



NHCSL

National Hispanic Caucus
of State Legislators

Annual Summit Meeting

Saturday, December 2nd, 2023

Minutes

President

Nellie Pou: I will begin by indicating that our meeting was noticed on August 16th pursuant to the bylaws. I would like to call upon our secretary, Representative Carlos González of Massachusetts to do the roll call.

Carlos Gonzalez: Well, good morning to all, and thank you, Madam President. Thank you for your years of service as well. I want to call everybody's name, and please state your presence. First, we'll start with New Jersey Senator Nellie Pou.

Nellie Pou: Pardon me, present.

Carlos Gonzalez: And I will ask everybody, there's a microphone next to you, and there's a little button, press it as we call your name. Utah Representative Angela Romero.

Female: Present. Did you hear me?

Carlos Gonzalez: New Mexico Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto.

Male: Present

Carlos Gonzalez: Puerto Rico Representative Angel Matos.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Virginia Delegate Elizabeth Guzmán. Virginia Delegate Elizabeth Guzmán.

Female: She's outside.

Female: She's outside. I saw her, she's outside.

Carlos Gonzalez: Okay.

Female: She's outside.

Carlos Gonzalez: Present, okay. Massachusetts Representative Carlos Gonzalez, present. New Mexico Representative Patricia Roybal Caballero.

Male: Absent.

Female: That's a new one. Absent.

Carlos Gonzalez: Texas Representative Victoria Neave Criado. She's present. Illinois Senator Cristina Castro.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Washington Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: What was that?

Carlos Gonzalez: Okay. Connecticut Representative Geraldo Reyes.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Florida Senator Victor Torres.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Georgia Senator Jason Estevez.

Male: On his way.

Carlos Gonzalez: Minnesota Representative Aisha Gonzalez. California Representative Mia Bonta. Puerto Rico Senator William Villafañe.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Oklahoma Representative Arturo Alonso-Sandoval.

Carlos Gonzalez: Illinois Senator Celina Villanueva. Oregon Senator...

Female: Present. I was like, "I'm here."

Carlos Gonzalez: You're present?

Female: Right here. Oregon Senator Wlnsvey Campos.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Arizona Representative Patty Contreras.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Arizona Senator Brian Fernandez.

Male: Absent.

Carlos Gonzalez: Arizona Senator Sally Gonzalez.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Arizona Representative Marcelino Quiñonez.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Arizona Representative Leezah Sun. California Assembly Mia Bonta. California Assembly Liz Ortega. Colorado Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis. Colorado Representative Mandy Lindsay. Colorado Representative Javier Mabrey. Colorado Representative Elizabeth Velasco. Connecticut Representative Hector Arzeno.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Connecticut Representative Juan Candelaria.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Connecticut Representative Anabel Figueroa. I know she's present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Yeah, okay, okay. Connecticut Representative Minnie Gonzalez.

Carlos Gonzalez: Connecticut Representative Geraldo Reyes.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Connecticut Representative Christopher Rosario.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Connecticut Representative Robert Sanchez.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Connecticut Representative Hilda Santiago.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Florida Senator Victor Torres Junior.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Florida Representative Susan Valdés.

Carlos Gonzalez: Georgia Senator Jason Esteves. Hawaii Senator Donovan Dela Cruz. Hawaii Representative Kyle Yamashita. Iowa Representative Adam Zabner.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Illinois Senator Omar Aquino.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Illinois Senator Cristina Castro.

Female: Present.

Female: That was twice.

Carlos Gonzalez: Illinois Representative Fred Crespo.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Illinois Representative Eva-Dina Delgado.

Female: Eva-Dina, present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Illinois Senator Javier Loera Cervantes.

Female: He's here. He's here. He's record.

Carlos Gonzalez: Record that he's here, present. Illinois Senator Celina Villanueva.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Kansas City Representative Louis Ruiz.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Louis, Louis.

Nellie Pou: Can I just please get your attention, please? Just let's keep it down. Go ahead.

Carlos Gonzalez: Kansas City Representative Michael Sawyer.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Massachusetts Senator Adam Gomez.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Massachusetts Representative Paulino, Francisco Paulino.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Massachusetts Representative Orlando Ramos.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Massachusetts Representative Estela Reyes.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Massachusetts Representative Francisco Paulino. Did I get you?

Male: Present again.

Carlos Gonzalez: Okay. Michigan Representative Veronica Paiz.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Maryland Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Maryland Delegate Danny Tavares. Tavares. Minnesota Representative John Koznick. I know he's here somewhere. And New Hampshire Representative Maria Perez.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: New Jersey Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: New Jersey Assembly Elect Alixon Collazos-Gill.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: New Jersey Assembly Yvonne Lopez.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: New Jersey Assembly Elect Julio Marengo.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: New Jersey Senator Maria T. Ruiz.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: New Mexico Rep Tara Lujan.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Nevada Assembly Selena Torres. New York Assembly Jessica González-Rojas.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: New York Senator Gustavo Rivera.

Carlos Gonzalez: New York Assembly Yudelka Tapia.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Oklahoma Representative Arturo Alonso-Sandoval. Oklahoma Senator Michael Brooks.

Male: Here.

Carlos Gonzalez: Oklahoma Representative Annie Menz.

Female: Howdy.

Carlos Gonzalez: Oregon Senator Wlmsvey Campos. Oregon Representative Ricki Ruiz.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Pennsylvania Representative Danilo Burgos.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Pennsylvania Rep Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz. Pennsylvania Rep Jose Giral.

Male: Here.

Carlos Gonzalez: Pennsylvania Rep Manny Guzman.

Male: Here.

Carlos Gonzalez: Pennsylvania Rep José Aponte Hernández. Puerto Rico Representative Eladio Cardona Quiles.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Puerto Rico, the following will be all from Puerto Rico. Representative Eddie Charbonier China.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Charbonier.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Héctor Ferrer Santiago.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Ángel Fourquet.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Migdalia González. José González Mercado.

Carlos Gonzalez: Gretchen Hau.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Jesus Hernandez Arroyo.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Rafael Hernández Montañez. Estrella Martínez Soto.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Nitza Morán.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Angel Morey.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Jorge Navarro Suárez.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Luis Ortiz Lugo.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Angel Peña Ramírez. José Pérez.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Maria Ramos.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Wilson Román López.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Joel Sánchez Ayala.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Jesús Santa.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Deborah Soto.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Senator Rubén Soto Rivera.

Male: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Representative Domingo Torres García. Senator William Rhode Island, Rhode Island, I'm sorry, Rhode Island.

Carlos Gonzalez: Represent Rhode Island Leonela Felix.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Rhode Island Representative Enrique Sanchez.

Carlos Gonzalez: Texas Representative Ryan Guillen. Texas Representative Lopez.

Carlos Gonzalez: Janie Lopez. Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Janie, I'm sorry, my apology. Texas Representative Terry Meza.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Texas Representative Victoria... We did that.

Female: Here.

Carlos Gonzalez: Utah.

Female: But here.

Male: Utah now.

Male: You did that one.

Carlos Gonzalez: Okay. Utah Representative Mark Wheatley. And Virginia Delegate Elizabeth Guzmán.

Female: Present.

Carlos Gonzalez: Washington Representative Lillian... Oh, we've already did that. That concludes our roll call, Madam President.

Carlos Gonzalez: Is there anyone that we didn't mention?

Nellie Pou: Thank you so very much, Representative Gonzalez. Let me, please, just so that we can do this quickly. Was there anyone that was not mentioned? And if so, could you please identify yourself for the record? Anyone not mentioned in the roll call?

Male: To the right.

Nellie Pou: Could you please...

Female: Ms. President.

President: Tatito.

Male: Madam President, to the right.

Female: Our speaker Tatito Hernández is here.

Nellie Pou: Yes. Thank you. Anyone else that we did not mention?

Angel Peña: Angel Peña.

Nellie Pou: Angel Peña, okay

Nellie Pou: Anyone else? Anyone who's walking into the room at the moment that was not mentioned? Okay. Thank you so very much. Thank you, Representative González.

Carlos Gonzalez: Sufficient quorum has been achieved.

