So we were the warm-up for him. I also have a special guest today. I'm a partner at the law firm of Thompson Coburn. The firm's Chairman recently said to me, "Why aren't you ever here?" And I said, "Well, I've been busy. I'm the President of the Illinois Senate." And he said, "Really? Prove it." Okay. So, Ladies and Gentlemen, please give a warm Illinois Senate welcome to the Chairman of Thompson Coburn, Thomas J. Minogue, and his wife, Rebecca. I should mention that he's from Missouri, where he pays a six percent income tax. So he's enjoying his visit to our low-tax State. And by the way, Tom, you don't know this, but on January 1st, our tax rate dropped twenty-five percent, which is the largest tax cut in the history of the State of Illinois - and I'm proud to say I sponsored that bill. In addition to Justice Theis, we are honored to be joined today by several other members of the Illinois Supreme Court. Please welcome Chief Justice Rita Garman, Justice Robert Thomas, and

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Justice Lloyd Karmeier. Thank you for being here. I also want to recognize our new Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti. Welcome to the Senate. I'd like to welcome back to the Senate our new State Treasurer, Mike Frerichs. Now I see why our two parties have trouble seeing eye to eye. Mr. Treasurer, I've been up here thinking you're in the wrong seat. You know, we never passed a Senate resolution congratulating you on your victory and years of service. It's not because we ran out of time. We didn't have the votes. But I promise you, I'm going to work hard to get that passed this next Session. I'm also honored to have my predecessor in this post here with us with his wife, former President Emil Jones, Jr., and his wife, Doctor Lorrie Jones. I'd also like to thank Springfield Mayor Michael Houston for the City's hospitality. Mayor. Mayor Houston is a fiscal conservative, but he'd like you to spend like a liberal while you're here in town. Sadly, there is something and someone missing here today. We lost one of Illinois' treasures last month with the passing of former Senate colleague, Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka. I'd like to think that if you listen closely you can still hear her laughter - perhaps a little polka music - echoing through the halls of the Capitol. There will never be another Judy Baar Topinka. Those of us who knew her and worked with her, like the State of Illinois itself, are forever better for that association. I would ask that the Senate rise and recognize a moment of silence for our friend, Judy Baar Topinka. (Moment of silence observed) Thank you. Six years ago, the Senate began a new chapter when Senator Radogno and I were first elected to lead our respective caucuses. Although we sit on different sides of the aisle, we've worked to turn this State around and restore pride in Illinois. It's been hard work.

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We've had some intense debates. But we've accomplished a lot, together. I see you've updated your picture. That was from 1980. I was in the House. Maybe it's time for me to update mine too. Leader Radogno, given our roles it might not be obvious, but I admire your personal strength and your leadership in the face of adversity. This past year you have been an inspiration for all of us. I want to thank you for your help and look forward to continuing to work with you. To every Member here today, I'd like to offer an invitation or, perhaps, a challenge, depending upon your viewpoint. Good ideas come from every one of our fifty-nine Members. I would hope you know by now that my door's open, and more often than not, we work together. Each and every one of us is an honest, hardworking, ethical public official committed to improving the lives of the people of this great State. This ninety-ninth collection of Illinois Senators has an average length of service in this Chamber of 7.8 years. We are a healthy mix of new ideas and institutional knowledge. And since everyone has been here before except for two people, at this point I'm pretty much just talking to Senator Andersons {sic} and Bennett. Gentlemen, welcome to the Senate. In case you don't know, my office is in Room 327, right here in the back hallway. The men's room is right over there behind that door. The green button is to vote Yes. The red button is to vote No. Senator Anderson, I really don't think you're going to be needing the red button. If there's ever a question, just push green; you'll be fine. Senator Bennett, get used to pushing that red button. I'd like to thank Senator Lightford, Morrison and Haine for their nominating speeches. It's amazing to me the nice things I managed to get people to say about me right before I name the leadership team and