Nellie Pou: Okay. Thank you so very much. Okay. Our next will be the reading of the minutes, the previous minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting are in your app, remember, we mentioned that at the very beginning, as well as on our website. Among the documents for this meeting, so please, for this and every other speaking opportunity, just as we've asked before, please make sure to identify yourself for the record. Do I hear a motion to deem the minutes read and approved?

Male: Make a motion.

Nellie Pou: It's been moved by Representative Ruiz and second by Representative Valdez. Are there any objections? Okay. Therefore, the motion carries. Thank you. I don't see the chair of our BBA, Jamie Oldani, so what I'll do is go to my report. If she should join us, we'll then make sure to call her so that she can provide us with any remarks on behalf of the BBA. So, at this time, let me just go into my report. Once again, good morning to each and

every one of you. I hope you've had a very nice time here in Philadelphia. If not, we're all going to blame Representative Danilo Burgos.

Nellie Pou: But in all sincerity, let me just say it's been wonderful, so thank you so very much for your participation.

Nellie Pou: So, as you can see, we're in our final stretch of our summit, but we still have very important work ahead of us today, so I'm going to ask that you please pay very close attention. Let's make sure that we're able to get this done. We have just a few more items that we need to make sure that we do. But as I've mentioned during the summer meeting, I consider it very important to raise it once again to our membership at large. I believe our organization keeps getting stronger and its influence is steadily growing thanks to our Board of Business Advisors and their leadership and commitment to the advancement of the Hispanic community. On behalf of the leadership, the executive committee, and all of the NHCSL members, I want to thank the officers of our Board of Business Advisors for their willingness to serve a second term. Let me just mention who they are because we're so greatly appreciative.

Our BBA chair, as I've mentioned, a good friend, Jamie Oldani from Eli Lilly. Our BBA vice chair, Laura Berrocal from Charter Communications. Our vice chair of corporate policy, Roberto Monserrate from Amgen. And our vice chair for membership, Kwame Canty from Edison Electric Institute. The secretary of our NHCSL BBA, Paul Ordal from Masimo. And finally, I want to recognize the newest member of our BBA leadership, Angela Manso from Natural Resource Defense Council who was appointed to serve as strategic planning advisor and comes with a wealth of experience in this issue and certainly in the issue that impacts the Hispanic communities nationwide. So, thank you, Angela, for your willingness to join us and to serve. Thank you so very much.

Nellie Pou: So, at this point, the appointment of Angela happened just a few weeks ago. I would like to just once again thank you, Angela, for that. So, the last time we met, let me just begin there. The last time we met, we were all in San Francisco celebrating our Summit Executive Committee and our BBA meeting. There we were able to discuss various different items. One of the things that we took on was probation and parole reform with Pew Charitable Trust and Arnold Ventures, moderated by Representative Moe Maestas from New Mexico. We did sustainability and extended producer's responsibility while leveraging expectations in a competitive market with Colorado Senator Julie Gonzales. Skill-based training programs and how they create pathway to in-demand jobs with Amazon Web Services and Google. Affordable housing and public private programs for homeownership with Wells Fargo and Chicanos Por La Causa.

We also heard from EDA Senior Advisor William Ramos about funding opportunities for states under the existing and upcoming programs, among others. We were also joined by San Francisco Mayor London Breed during our welcome reception and by Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi who shared her insights on the challenges and joy of public service

in a keynote speech that she gave to all of us and those of us that were in attendance. To all of you who joined us in San Francisco, thank you for being there, for being so engaged with NHCSL. And to those that provided financial support, thank you, because we would not be able to do this without your generous support. So, thank you so very much.

I also wanted to expand upon the good news that I shared in San Francisco. As I mentioned there, our office in DC grew with the hiring of Jocelyn Gomez, NHCSL administrative assistant, whom you probably spoke to on the phone at some point during this time in making arrangements for this particular trip. And Gabriela, Gabriela Acosta, our NHCSL communications director. This growth in our staff was possible thanks to the support of the BBA.

Improving our internal and external communication was a priority for me during my tenure as president and for the executive leadership at large. Since convening in San Francisco, I'm happy to announce that the NHCSL launched Partner Updates, a new monthly newsletter aimed at connecting with our BBA with our membership. The metrics for this newsletter are about industry average so far, and we are incredibly pleased by its performance. Let me just pause there to tell you, if you have not seen it, please make sure to make a point of taking a look at our newsletter. It's wonderful. It provides you with a lot of information. It tells you, thank you, it tells you about our membership, it tells you about our corporate sponsors, and it really highlights the NHCSL work here. So, I am so very happy and proud to see that we've been able to do this. We've also been able to relaunch our printed quarterly newspaper, which you all – sorry, I got ahead of you – which you all got a copy of and is available at our website. I want to thank Angela Manso from our BBA, I know she just stepped away from the room, as well as Representative Karen Alzate...

Male: Alzate.

Nellie Pou: Alzate.

Male: From Rhode Island.

President: From Rhode Island. Where is...

Female: Alzate.

Nellie Pou: Where are you? Where are you, mama?

Female: She's not here. She missed her plane.

Nellie Pou: Okay. For Rhode Island and Ángel Fourquet from Puerto Rico. Ángel, for participating in the first relaunch edition. I look forward to seeing bylines by many of you in our future

editions. Our social media numbers have also grown, has gone up. Our website is now being updated on a regular basis and you will see the addition of new audio-visual content produced from the work that we are doing this week. We're also aiming to get news coverage from this particular conference in the media next week. These are all very, very exciting developments. And let me just say, let's give Kenneth and the NHCSL a round of applause for these great achievements.

Nellie Pou: Thank you. I also want to report on Kenneth representing our organization, and for those of you, this is important to us because some of us during leadership discussed this at great length. But I just want to just make this very small comment to the entire membership. I want to report on Kenneth representing our organization at a meeting between Latino organizations and the Biden Administration at the White House on October 18th.

We have – hear me carefully – we have a mandate to keep holding our elected officials accountable for their promises to our communities, and our presence there was part of an effort to make sure that Hispanic organizations like ours and communities across the nation are never an afterthought and that we are not taken for granted. We have more work to do but I believe that our caucus is uniquely positioned to make sure that our priorities and input are taken into serious consideration. And I'm being very nice when I'm making that comment, by the way.

Our advocacy to get qualified representation yield results since we last met. NHCSL advocated for the confirmation of two Colombian Americans for high-level appointments in the federal government. Dr. Adriana Kugler who now serves as governor in the Federal Reserve Board becoming the first Hispanic to serve in this capacity in the board's 109-year history. Imagine that. It took 109-year history to get our first appointment, but we're very proud and happy that she's there. And Anna Gomez, the commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, from whom we heard from yesterday, and as I've mentioned previously, became the first Hispanic to serve in the FCC leadership in more than 20 years.

We are very proud to see both of them serving and we believe, we believe, that we'll see progress in our communities thanks to these two outstanding public servants. Ladies and gentlemen and to my colleagues, before I conclude I want to especially thank Comcast for working with us, for serving as our main host for our program. I am looking forward to convening tomorrow or actually we're very happy, let me just say we're very happy that we were able to convene with them yesterday and the work that they do and their generosity, so I just want to thank them.

I also want to take a moment to recognize our executive director Kenneth Romero. A decade ago we couldn't imagine that NHCSL would be where it is today and that is in big part thanks to Kenneth. He took charge and set our finances back on track, provided...

Nellie Pou: Hold up, hold on. He provided NHCSL with structure, and as Jamie always says, Jamie Oldani from our BBA always says, he professionalized our organization. So, thanks to his support, work, and dedication, I was able to have a successful tenure as your president. So, thank you, Kenneth. Thank you so very much for all that you've done.

Nellie Pou: And thank you to the rest of the team that comes along with Kenneth. Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I am looking forward to our tonight, and for our president elect Representative Angela Romero to formally begin her tenure as president of the NHCSL.

Nellie Pou: I look forward to continuing working with the incoming leadership and as your immediate past president. And with that, for the moment, I know we have more to say tonight, but with that, I conclude my report. Thank you.

Nellie Pou: Okay. Continuing on, I think what we'd like to move on right now, I'm going to ask for our executive director's report. I call upon our executive director, Kenneth Romero, to read his report please.

Kenneth Romero: Thank you. Can we get the presentation up? Okay. I'm going to try to be very brief on my presentation, but I just wanted to share some of the highlights that we have been working on at NHCSL. It's really so wonderful to see all of you, see legislators from all across the country from Illinois to Texas, from California to Puerto Rico, including a solid representation of newly elected legislators from states like New Jersey, Iowa, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon. You continue building political power across the nation so we're so grateful that they're all here.

As you experienced during this summit's first session prepping you for your 2024 Legislative Session, NHCSL is really here to empower you to champion legislation on issues that perhaps weren't part of your expertise before you became legislators. But please know, please know that we want to be your go-to resource when you're legislating because this organization is ultimately here to serve you and to help you be better and more effective representing your constituents. And in that regard I want to recognize our director of legislation, policy, and advocacy, Guillermo Mena, for leading that effort.

Male: So, some of the... Do we have it? Okay. All right, don't worry. So, some of the issues that we have been working on, just to highlight a few, is we did a lot of work around food equity and nutritional security, and more specifically, pushing Congress to move Puerto Rico from NAP to SNAP, and this work was anchored by a resolution that we did under the leadership of Representative Juan Candelaria, Representative Tatito Hernández, and Representative Victoria Neave. So, we want to thank them for their leadership on this. As our President mentioned, we pushed for not just the two appointments to the Federal Reserve Board and to the Federal Communications Commission, but we also pushed for two additional Latinas to be appointed by President Biden, one of them

Venezuelan American and the other Mexican American, and those are Xochitl Torres Small and Nathalie Rayes to become US Ambassador to Croatia.

We also, we talked about all of the work that we have been doing around the American Latino Museum, and we again are going to urge each and every one of you to help us in that effort because we have very little time to get it across the finish line. You may remember that just over a year ago, NHCSL made history when I had the opportunity to talk with Vice President Kamala Harris, urging her to meet with Latina legislators and other women of color. And that idea actually ended up sparking an entire national outreach effort to engage with elected officials throughout the country. And just a few months ago, on the first anniversary of the Dobbs decision, the Vice President invited to the White House those champions to a White House state legislative convening, and it was one of our members that led that conversation, Representative Sonya Jaquez Lewis from Colorado, so we're super proud of that.

We partnered with UnidosUS on having the first Latino Economic Summit under this administration at the White House. We talked about issues around fairness in tax administration, access to capital for small businesses, next steps on the American Rescue Plan, advancing financial well-being for the Latino community. We continue prioritizing the issue of the opioid crisis, thanks to a resolution that we had on this issue. And earlier this year with one of our partners, Masimo, along with the Clinton Foundation, they hosted a very high-level meeting with 20 health officials and policy leaders, and NHCSL was front and center on that. And so I want to in particular recognize the leadership of Senator Gustavo Rivera who represented all of you so, so brilliantly, so we want to give Senator Rivera a round of applause.

Male: This year, as many of you that follow this issue know, President Biden announced new actions to protect workers and communities from extreme heat and following our request to address worker heat exposure as one of the top Latino priorities. And this is partly because of a resolution that we adopted on fair policies to protect farm workers and other workers from climate change hazards, and I want to thank the leadership of Representative Louis Ruiz who stewarded that resolution.

Male: We held our spring meeting in Puerto Rico, and then we held our summer meeting in San Francisco. We had the great honor of being joined by none other than Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi. And now we are here in Pennsylvania for our annual summit, and I want to take this opportunity to recognize our director of events and member services, Carolina Garcia, for taking our events to the next level...

Male: ...ensuring the success of our convenings. After San Francisco, we continued working with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and were able to secure funding and we did a newly elected training in Colorado with quad [Phonetic 00:36:11] members to provide these newly electeds with the necessary tools they need for their legislative success. And while we were in Colorado, we hosted a special event for the Colorado Latino

Legislative Caucus to celebrate their successes this year. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we attended programs through CHCI, also meetings with the White House. I was actually one of only eight Latinos to meet with a very high-level meeting of key White House officials to discuss issues that are important to the community. And I was specifically tasked with leading the conversation on the economy, and I conveyed on your behalf the disconnection between the general economic good news and the impact on Hispanic lives.

And I especially honed down on the persistent earning gap for Latinos, that despite some progress, the issue of cost-of-living disparities, and most pressing, the challenges of affordable housing, whether it's for renters or for potential home buyers. And we actually proposed specific recommendations including the creation of tax breaks for renters. You know, the same ones that homeowners enjoy. We should be talking about creating tax breaks for renters and modeled as an IRA-style account so that landlords don't end up pocketing that break. We continued working with the FCC. We helped get her nominated, we helped her get confirmed as Commissioner Gomez, and I met with her, and we raised the issue of Hispanics, particularly in Spanish language media, being targeted with disinformation and conspiracy theories and news distortion. And so we are going to be following up meeting with her and seeing how the FCC could do a better job in addressing this issue.

We ramped up our communications effort this year under the leadership of our newly installed communications director Gabby Benazar, created our new online news partner updates, as well as the relaunching of our quarterly newsletter. And now this year, we started this towards the end of the year, but you're going to see it now, 2024. We're going to be hosting more cafecitos with each and every one of you. We want to know exactly what you're working on and how we can be a better resource to each one of you, so be on the lookout. Carolina's going to be calling you, we're going to be setting up some Zoom calls because we really want to be supportive of each and every one of you in your respective states.

And finally this year, and I had the opportunity to talk to a few on the Puerto Rico delegation, the entire nation witnessed the leadership crisis in the US House of Representatives with the ousting of Kevin McCarthy, and then with the new speaker, Mike Johnson, coming into office just three weeks before the federal government was set to run out of funding. The latest round of budget talks was the most rushed ever. And so one of the pieces of funding that almost didn't make it was the price adjustments for Puerto Rico's nutrition assistance program, which would have reduced Puerto Rico's allocation by around 25 million for the next three months. And so thankfully because of a resolution that we had adopted here, but also because we reached out to the White House, reached out to Congress, we were able to alert of this so it wouldn't fall through the cracks, and we were able to get the money into the approved continuing resolution.

Male: So, these are just some highlights of the work that we have been doing this year. And so with that, I conclude my report, but I just want to say one last thing. The last two years, it has been such a pleasure for me as executive director, I speak on behalf of the entire staff, and I think of our leadership here, to work with Senator Nellie Pou as our president.

Male: As you know, our prior president, Senator Ivey-Soto, had the misfortune of his presidency coinciding with the pandemic, and so his presidency was fully virtual. But he made sure and provided the leadership to continue growing the organization even during those difficult times, so I want to recognize that of Senator Ivey-Soto.

Male: But then when Senator Pou came in, it was switched dramatically, going from fully virtual to fully in person, and thanks to her leadership, we have held really successful meetings, and we have grown our membership. She prioritized growing the legislative membership. She has also helped lead the way so that we grow our members of our corporate roundtable, our Board of Business Advisors now is about 55 in its membership, mostly Fortune 100 companies, and I would say I think we have even Fortune 20 companies, 7 of them are now in our board, and a lot of that is thanks to Senator Pou's leadership.

And I just want to say it has been, Senator, such a joy to work with you. I feel you have been a great mentor. You have provided me as executive director with guidance throughout the last two years. I've heard every little detail and made sure that we were really prioritizing the issues that you wanted to prioritize during your leadership. I really enjoyed oftentimes the weekend calls. I would always say I know how busy you are in New Jersey, we can talk over the weekend, it doesn't matter. And so I really admire you. I appreciate you even more than I did when you stepped into this role. And I just want to say that you leave a great legacy, and you leave a stronger organization than ever before. So, thank you, Senator. Really appreciate it from the bottom of my heart.

President: Okay. Okay, that was definitely not expected. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for your very kind words and thank you to all of you. Okay, let's continue. So, give me a second.

Male: We don't have the slide up there. No, right?

President: So, we don't have our treasurer with us at this moment, so Kenneth is going to provide us with the treasurer's report. Is that going to be...

Male: Yeah.

President: Okay. Kenneth'll provide us with that, and we have really a good report to share with you, so I'm really very happy about this.

Male: Yeah. I'm really sorry that it's not being projected on screen.

President: Wait. Why not? Can...

Male: No, it...

Male: Yeah. Do you have it?

President: Wait, wait...

Male: Give me one second.