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the committee chairmen. By the way, Senator Haine offered to deliver his speech in Latin, which -- his native tongue. I declined the offer. My apologies, Father Curran, but I feared not everyone would be able to follow along. So I would like to welcome Governor Bruce Rauner to the Illinois Senate. Governor, thank you for presiding over today's ceremony and congratulations on your victory and swearing-in a few days ago. Honestly, we were a little concerned about you being here. You see, the Senate has a strict dress code, and gentlemen must wear a jacket. We were afraid you'd wear the Carhartt. Governor, you face tough challenges. I want you to know that I look forward to working with you. But, first, a request. As you have seen, this is a pretty magnificent building. I'm supposed to ask that you park the van somewhere else. Governor, I understand you want to shake things up. Well, you've come to the right place, because this is the Illinois Senate and we're not exactly strangers to seismic activity. We've been shaking things up for a number of years. But after hearing your inaugural address, I thought it would be good and I felt -- feel the need to spend some time talking about the important things that we've done and the progress that we've made. Six years ago today, a different Governor presided over this ceremony, and that same day, we began his impeachment trial and later removed him from office and banned him from ever running again. It was bipartisan, unanimous action. This Senate has produced a proud list of bipartisan accomplishments since that day. We were the first to act on marriage equality. The Senate took that vote on Valentine's Day 2013. It took the House another nine months to catch up. Gone is the death penalty system that had freed more than it had condemned and had become a national embarrassment. We

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grew tired of waiting for Washington so we pushed immigration reform here. Back in 2012, Leader Radogno and I cosponsored a system that allows nearly a quarter million immigrants to be tested, licensed and insured drivers. We have forged ahead in a bipartisan spirit when we believe action is needed and have time and again put the needs of the State ahead of politics. We approved a thirty-one-billion-dollar construction program that is building roads and schools in every part of our State, investing in our economic future and providing thousands of jobs. We worked together to pass overdue McCormick Place reforms that had -- that once again established Chicago as a convention destination that brings millions of dollars into the State's economy. Our education reforms addressing tenure and performance standards became a national model. Our overhaul of the workers' compensation system produced the sharpest recommended reduction in employer insurance premiums in the nation, down twenty-four percent since 2012. We put together a bipartisan Medicaid reform package that saved taxpayers billions. Some claim that they can wring billions more in savings out of the system. Have at it. I look forward to that proposal being brought to the Senate for a vote rather than being touted in press releases. We passed not one, but two pension reform proposals to make up for nearly a century of inaction that left our State in a precarious financial situation. All of those accomplishments were done with bipartisan votes. There was one, however, that was not. That was the temporary increase in our tax rates to pay those pension debts that had been ignored by too many for too long and to provide funding so the Comptroller could start paying overdue bills to social service agencies and other providers. And that brings us to today and the start of a new

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Session. If education is indeed our top priority, it's time to back it up. Last year, the Senate started the debate over the growing divide among resources and opportunities in our public schools. It's time to bridge that gap. We should rebuild the path to college for the growing number of middle-class families unsure if they can afford the higher costs of higher education. And we need to ensure parents that their children will be safe on campus. Count me among those who believe that in some areas our bureaucracy has grown too cumbersome. Today, if you want to start a company in Illinois, you have to file paperwork with an array of State agencies, ranging from the Secretary of State to the Department of Revenue to the Department of Labor to the Department of Employment Security and possibly the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. It's a convoluted system that doesn't make sense. So, Governor Rauner, I want to work with you to provide one-stop shopping. Governor -- Governor, we also need to raise the minimum wage. The same voters who sent us here want a higher minimum wage in Illinois. It's time to deliver. Now immigration is still stalled in Washington. We need to keep moving forward here. A license to drive was the first step for our immigrant neighbors. I'd like to offer them a license to dream. We need to change State law so that talented students, regardless of their immigration background, can go on to law school and become licensed, practicing attorneys in Illinois. Years ago, I was a public defender in Cook County. Here in the Senate, I spent years on the Judiciary Committee. And more recently, I helped push a top-to-bottom review of our criminal laws to try to ensure punishments are proportional to the crimes. Just like the death penalty system, too many have lost faith in our criminal justice

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system, believing it no longer serves or protects their communities. Across the country, states are rethinking the role and the cost of prisons in the face of growing budget pressures. Our own State finances demand that we have an honest discussion about who we are filling our prisons with and why. So, today, I'm announcing the creation of a special Senate committee, consisting of an equal number of Republican and Democrats. This committee will be responsible for finding ways to restore justice to our criminal system and ensure that our Department of Corrections exists to "correct" problems, not warehouse them. So, Ladies and Gentlemen, the people we represent want us to solve problems, improve the quality of life and open doors of economic and educational opportunity for their families. I trust everyone is up to the challenge. Enjoy your day and let's get to work. The Illinois Senate is now in Session. The next order of business is the election of the Minority Leader of the Senate. Senator LaHood.