Male: So, just wanted to share some highlights on where we are financially as an organization, and I'm doing this on behalf of Representative Patricia Roybal Caballero who's our treasurer, but unfortunately wasn't able to join us for this meeting in particular, so I'm happy to report on her behalf. So, as you see from 2021 to 2022 when we last met as an annual meeting, the total assets for NHCSL stand right now at \$2,249,349. We concluded 2022 with a cash reserve of \$1.9 million, which covers above and beyond the one year of operation expenses that we are required to have under our bylaws. A very strong balance sheet with no outstanding account receivables and a great cash reserve. Next slide, please. You can see there... Next slide, please. There you can see the five-year income statement comparison. We concluded year 2022 with a net surplus of \$747,281. Next slide, please. Here you can see the same. In the left-hand column, you'll see where we ended in 2022 and where we are as of October 31st. Our year-to-date balance is \$2.547 million. Next slide, please. And then our income statement year-to-date 2023, total revenues so far are \$1.924 million, with total expenses of 1.2 million, and with a net surplus again as of October 31st of this year of \$720,000. So, yeah, that's it. Thank you.

President: Thank you, Guillermo for...

Male: Kenneth.

President: I'm sorry. Thank you, Kenneth. Thank you, Kenneth, for your report. I really appreciate it. Okay, at this time I'd like to call upon our delegate, Elizabeth Guzmán, our vice president for policy, and she is going to conduct and go through all of our resolutions. So, Madam Delegate Guzmán?

Female: Thank you, Madam President. Good morning, everyone. Elizabeth Guzmán from Virginia. We're going to have a two-part presentation here. First we're going to go through the consent agenda. You will notice that the consent agenda is listed in this agenda but also on the application. That means that if nobody objects, those resolutions listed under this consent agenda will be deemed ratified, and I will now read the titles. 2023-01, Publish compensation range for job openings, sponsor Senator Rebecca

Saldaña from Washington. It was assigned to the task force labor and workforce development. Senator Omar Aquino, the chair from Illinois.

Then the second one is 2023-03, Help student loan borrowers become homeowners by consolidating balances with home mortgages. The sponsor was Representative Arturo Alonso-Sandoval from Oklahoma, task force assigned was housing under the leadership of Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez from New Jersey. 2023-06, Automatic enrollment and streamlined renewal in Medicaid, the sponsor was Senator Gustavo Rivera from New York, task force assignment was on healthcare under the leadership of Alma Hernandez. The next one is 2023-08, Transitioning to a fair replacement for the gas tax, sponsored by my colleague from Virginia, Delegate Alfonso Lopez. It was assigned to the task force of government, social justice, and taxation where he is the chair.

The next one is 2023-10, Condemning and prohibiting the discriminatory book bans, sponsored by Senator Teresa Ruiz from New Jersey. It was assigned to the task force of education, media, and culture under the leadership of Assemblywoman Selena Torres from Nevada. 2023-11, Repeal Florida SB 1718 legislation that criminalizes helping undocumented people, sponsored by our very own Senator Victor Torres from Florida. It was assigned to the task force of immigration under the leadership of Representative Louis Garcia from Kansas. Louis Ruiz, sorry, apologize. 2023-12, Calling for stricter short-term rental regulations to improve housing affordability, sponsors Representative Ángel Fourquet of Puerto Rico and Senator Anna Hernandez from Arizona. It was assigned to the task force of housing under the leadership of Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez from New Jersey.

2023-13, Support for the Greenhouse Reduction Fund, the sponsor was our president-elect Representative Angela Romero from Utah. It was assigned to the task force energy, infrastructure, and environment under the leadership of Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia from California. 2023-16, Obesity and Medicaid, removing barriers for our most vulnerable populations, the sponsors were Representative Rafael Anchía of Texas and Representative Marcelino Quinonez from Arizona. It was assigned to the task force of healthcare under the leadership of Representative Alma Hernandez from Arizona. Is there any objection to that consent agenda? Yes. We recognize Representative Ruiz from Kansas.

Male: Madam Chair, not an objection, but if time is appropriate I'd like to move the slate of resolutions for approval.

Female: All right. Is there a second?

Male: Second.

Female: Okay. So, the resolutions are ratified. Thank you, Representative Ruiz. So, now we're going to go into the discussion from the resolutions that are going to be present to the

members today. First, we're going to start with 2023-02, Combatting wage theft with particular emphasis in the construction industry. I will call on Senator Cristina Castro from Illinois and the sponsor Representative María Pérez from New Hampshire.

Female: Thank you, Madam Chair. This resolution deals with a piece of legislation that I passed that tackles wage theft in our states, and one of the things, the relation to this, it gave workers a better opportunity to challenge and to get back wages that were stolen. As soon as this bill was passed, the Illinois attorney general sued, and Rivian had to pay back wages that they had stolen and not provided to Mexican subcontractors. So, this law is another tool that our workers have to combat wage theft, especially in the construction industry.

Female: Okay. Do we have any questions for the patron?

Female: May I?

Female: María, Representative from New Hampshire.

Female: Thank you so much for allowing me to speak. This resolution is very critical, especially when we see more and more it's happening to our communities, people not getting paid for what they work for. I think we need this resolution because our people is the one more vulnerable, and then we see it happening now in a lot of companies in New Hampshire and especially... This is very sad but it's the reality. Most of the companies that are getting complaints, filed complaints against them, they're Latino-owned companies doing that to our own communities. So, it's very sad but that's the reality that is happening in New Hampshire.

Female: Thank you, Representative. Any additional questions? Okay, being none, do I hear a motion to ratify the resolution?

Male: So moved.

Female: The resolution is being moved by Senator Maria Teresa Ruiz from New Jersey and seconded by Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez from New Jersey. Thank you. Is there any objection? Being none, the resolution is ratified. Next, 2023-04, Support and improve required transition counseling for service members of color, sponsor Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez from New Jersey.

Female: Thank you, Representative. Yes, this resolution is actually... Those who served prior to 2011 know that there was no program whatsoever to transition from the military life into the civilian life. In 2011 and then in 2019, there was a program created and expanded to provide training to our service member to have an easy transition from the military life to the civilian life. But unfortunately, despite of minority being high in participation in the Gulf War era, our veterans have the highest rate of unemployment

when it comes to veterans. To be exact, minority veterans have 44% higher risk of unemployment than non-minority veterans. That's why programs like TAP are crucial and necessary to help our veterans. That is why I want to applaud and call on the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Labor, and Veterans Affairs to include strategies to fix and help minorities and eliminate and overcome racial discrimination when they're doing this transition from the military life to the civilian life. So, I ask and I plead all my members in here and my colleagues in here to please support this piece of resolution so we can help our veterans who served our country. And those who served, can you please stand up to be recognized?

Female: Thank you.

Female: Thank you, Senator. And I was saving my remarks for later, but I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for educating us as the struggles not only veterans, Latino veterans, but their military spouses and children, and the trauma that they go through as they serve this country. So, I'm going to walk away from this room with a wealth of knowledge and it's because of you and your leadership. Thank you for your service.

Female: Do we have any questions for the patron? Okay. Do I hear a motion to ratify the resolution? Have a motion, Senator Torres from Georgia.

Male: I just want to make a comment, Madam Chair. As a veteran, I stand here and I'm supporting this 100%, and as a member in my state to the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, the dialogue has changed in Florida for supporting our military personnel and our families as well. And it's most important that we do this across the country because many of these young men and women are coming back from many tours of duty overseas in combat situations, and we need to support their families, who they suffer just as much as the veteran does in those situations. So, thank you for this resolution. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Female: Thank you, Senator Torres and for those who... I mean the last six years, I have gotten to know more Senator Torres and his family, family of service to this country, and he is not only a veteran, but he has also joined law enforcement in New York. So, thank you for your leadership and also for educating us in those topics that sometimes are so difficult for us to understand. And the transition and the relationship that needs to be built in between our community and law enforcement. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you as well, Senator Torres. All right. Do we have any questions for the patron? Being none, do I hear a motion to ratify the resolution?

Male: Representative Reyes from Connecticut approves the resolution.

Female: Okay, it's...

Female: Second.

Female: By Representative Menz from Oklahoma. So, is there any objection? Being none, the resolution is ratified.

Female: 2023-09, it's my resolution, and it's calling for community schools. And I have amendments to present to you. Those amendments are live on the application. Those amendments are due to the fact that this week, exciting news, we have Department of Education announced nearly 74 million in new five-year full service community schools grants to support an additional 30 local educational agencies, non-profits, and other public or private organizations and institutions of higher education, working to expand community schools including by making awards in four new states – Idaho, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Ohio. So, I would like to move those amendments, Madam President.

President: Absolutely.

Female: Great. They are moved by a representative from Florida, do I hear a second?

Female: Second.

Female: All right, thank you. Those amendments and move. So, we'll present that...

Female: Thank you, yes.

Female: Is there any objections to the amendments? I would like to recognize the representative from Florida.

Female: Thank you very much, it's Representative Valdés. I just wanted to comment on the community schools concept. It is extremely valuable to our communities where they have the wraparound services, so this is something that hopefully we should be able to mimic around the nation because it really does a lot of great to our communities. So, glad to support it.

Female: Thank you, Senator Valdés. Yes, Representative Maria from New Hampshire.

Female: With all my respect, I would like to speak against this resolution. In the state of New Hampshire, we see more and more money taken away from the public school systems. We are here to support the public school, the public education.

Female: If the parents decided to send kids to private school or any kind of other school, they have the right to do it, but for me, it's my job and my duty to keep supporting the public school education. Thank you.

Female: Thank you, Representative from New Hampshire. I would like just to address her comments that community schools are not private schools. I apologize for the misunderstanding. It's actually enhancing our public schools, providing social services together with our schools because we have seen during the pandemic the lack of access, not only to healthcare but support systems for our children in order to succeed. And that on top of the lunch shaming and chronic absenteeism in the schools, it's something that I will wholeheartedly support. Yes, over there in the back. I can't see from here, so go ahead, you are recognized in the corner.

Female: Representative from Michigan, community schools are different than charter schools?

Female: Yes.

Female: Thank you.

Female: Thank you. Yes, Representative Valdés from Florida.

Female: Thank you very much. And I really can speak to this because I was a previous school board member in Hillsborough County Public Schools for 14 years before hashtag From the Schoolhouse to the Statehouse. And I challenge you to look up an elementary school in Hillsborough County Public Schools called Mort Elementary. Mort Elementary School is a very, very poor little school who has a very large migrant population hailing from Mexico. So, this particular school has had such a major turnaround with affording... And it is a traditional public school. It is not a charter school. It is not a voucher school. These programs when they are created, they go specifically to support our traditional public schools. It's you have health clinics coming in, you have social workers coming in, you have business communities coming in and pouring resources into these children. I commend you for bringing this resolution forward in this policy because it is good for our children. It gives our children the tools necessary in order to succeed in a time in which our children are not...

Female: ...expected to succeed. So, I commend you and I can't wait to support this resolution even more so.

Female: Thank you, Representative Valdés. I will go to New Mexico on the back and...

Female: Representative...

Female: Representative Lujan from New Mexico.

Female: Thank you. I'd just like to clarify some things on the topic. The model of a community school is absolutely what is pertinent in this resolution that we're looking at. Community schools are of the utmost value that we need, however they can be either modeled in our public school systems, but they also can be charter schools. So, I want to be very

clear about that. And to the point of the first speaker that spoke against this resolution, I too am here to stand in full support of our public school system, and to really curb what is happening in our charter schools because they are creating a parity within our public school systems. But when we implement a community school based model in our public schools, then we do have the opportunity to make those differences and changes that are so well needed. So, maybe there's some other intention or some other language that needs to be implemented I'm not sure of, but I do support community schools in our public school system. Thank you.

Female: Thank you. Then I'll recognize Senator Castro.

Female: Delegate Guzmán, and I think this is important to understand, when you look at the resolution, it's very clear what it supports, but also our friends in labor support this. You have the American Federation of Teachers, I don't know if Cesar is still here. You have... Oh, you have the National Education Association and the Coalition for Schools and other coalition partners have called for funding for 25,000 community schools by 2025. This is not a resolution supporting charter schools. I would encourage my colleagues here to please pull up the modified resolution and read it very carefully. But to what some of my other colleagues have talked about, these are very important initiatives, especially for communities of color. So, I commend the delegate for very thoughtfully and carefully looking at ways to improve this resolution, but again, I want to make it clear this is not a resolution to support charter schools. Thank you.

Female: Thank you, Senator Castro. I will recognize Senator Escamilla in the back.

Male: Yeah. yes.

Female: Senator Escamilla from Utah, and this is beautiful. Thank you for community schooling. The only... It's an issue of semantics, guys. Every state defines their education in a different way. So, where it's a little bit blurry, in the state of Utah when you say community schools will apply to all public schools including charter schools. And I think that's some of the issues that have been raised. So, if we just specify that it's only the public schools non-charter schools. Because in Utah, it applies to every single charter school as well. Just the way we define public education.

So, I think the intent is great. I love the language. I love what it does. If we are going to be very specific, keep in mind your state defines your public education system different from Utah, that it will be defined in Rhode Island or New Mexico. That's why we're getting all caught up on this logistical piece of semantics because we define public ed differently. So, just a point of clarification. Everything else on community schooling and what it comes with, and supporting and social determinants of health is amazing. Just keep in mind, in our state, if we put resolution, a bill like this, it will cover all charter schools, which there are some concerns that I think we all agree on some of the charter schools with kids or communities of color. Just side information there.

Female: Thank you. All right. Thank you, Senator. I will recognize now Delegate Torres from Maryland.

Male: Taveras.

Female: Taveras, sorry.

Female: I just want to call the question.

Female: Thank you. If I can hear you better. Let me put on my glasses. Hello?

Female: It's dead. Grab another one.

Female: Hello?

Female: Okay. So, I'm putting on my glasses so I can hear you better, thank you. So, Delegate Deni Taveras from Maryland, and I am present for the record. Thank you to the representative from Utah for clarifying the definition of how it's being applied in other states because I do think we may be coming into the table with a more preconceived notion of how it's being applied in our personal jurisdictions. With that said, I would like to make a note that this is a concept that was started in New York under the Harlem school zone, and it is for the purpose to provide wraparound services exclusively to Title I schools within the public school jurisdiction. And I understand the nuance of maybe some purple areas that may want to spin this in another way. With that regard, I would like to propose an amendment to ensure that this resolution is amended to include or to restrict these funds to exclusive public school education. With that said, thank you. This is just a friendly amendment.

Female: Thank you, Delegate. I would like to recognize Delegate Peña-Melnyk from Maryland.

Female: Thank you. I was going to say something similar. That this is basically a model, a model that is proven to work, especially in our communities of color. And it's a model that can be used in many schools. And the community school concept has been embraced by single schools, entire school district, counties, and in one case an entire state, Kentucky. And it works. Especially in our communities of color because they have wraparound services. They look at the whole family. They look at the agencies around the community, local providers to make sure that that child is looked at in a holistic way, the entire child.

Female: Thank you.

Female: Thank you, Delegate. I would like to recognize Senator Teresa Ruiz from New Jersey.

Female: Thank you. I guess we're in tandem today, going back and forth with how we're thinking. I just want to remind all my colleagues in the room that while this is just, it's an ideology, when in fact we look to adopt it for our own states, we can fine tune it as we wish. We should be primarily focused on the fact that if you look at your state's data, our children are not reading in this country at grade level. So, anything that's going to lift up any Latino child to reach their God-given potential from a larger scope, we should be focusing on that to elevate the communities of color. However it looks like in our own respective states is up to our own delegations to fine tune, when in fact we're going to take the baton of the kind of the national agenda and apply it.

We're getting caught in these areas where I think perhaps for future conferences, we should really hyper focus on. There are issues across the board when it comes to education in specific areas. They're unique and different to municipalities, counties, and states. But let's focus on lifting up every Latino child as opposed to getting caught in crosshairs here. Community schools are exactly that. Wraparound services poured into a sector where perhaps there's a single head of household that does not have access to healthcare, food, aftercare, and summer enrichment programs.

Female: Thank you, Senator. I would like to recognize Celina Villanueva.

Female: That's Senator Celina Villanueva.

Female: Senator.

Female: Number one, I think there was a miscommunication in terms of the presentation of the resolution, that I think has been fixed. Number two, I'd like to call the question on the resolution.

Male: So moved.

Female: So moved.