SENATOR LaHOOD:

Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I would move by acclamation and with unanimous consent of the Senate Republican Members to declare Christine Radogno of Lemont, Senate Minority Leader for the 99th General Assembly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator LaHood requests unanimous consent on behalf of the Republican Members of the Senate to declare Senator Christine Radogno Minority Leader of the Senate of the 99th General Assembly. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Senator Christine Radogno is declared Minority Leader. Congratulations. The Chair recognizes Senator Christine Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

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Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, congratulations. It is never easy to go after someone who is a bona fide standup comedian. So you make this difficult for me. However, I share your pride in the fact that, in this Chamber, we do have a history of working together, certainly trying very hard to maintain decorum and professionalism, which is critical, because we do in fact have disagreements sometimes on the issues. And I do think that is a direct responsibility of your leadership and hopefully mine as well. So, thank you. I want to thank the Members of the Body for the opportunity. It's an enormous honor to be elected to serve by all of you who are, in fact, leaders in your own right. This is an election of leaders amongst leaders. It's a challenging and it's a unique time to be able to serve as leader. We have change upon us. It's been twelve years since we've had a two-party system in the State of Illinois. As I look out at this Chamber, I see that there are only fourteen of the fifty-nine Senators in this Chamber who have ever served in a two-party system. And on our side of the aisle, we only have five Senators that have served with a Governor in their own party. The election of Governor Rauner changes the political dynamic dramatically. Now we can hope, but we cannot assume, that that change will result in better outcomes for our State. I know that Governor Rauner will do his part to try to make the changes that will make Illinois a better place to live for all of its citizens. But we in the Legislature have to do the same. We in the Legislature have to do our part to seize the opportunity that this change has given us. It is not automatic. We cannot - we must not - let this opportunity pass us by. We, the Members of the Senate, must work to bridge the differences and find common ground in order to make this State a

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better place for all the people that call it home. We have, in the Senate, as has been articulated by a number of people, had some bipartisan successes. But the public is saying "more of this, please". They really want to see us work together to solve the problems. The people in this State deserve no less than that. Now, not only will the citizens that we represent be watching what we do with hope - although albeit there is some cynicism after what they've been through over the last several years - but the rest of the country is watching us as well. The rest of the -- of the world, in fact, is watching us. The poor management decisions and dire financial condition of this State has made Illinois the subject of criticism and the butt of jokes in our local media, in national media, such as the Wall Street Journal, and even in international media, such as The Economist, which is based in London. Illinois is getting a really bad rap and we deserve better, and we need to work together to change those perceptions. Decisions made by one party with one-party control for a dozen years have led to problems that now require a renewed commitment to cooperation and compromise if we are to make Illinois great again. As the Republican leader, I pledge to keep focused on moving our State forward and ask all of you on both sides of the aisle to do the same. In order to maximize the opportunity that the change before us has presented, we must keep focused on that goal of moving forward, even though we may have very different ideas about what that path forward looks like. This is to acknowledge that we will have some very genuine differences of opinion. But in my role as leader, I will ask Republicans, and Democrats as well, to be respectful, to please choose our battles carefully, and most importantly be genuinely open to ideas that

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may not be our own. We will only be successful if our knee-jerk response to other people's ideas is not to fall back into the comfort of partisan rhetoric and run for the cover of special interests. So, again, I offer my congratulations and appreciation to all of you. I'm truly honored to be able to represent the people of my 41st District in the Senate at this really amazing time in history. I am humbled by your faith in me as a Senate Republican Leader. And I, finally, want to wish congratulations to everyone today who was elected and re-elected. Enjoy the rest of the day. This is a festive fun day. And let's come back in two weeks and work together to get our State headed in the right direction. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

The Benediction will be offered by Rabbi Moshe Francis of the Chicago Community Kollel. Rabbi Francis.