Female: Second.

Female: Second.

Female: Thank you.

Female: All right, is there a motion to... I first would like to address a representative from New Hampshire, that she believe that her concerns have been addressed.

Female: Are we addressing the amendment?

Female: No, we are...

Female: Question has been called and I'm going to

Male: Question's called.

Female: Oh, question is called, okay.

Female: Are we addressing the amendment?

Female: So, are there any...

Female: We're going to... No. Are there any objections to the motion to call the questions? Being none.

Female: I believe once the question has been called and seconded, the question needs to be called.

Female: That's right.

Female: We need to move on the amendment.

Male: The question is on the amendment.

Female: Yeah.

Female: No, you can't do the amendments. We...

Male: Wait.

Female: The question was called.

Female: ...was called.

Female: ...amendment.

Male: Yes. The question is on the amendments.

Female: Can someone clarify what asking a question means?

Female: That's to call a vote on the amendment.

Female: So, just...

Female: Thank you.

Female: ...parliamentarily, we did pass amendments. We were explaining the resolutions. No.

Female: If we can just get your attention please. There's a question on the floor and we just need to clarify that. We're going to get through this. I'm going to ask Guillermo to, along with our chairwoman, to just be the only speakers right now for the purpose of clarifying any questions, that a question that's on the floor at the moment. So, let's get through this so that we can then move on to the vote. Okay. Are you ready? Okay. Let's go.

Female: So do I...

Male: The question is on the amendment.

Female: Okay. So, then we reject... Do we...

Male: No, no. The question is on the amended version.

Female: On the amendment version, okay.

Male: Is there objection to the amended version, to the...

Female: Is there an objection to the amended version of the resolution?

Male: No, no. Okay, so let's take a vote. there being an objection, we're going to do... We're going to vote.

Female: vote.

Male: We're going to vote on the amended version, on the amended...

Female: Okay.

Female: ...procedure.

Male: Right.

Male: Right. Right. So...

Male: So, what's going on is this. The question has been moved. And when it was moved, what is being moved is whether we adopt the amended version, to then adopt... If we adopt that, to then adopt the full resolution. So, we are... The question is on the amendments. There has been an objection so we're going to take a vote on that. So, the yeas and nays.

Female: Okay. So, we're going to call for yeas and nays on the amendments of the resolution.

Female: Can we understand what the amendment is? People don't understand what the amendment is.

Male: Yes. Yes. Yes. The amended version, the proposed amendments are on the app the same place where the resolution is.

Female: I proposed one.

Male: No, no. That... No.

Female: No, no. She called...

Female: We didn't...

Female: ...question.

Female: I already proposed it before she called the question.

Female: Yeah, she did. And we never addressed it.

Female: But you didn't have a second.

Male: Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait...

Female: You didn't have a second on the amendment. You have to have a second on your friendly amendment. No one seconded it.

Male: Right. The question is on the amended... Where we adopt the amendments that are on the website, under the... It says Proposed Amendments, that version, whether we are going to substitute that text for the text that was in the original resolution that the executive committee elevated to us. So, it's are we going to adopt the amendments on the right of the screen?

Female: The left.

Male: On the right. This is the right.

Female: Correct, yes.

Female: All right.

Male: Okay.

Male: Yes. Okay.

Female: They didn't second the amendment...

Female: The amendment is dead.

Male: No, no, no, no.

Female: Okay. I'm sorry. Guys, hold on, hold on. Okay, please. There's only one amendment right now that we're dealing with. It's the amendment that you see on the screen to your right and your screen to your left. That's the amendment that was approved by the executive committee that took action. What occurred here, and I'm not going to belabor the issue, but what occurred here was before that amendment was shown on the screen, there was an amendment from the floor that was never second, and that is a different amendment to what we are going to vote on. The question was asked for a... The question... And was not only... A motion was made to call the question, which means it stops the conversation, which that was second, and now we are about to vote on the amendment that you see on the right and on the left. That's it. That's part of the way the procedure goes according to our parliamentary procedure. So, let's do the roll call on the question on the amendment on the motion to approve, or any objection to approve the amendments on the right and on the left. And if there's any objections, your objections will be so recorded, but then we will have a full... We'll have it carried one way or the other. So, please, Madam Chair, let's call for a vote.

Male: The vote. All in favor of the...

Female: Okay. All in favor of the amendments of the resolution.

Multiple: Aye.

Female: Any opposed? Okay, being none...

Female: All right.

Female: The ayes have it.

Female: Okay. So, now we're going to address... The motion carries. Now we are going to address the amendment suggested.

Female: Okay, one more... Just we're almost done, guys. We're almost done. Let's just get through this.

Female: Okay.

Male: Are there any other... Wait...

Female: No, we're going to address the amendment for...

Male: Right, right. Yes.

Female: Delegate Taveras from Maryland. I found a place where we can insert on line two, replace local, and insert public.

Male: Or we can just put local.

Female: Allowing, so which will read, community schools are comprehensive asset and needs assessments and coordinated plans allowing public schools and communities to form partnerships in education process by providing educational, recreational, social, and cultural services for all people in that community. So, we understand...

Female: Madam Chair?

Female: ...so there will be just on line two, replacing local by public.

Male: Is that...

Female: Is that your motion?

Female: Point of order.

Female: Yes, ma'am.

Female: Point of order.

Female: Point of order.

Female: Yes. Yes.

Female: I need, Representative Valdés from Florida District 64. We just voted on accepting this particular resolution that was here. Her motion should have been done before we voted on this because it's amending. It is amending what is being proposed. Now if you add this, this is what we approved right here. To go back now and amend, it's wrong. That's not Robert's Rules of Orders, my friends.

Female: Can you...

Female: No. No. Point of order.

Female: Thank you, just one second.

Female: We already

Female: You don't know.

Male: Just

Female: Hello?

Female: Where's the parliamentarian?

Female: Delegate from Maryland, Peña-Melnyk.

Female: Thank you. Joseline Peña-Melnyk from Maryland. May I have just a minute please? The motion that was made by my colleague from Maryland was not second. It failed. There was a second motion made that called the question that was second, and we voted on.

Female: Correct.

Female: Then we voted on the resolution that we have here. This is it.

Female: Correct. So, that's fine.

Female: You can't open it again. It's done.

Female: That's why talking about the amendment...

Female: Hello?

Female: ...that didn't have a second has no...

Male: Oh, my God.

Female: ..place in this conversation.

Male: Madam President.

Female: Because if I may, I have the floor, if I may, one second. My colleague who I love and respect did not get a second, her motion failed. We moved on. We moved on and we voted when it was called, the question was called. We voted on that. And then we voted. It was very clear that we were voting on the left and the right, and we knew what we were voting on when we took the vote.

Female: All right. I'm going to... It's been voted on; we're moving on to our next...

Female: Can I ask a question before we continue?

Female: Is it on this issue?

Female: Because we're over this issue.

Female: Yes. Do we have a parliamentarian here? Who is Soto? He's not the parliamentarian?

Female: No.

Male: No.

Female: I'm sorry, but we have various members on this committee that fully understands what the Robert's Rules of Order is or what it is, so...

Female: With all due respect, you don't see it like that.

Female: No, that... And the reason why that may be the case, Representative, the reason why that is happening is because we want to be respectful to everyone that has a comment and everyone that wants to make a statement, which is what we've done. But the fact that what I described before, we're still continuing to belabor the issue. I mentioned it very carefully before and slowly, so everyone would know what we were finally voting on. And you all voted on it. So, it's not that we don't know what we're doing. It's just that there's been constant communication back and forth. So, we want to be able to move on to our next so that we can get through this process.

Female: Okay. So, all right.

Female: Madam Chair, if you would please.

Female: Okay. To wrap up that issue, we're going to move into the next resolution.

Female: We have to vote on the amended version. We have to vote on the amended version.

Female: Okay.

Male: Everybody's saying... You see?

Female: And you're losing my vote because...

Female: I don't know what...

Female: ...say it louder, honey.

Female: We voted on the amendments. We need to vote on the resolution...

Female: On the resolution.

Female: ...as amended.

Female: Yes, yes, yes.

Female: Correct.

Female: So, I will move to expedite this, I will move the resolution as amended for a vote.

Female: Second.

Female: Is there any objection?