RABBI MOSHE FRANCIS:

(Remarks and Benediction by Rabbi Moshe Francis)

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Rabbi Francis was recommended today by Alderman -- by -- by Senator Silverstein and his -- he's here with his wife, Debra Silverstein, the Alderman of the 49th Ward from Chicago. So thank you very much. 50th Ward. 50th Ward. Thank you for coming, Alderman. The following Senators are appointed to the Committee of Escort for the Governor: Senators Bush, Harris, Stadelman, Rezin, and Anderson. Will those Senators please come forward to escort the Governor from the Chamber? Will the Senators appointed to the Committee of Escort for the members of the Judiciary - Senators Clayborne, Bennett, Mulroe, Barickman, and Connelly - please come forward to escort the distinguished members of the

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Judiciary from the Chamber? It's the intention of the Chair to begin organizing the Senate of the 99th General Assembly. Mr. Secretary, Communications.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

I have a letter dated January 14th, 2015.

Dear Mr. Secretary - Pursuant to Rule 3-5(c), I hereby appoint Senator James Clayborne as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Assignments. In addition, I hereby appoint Senator Don Harmon and Senator Kimberly Lightford as members of the Senate Committee on Assignments. These appointments will expire upon adjournment of the Senate Committee on Assignments.

Sincerely, John J. Cullerton, Senate President.

Letter also dated January 14th, 2015.

Dear Mr. Secretary - Pursuant to the temporary Rules of the 99th General Assembly, I hereby appoint Senator Pamela Althoff to serve as Minority Spokesperson of the Senate Committee on Assignments and Senator Dale Righter to serve as a member of the Committee. These appointments are effective immediately.

Sincerely, Christine Radogno, Illinois Senate Republican Leader.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution No. 1, offered by Senator Trotter.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Members of this august Body...

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

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...Trotter -- Senator Trotter, wait one second, please.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

And Senate Resolution No. 2, offered by Senator Lightford.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

The Senate will stand at ease to allow time for our guests to exit the Chamber. The Committee on Assignments will meet immediately in the President's Anteroom. Members are asked to remain in the Chamber. The Senate will stand at ease. (at ease) The Senate will come to order. Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Clayborne, Chairman of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Senate Resolutions 1 and 2.

Signed, Senator James F. Clayborne, Chairman.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

The Senate Calendar has been distributed. On the Calendar is Senate Resolution No. 1. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution No. 1, offered by Senator Trotter.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Ladies and Gentlemen, can I have your attention, please? Senators, please come to your chairs. Family members, please. We need to conduct some business. Senator Trotter, to explain the resolution.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Members of the august Body. Senate Resolution No. 1 formally elects the officers of the 99th General Assembly. They are Tim Anderson for Secretary of the

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Senate; Scott Kaiser, Assistant Secretary of the Senate; Joe Dominquez, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Dirk Eilers, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Trotter has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution 1. Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 1. All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 54 voting Aye, none voting No, and 5 not voting. Senate Resolution 1, having received the required constitutional majority, is hereby declared adopted. On the Order of Resolutions is Senate Resolution No. 2. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution No. 2, offered by Senator Lightford.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Lightford, to explain the resolution.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you...

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

As best she can.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Resolution 2 encompasses the Rules for the Senate of the 99th General Assembly. It retains the Rules of the Senate of the 98th General Assembly with two types of changes. First, it allows the President to promulgate additional types of forms for temporary

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and acting appointments pursuant to PA 98-0692. Second, it adds one additional committee, Commerce and Economic Development, which will take up economic development legislation. Senate Resolution 2 also changes the names of four other committees. I'd be happy to answer questions, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Lightford has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 2. Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 2. All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Those opposed, by voting No. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Aye, none voting No, and none voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 2, having received the required constitutional majority, is hereby declared adopted. The Senate is now operating under the Rules of the Senate of the 99th General Assembly. Mr. Secretary, Communications.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Letter dated January 14th, 2015.

Dear Mr. Secretary - Pursuant to Rule 3-5(c), I hereby appoint Senator James Clayborne as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Assignments for the 99th General Assembly. In addition, I hereby appoint Senator Don Harmon and Senator Kimberly Lightford as members of the Senate Committee on Assignments for the 99th General Assembly.