Female: I'm not going to do that, everyone's upset already.

Female: Okay, there being none...

Male: Okay, that's it.

Female: ...vote on the amendment.

Female: The resolution is ratified.

Male: Okay.

Female: No, no. We have to vote aye, nay, or abstain because I'm not voting anymore on this bill.

Female: Wait. Delegate Guzmán, we have to move. I made a motion because we moved the amendment.

Female: We need to move the full resolution as amended. So, I move that we move this resolution as amended.

Female: And it's been properly second.

Female: And it has been properly seconded.

Female: So go.

Female: It's been second.

Female: Now we're going to just vote on the full resolution. So, call for anyone in favor and then ask to make sure that is there anyone who opposes the bill so that we can let the record reflect what the actual vote is. If you would please do that.

Female: Okay. So, those in support of the resolution would say yea.

Multiple: Yea.

Female: Those in opposition would say nay.

Female: Nay.

Female: There is one nay.

Male: From Senator Sally Gonzales

Female: Anyone else?

Female: I abstain.

Female: And any abstentions?

Female: And in explaining on my abstention, I feel that given that this is such a powerful organization, the implications of what we do can reverberate nationally. So, given the fact that there are states here that are shaky on the public-private issue, I think we need to be sensitive to that moving forward. Thank you. And with that, I abstain.

Female: Thank you.

Female: Thank you so very much.

Male: Abstention from Delegate...

Female: Abstention from Delegate Taveras. The yeas have...who...

Male: And...

Female: You already said.

Male: ...a nay from Sally Gonzalez.

Female: A nay from Sally Gonzalez. The yeas have it. The resolution is ratified.

Female: Okay.

Male: There we are.

Female: 2023-04, Support and improve required transition counseling for service members of color.

Male: We already did that.

Female: Oh, we already did that.

Male: This here.

Female: Reforming the section 340B. No, we have not...

Male: Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.

Female: Okay, okay. Reforming the section 340B Drug Affordability Program to ensure its rebates accompany the patient, Representative Louis Ruiz from Kansas.

Male: Yes.

Male: Thank you, Madam Chair. May I yield just briefly to the vice chair of the health department...health task force, please?

Female: Who's...

Male: No, don't worry.

Male: If you're referring to me, sir, I do not run a health department.

Male: You should, my friend.

Male: No, I believe, Madam Chair, that my colleague wanted to actually comment on this particular resolution. And I know that there was a part of the resolution that there was a conversation about potentially having... There was a part of the resolution that was there was a conversation about it being stricken. It does not change the core of the resolution. It just, if I'm not mistaken, towards the end there, if you move up a little... I'm not sure who's controlling the screen thingamajig but... There you go. That long whereas right there which specifies some policy prescriptions to resolve this issue, I believe there was one of our sponsors who suggested that this part be stricken. It does not change the core of the resolution but that was the suggestion that came. But I know

my colleague wanted to comment on this as well. But again, I run no health departments. I fund them. Don't run them.

Female: Thank you Representative.

Male: Senator.

Female: Senator. So we have an amendment that is...

Male: Let him speak.

Female: Yeah, but I just... Hold on. Geez. So, this is presented now. We have not seen this before, just to be clear, so we don't get trapped in the process. This is brand new, I propose. Representative Ruiz.

Male: Thank you, Madam Chair. And as you look at the number 2023-14, I'll refer you to the first whereas. Whereas in 1992 Congress enacted section 340B under the Public Health Service Act to give relief to those from high drug costs and safety net providers with the understanding that these lower costs would benefit the patient in need. And the drug program was created with the intention that hospitals would reinvest the windfalls into facilities, improving care for poor patients. But Bon Secours founded by Roman Catholic nuns more than a century ago has been slashing services at Richmond Community while investing in the city's wealthier white neighborhoods according to more than 20 former executive doctors and nurses. Bon Secours was basically laundering money through its poor hospitals to its wealthy outposts.

So, what this resolution would do was bring the money back from the federal government to follow the patients to help them, develop and benefit for their healthcare, and not benefit the rich hospitals that this money was funneled to and laundered through. So, with that, Madam Chair, I don't know how we're going to do... This is the first time I've seen that whereas that wants to be stricken. If somebody's bringing an amendment to strike that, I have no idea. If not, I'll move the resolution as presented and call for the question.

Female: You taking the amendment.

Male: No, no. Is there... Okay, there's no... It hasn't been seconded.

Male: I second.

Female: Okay. Do I hear a motion to ratify the resolution?

Male: Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait.

Male: It's been moved. I moved it.

Female: You move it. Do we have a second?

Male: Second a motion.

Male: ...oppose that.

Female: Okay. Is there any objection?

Female: I object. I guess I'm just confused. So, are you proposing to strike lines 47 through 64?

Female: No.

Male: I have not seen the amendment so I'm moving the resolution as presented.

Female: And it hasn't been seconded so we'll have to move on.

Female: I guess I wanted to have discussion, so I was going to ask if I can move to strike lines 47 through 64, which was raised by our good colleague from New York, and don't we have to have a discussion about that? I'm just following the rules I follow in my home state.

Male: Well, if I may, Madam Chair.

Female: Yes, Representative.

Male: As the formal process of presenting an amendment as was in the past, I saw, as the presenter of this resolution, I saw no amendment being proposed, just what I heard today. So, unless there was a formal motion to remove that section formally, I'll pull back, withdraw my motion, and then we can move on the amendment proposal.

Female: That would be great.

Male: Madam Chair, if I may be recognized for a second. So, just to clarify this point. There was a part of the statement that my colleague just made that referred to something that is very specific to a state which I know nothing about, and I certainly don't want to question it at all. The program, this would be a resolution that refers to supporting the program overall and trying to fix it. It's actually something that we've been fighting in the state of New York since...at least in the state of New York, there has definitely been a lot of things that hospitals and other healthcare institutions around the state have used this money for that actually benefits very vulnerable populations around the state of New York. I believe deeply in protecting this program, and I have fought with the executive many, many years to actually get it right.

This particular, line 47 through line 64, are a list, which it is a long list but is not necessarily a comprehensive list of all the different policy ways that we could actually fix the problem. Now it is my understanding that one of our sponsors suggested that because it was not a comprehensive list of all the different ways that this could be fixed, that that particular part be excised. It does not mean that it is not...particularly since it is not necessarily a comprehensive list, there could be an understanding that the organization supports only these policy prescriptions, and does not propose or support other ones, etc., etc. To facilitate... I'm sorry, not to... To clarify that at this particular moment, the organization is not taking a position on a particular policy prescription, then that is the reason why it was suggested that this be excised.

Since it had not been proposed before, since I realized, since we had all this discussion about Rules of Orders, etc., I propose a motion to excise lines 47 to 64 with the explanation as I gave, not that... In this case because it is not a comprehensive list of the policy solutions, that it be excised so as not to give the impression that this organization supports only this list that is currently here. So, that is the motion that I present, to excise 47 to 64.

Female: May I be heard?

Female: I need some... Do I...

Male: She seconded by...

Male: And I believe there was a second over here.

Female: It's seconded?

Female: It's second. It needs to be...

Female: It's seconded, all right.

Female: To speak on...

Female: So, is there any objection?

Female: Yes. Can I...

Female: Yes, may I?

Female: Okay. Delegate Peña-Melnyk from Maryland.

Female: And I thank my colleague for his argument, and I respect it, however I would put in front of this body that it reads as follow: Whereas several policy actions have been proposed

to reform 340B into a program that supports safety net providers in providing for low-income individuals such as...

Female: Such as.

Female: ...such as, which means an example of, is not limiting or mandating that these be the only ones. So, I will argue that this at least gives you some examples of such policies, but it leaves it open for others. And if you read those policies that are in there, they're really protective of the community.

Male: Without a doubt.

Female: 100%, there's nothing negative. And I will say that the wording "such as" is an example of, not mandatory, not limiting, and therefore I object to the motion.

Female: Thank you, Delegate. I would recognize Senator Castro from Illinois.

Female: Would it make you comfortable... She explains "such as but not limited to" if we added that to that sentence, would that work?

Male: I would say that in.. So, I guess since we had the discussion earlier that dealt with like everything was kind of up in the air as far as process, I believe that there has been a motion that has been presented. There has been a second. There's somebody certainly that's voting in opposition of it, which I certainly respect. But I believe that the question should be called as far as the motion is concerned.

Female: Okay.

Male: That somebody has expressed their opposition, which again, I certainly respect, but I believe that we need to... If I'm...

Female: Yeah.

Male: I don't know its process as much as some other folks might, so I believe there's a vote that's necessary on the motion, which to excise this part, right?

Female: All right. Thank you. No, that's fine. So, it's been seconded. We are going to anyone else would like to be recognized.

Female: Yes. Senator Ivey-Soto. On that amendment?

Male: Yeah. This is specifically on the amendment. I would just point out that lines 47 through 64 are under the whereas clauses, not under the therefore be it resolved. A whereas clause is informational, therefore be it resolved is the action we're taking. There is

actually because it's under the whereas clause, that is not an endorsement that these are what should happen. This is informational about what could happen. And consequently, if somebody's trying to figure out, somebody picks up this resolution, is trying to figure out what they could do, and they want some ideas, having this list in the whereas clauses, which is informational, I think is helpful. And therefore, respectfully, I will be joining Delegate Peña-Melnyk in opposing the motion to amend.

Female: Thank you, Senator. So, the amendment has been presented and been seconded. All of those who are in favor of the amendment would say yea.

Multiple: Yea.

Female: So, could you raise your hand so we can count? Okay, those in opposition... Oh, two more. Those in oppo... Eight. Nay too? You want to be recognized as nay? Okay. So, one more time. All those in opposition, please raise your hand to say nay. Those in opposing. Okay, the nays have it. All right. So, now the amendment has been rejected, so now we are going to have a motion on the resolution.

Male: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, I renew my motion.

Female: Yes?

Female: Now that that has failed...

Female: Yeah, we're going to...

Male: Excuse me.

Female: ...move on the resolution.

Female: But I want to make an amendment.

Female: Oh, okay.

Female: And I'm going to make it very clear, such as, so we're going back to the whereas, right? But not limited to. Just add the words "but not limited to." Would that satisfy my friends from New York?

Male: Second.

Female: Second.

Female: Okay.

Male: He has to accept that.

Male: No, he doesn't.

Female: No, he doesn't.

Female: Second amendment of amendment...

Female: All right. So, we have a second.

Female: Second, okay. Is there any objections to the amendment proposed by Senator Castro? Okay, being none the amendments are taken. So, now do I have... Yes. A mo...

Male: Madam Chair, if it's appropriate, I would make the motion we pass this resolution...

Female: Okay, Sen... As amended.

Male: I was getting to that, my friend, as amended for passage.

Female: Second.

Female: Second.

Female: Okay. That resolution has been seconded. Is there any objection? Being none, the resolution is ratified. Okay. Final, 2023-15, Educating and easing the burden of period poverty, sponsors Assemblywoman Gabriella Mosquera from New Jersey, Representative Alma Hernandez from Arizona, Representative Consuelo Hernandez from Arizona, Assemblywoman Jessica González-Rojas from New York, Delegate Aijalon Cordoza from Virginia, Representative Maria Perez from New Hampshire, Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self from Washington, Representative Marcelino Quiñonez, Arizona, and Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk from Maryland, who would like to present this resolution. Okay, Assemblywoman from New Jersey.

Male: New York.

Female: New York. New York.

Male: Yeah, yeah.

Female: Sorry. Can I move this over? Okay.

Female: All right. Thank you so much. I want to commend

Male: Just hit the button.

Female: No, no, no.

Male: They're wireless.

Female: All right. We're doing great here. Okay. Thank you so much. I want to recognize the other sponsors of this bill. Thank you. So, period poverty is a concept around the lack of access to period products for any individual that menstruates. And the resolution is really informative, but the one line I think really underscores what this is, is acknowledging that period products are just as essential as toilet paper and soap in a bathroom. And it is women of color, it is low-income communities, it is people who are detained in detention centers, in prisons, jails, and other facilities that often don't have access to these products, and often use unhygienic products to use instead when they don't have access to period products.

So, this resolution calls on NHCSL to exempt menstrual hygiene products from sales tax, require and provide free high-quality menstrual hygiene products in schools, jails, detention centers, and prisons, and mandate holistic education around menstrual health for all students regardless of gender. So, it was initially introduced, and during our executive meeting, many of us were really inspired by this resolution and joined in support, hence the party of wonderful colleagues who joined on as sponsors of this resolution. Thank you so much.

Female: Thank you, Assemblywoman. Do I hear a motion to ratify the resolution?

Female: Moved.

Female: It's moo...

Female: Moved by Senator Valdés from Florida and seconded by Senator Ruiz from New Jersey. Is there any objection? There being none, the resolution is ratified. Thank you.

Female: No. That concludes my report, Madam President.

President: Well, thank you so very much, Madam Chair. That was quite an interesting portion of our meeting, right? So, we can tell because we're very passionate. Okay. Now for the last part of our item on the agenda and a very important part is our NHCSL leadership elections. So, I'm going to just begin by saying pursuant... And by the way, anyone who's going to vote, they need to be in the room. And I know that some of our members have left, so I'm just making a point of doing that.

Male: Yeah.

President: Yeah. Pursuant to the bylaws, all candidates had to send a statement of candidacy 45 days before the meeting began. We don't allow any nominations from the floor. The slate of candidates can be found in your micro site and all of the candidates except for Representative Neave from Texas is present in the room. Representative Neave.

Male: Neave.

President: Neave, Neave. She was here. She joined us yesterday but unfortunately she had to return to Texas today. All of the positions are uncontested. I want to begin by asking, do I hear a motion to deem the candidates elected?

Male: So moved.

Male: So moved.

Male: Moved by...

President: It's been moved by Delegate Taveras.

Female: Taveras.

President: Taveras. Thank you.

Male: Seconded by...

President: Second by...

Male: Valdés.

President: Representative Valdés from Florida. Do I have a motion to deem all the other candidates elected? Any opposed? I'm sorry, do I have an opposition? Oh, oh, I'm sorry.

Female: I'm voting aye.

President: No, no, no. Wait, wait, wait. I don't want anyone to have any questions. Seeing that there are no oppositions, I want to officially congratulate the new leadership.

President: You are officially elected.

Male: Before we call the meeting to adjourn, I have one point to raise.

President: Okay. Okay. You are all officially elected. Congratulations to each and every one of you.

President: All right. So, before we conclude and unless...before we adjourn, Kenneth Romero wants to make an announcement and share some comments.

Male: Just very quickly, I wanted to recognize the chair of our Board of Business Advisors, Jamie Oldani, and I'm going to ask her to introduce all of the BBA members that have been here supporting us throughout our summit. So, thank you, Jamie.

Female: Good morning. If we could start at the left end of the table, I'd like to have the BBA members introduce themselves. Please provide your name and the company you represent.

Male: Mr. Ortiz, BBA member, AbbVie.

Female: Good morning. Angela Manso, Natural Resources Defense Council.

Male: Paul Ordal with Masimo.

Female: Jamie Oldani, Eli Lilly.

Male: César Moreno Pérez with the American Federation of Teachers.

Female: Airika Brunson with American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers.

Female: Sonia Santana with Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Female: Ana Martinez with Meta.

Male: Yeah we couldn't hear, but it's Laura Castillo from the National Education Association. And Javier? Javier?

Female: Introduce yourself.

Male: Introduce yourself.

Male: Okay. It's noon. Good afternoon. Javier González, government affairs and public policy manager at Google.

Female: Melissa Bishop-Murphy with Pfizer.

Male: Any other member of our Board of Business Advisors that we didn't mention? I know that there's many others that have been attending throughout the summit but want to make sure that you're recognized here. Being none, Madam President.

President: Okay.

President: Thank you.

Male: Oh.

Female: Was there a question?

President: Did I see...

Male: Sorry, I missed it. Atiba Majine with Pfizer.

President: Thank you. Thank you.

President: So, Madam Chair I know that I mentioned you earlier when... So, I just want to publicly say thank you for serving as the chair of the BBA during my tenure. It's been a pleasure to work with you. Thank you.

Are there any other points to raise before I declare this annual meeting adjourn? And seeing none, I would like to make sure that each of us... I will certainly see each and every one of you tonight at Noche de Celebración. Meeting adjourned.