Sincerely, John J. Cullerton, Senate President.

Letter dated January 14th, 2015.

Dear Mr. Secretary - Pursuant to the Senate Rules adopted on January 14th, 2015, I hereby appoint Senator Pamela Althoff to

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serve as Minority Spokesperson of the Senate Committee on Assignments and Senator Dale Righter to serve as a member of the Committee. These appointments are effective immediately.

Signed, Senator Christine Radogno, Illinois Senate Republican Leader.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution No. 3, offered by Senator Link.

Senate Resolution No. 4, offered by Senator Hunter.

And Senate Resolution No. 5, offered by Senator Collins.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

I would ask the Committee on Assignments to meet immediately in the President's Anteroom. Members are asked to remain in the Chamber. Senator Harris, Senator Harris, for what purpose do you rise? Can I have your attention, please, Ladies and Gentlemen? Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in -- for a moment of personal privilege for an introduction.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

State your point.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Today I have with me a -- a friend, a colleague of mine, who's a three-time Pro Bowler, National Football League, member of the Kansas City Chiefs, a Butkus Award winner as the best linebacker in college football from the University of Texas, and he was the MVP of last year's Pro Bowl, Mr. Derrick Johnson, for the Kansas City Chiefs.

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PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Welcome to the Senate and we'd love you to join the Chicago Bears as soon as possible. Senate -- Senate will stand at ease for a few minutes as the Committee on Assignment {sic} (Assignments) meets. (at ease) The Senate will come to order. Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Clayborne, Chairman of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Senate Resolutions 3, 4, and 5. Signed by Senator James F. Clayborne, Chairman.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Supplemental Calendar No. 1 has been distributed. On Supplemental Calendar No. 1 is Senate Resolution No. 3. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution No. 3, offered by Senator Link.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senators, can I please have your attention, please? Senator Link, to explain the resolution.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 3 notifies the House -- House of Representatives that the Senate has organized by the election of officers and is now ready to proceed with business of Session.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Link has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 3. Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 3. All those in favor will

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signify by voting Aye. Those opposed, by voting Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Aye, none voting No, and none voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 3, having received the required constitutional majority, is hereby declared adopted. On the Order of Resolutions is Senate Resolution No. 4. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution No. 4, offered by Senator Hunter.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Hunter, to explain the resolution.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 4 directs the Secretary of the Senate to prepare the Senate Journal and to furnish it to the Legislative Printing Unit to print copies.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Hunter has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 4. Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 4. All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Those opposed will vote No. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 54 Ayes, none voting No, and none voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 4, having required -- having received the required constitutional majority, is hereby declared adopted. On the Order of Resolutions is Senate Resolution No. 5. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

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Senate Resolution No. 5, offered by Senator Collins.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Collins, to explain the resolution.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Resolution No. 5 appoints the Standing Committee of Correspondents to advise the Senate on all press matters, consisting of Doug Finke, State Journal-Register; Monique Garcia, Chicago Tribune; Mike Riopell, Chicago Daily Herald; Amanda Vinicky, WUIS Radio; and Matt Porter, WCIA-TV.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Collins has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 5. Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 5. All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Those will vote Nay -- those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 54 voting Aye, none voting No, none voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 5, having received the required constitutional majority, is hereby declared adopted. Mr. Secretary, Communications.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Have a letter dated January 14th, 2014 {sic}.

Dear Mr. Secretary - Enclose -- enclosed please find the Senate Session Calendar for the 99th General Assembly. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Chief of Staff, David Gross.

Sincerely, John J. Cullerton, Senate President.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

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Ladies and Gentlemen, at this time, I am very proud to announce my Senate Democratic Leadership team. You have to be here to be -- you have to be present to be included. The Majority Leader is Senator James Clayborne; Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Donne Trotter; Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Terry Link; Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Kimberly Lightford; Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Antonio Muñoz; Assistant Majority Leader, Senator John Sullivan; Majority Caucus Chair, Senator Ira Silverstein; President Pro Tempore, Senator Don Harmon; Majority -- Majority Caucus Whip, Senator William Haine; Majority Caucus Whip, Senator Mattie Hunter; and Majority Caucus Whip, Senator Iris Martinez. There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 9 a.m., Thursday, January 15th. The Senate stands adjourned.