

State of Rhode Island

Journal of the Senate

JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Seventh day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Volume 152, No. 1

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

First Legislative Day

In accordance with Chapter 22-3-2 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Honorable Senate is called to order at 4:20 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable Dawn Euer, being the senior member, in continuous service from the City of Newport, on the first Tuesday in January, A.D.2025 (being the first Tuesday of the Month).

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the Motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate adjourns the previous year's session at 4:21 o'clock P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer at 4:22 o'clock P.M.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Honorable Dawn Euer asks that the members of the Senate have a Moment of Silence for *the 39th President of the United States, James Earl Carter, Jr.*

SPECIAL GUEST

The Honorable Senate appoints Senators Tikoian, Burke, Vargas, and Sosnowski to escort the Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State, to the rostrum.

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer presents the Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State.

SPECIAL GUEST

The Honorable Senate appoints Senators McKenney, Bissaillon, Urso, and Lauria to escort the Honorable Domenic A. DiSandro III, Chief Magistrate of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal, to the rostrum.

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer presents the Honorable Domenic A. DiSandro III, Chief Magistrate of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal, to the rostrum.

OATH

The Oath of Office is administered to the foregoing Senators-elect by the Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State.



January 7, 2025

To the Honorable Senate:

I, Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State, hereby certify the following list of members elected to the Senate in the General Assembly, in accordance with the certificate of election filed in this office by the Board of Elections on the twenty-second day of November 2024, as provided by Section 22-3-13 of the General Laws of 1956;

Jacob Ernest Bissaillon
Ana B. Quezada
Samuel David Zurier
Dominick Joseph Ruggerio
Samuel Wade Bell
Tiara TyShae Mack
Frank Anthony Ciccone, III
Lori Urso
John P. Burke
Walter S. Felag, Jr.
Linda Lee Ujifusa
Louis P. DiPalma
Dawn M. Euer
Valarie Jean Lawson
Meghan E. Kallman
Jonathon Acosta
Thomas Joseph Paolino
Robert Britto
Ryan W. Pearson

Brian Joseph Thompson
Gordon E. Rogers
David Peter Tikoian
Jessica de la Cruz
Melissa A. Murray
Andrew R. Dimitri
Todd M. Patalano
Hanna M. Gallo
Lamnis J. Vargas
Peter A. Appollonio, Jr.
Mark Philip McKenney
Matthew L. LaMountain
Pamela J. Lauria
Leonidas P. Raptakis
Elaine J. Morgan
Bridget G. Valverde
Alana M. DiMario
Virginia S. Sosnowski
Victoria Gu

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Rhode Island on this seventh day of January, A.D. 2025.


Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Received and ordered to be placed on file.

ROLL CALL

As provided in Article III of the Constitution, the roll of the Senate, pursuant to Law, is read by the Honorable Secretary of State as follows:

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 38 Senators present and 0 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT –38: Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Ruggerio, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

ABSENT – 0:

INVOCATION

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents the Reverend Dr. Chris Abhulime from the King's Tabernacle Church in Johnston to deliver the invocation.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents the North Providence Fire Department.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents Senate Majority Leader Lawson, to lead the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents North Providence Councilman Steven A. Loporchio to sing the National Anthem.

INTERIM RULES

Upon suggestion of Senate Majority Leader Lawson seconded by Senate Minority Leader de la Cruz the Senate will reinstate the 2023-2024 rules, pending the report of the rules committee and the adoption of a resolution embodying permanent rules for the 2025-2026 session,

Upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows the ruling of the chair is sustained as follows:

YEAS - 38: Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Ruggerio, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Senator DiPalma, seconded by Senator Felag, moves that the floor be open to nominations.

The motion to open nominations prevails on a voice vote.

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer declares that nominations for the office of President of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Murray nominates Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio. The nomination is seconded by Senator Britto.

Senator Raptakis, seconded by Senator Ciccone, moves that nominations be closed.

The motion to close nominations prevails on a voice vote.

The Honorable Senator Euer directs the Reading Clerk, to call the roll of the body.

The motion to elect Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio as President of the Senate is read and passed, upon a roll call vote with 26 Senators voting for Senator Ruggerio, 11 Senators voting present, and 1 Senator abstaining as follows:

RUGGERIO - 26: Senators Appollonio, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, Lawson, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Urso, Vargas and Zurier.

PRESENT -11: Senators Acosta, DiMario, Euer, Kallman, Lauria, Mack, Pearson, Quezada, Ruggerio, Ujifusa, Valverde.

ABSTAINED – 1: Senator Bell.

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer announces that Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio has been elected President of the Rhode Island Senate for the years 2025 and 2026.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Senator Euer introduces the Honorable Domenic A. DiSandro III, Chief Magistrate of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal, to administer the oath of Office to the Senate President.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

The Honorable President, Dominick J. Ruggerio, addresses the members of the Senate and their special guests.

(See Appendix for Presidential Remarks)

ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of the Secretary of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Bell nominates Helena S. Reid of Providence as the Secretary of the Senate for the 2025 and 2026 sessions.

The nomination is seconded by Senator Bissaillon.

The motion to elect Helena S. Reid of Providence as the Secretary of the Senate of the Senate for the 2025 and 2026 Sessions is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

ELECTION OF THE READING CLERK

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of Reading Clerk of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Urso nominates John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk for the 2025 and 2026 sessions.

The nomination is seconded by Senator Kallman.

The motion to elect John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk of the Senate for the 2025 and 2026 Sessions is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

OATH

The Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State, administers the Oath of Office to the Secretary of the Senate, Helena S. Reid of Providence and the Oath of Office to the Reading Clerk of the Senate, John S. Baxter of Pawtucket.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of President Pro Tempore of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Vargas nominates Senator Hanna M. Gallo, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 2025 and 2026 Sessions.

The nomination is seconded by Senator Patalano.

The motion to elect Senator Hanna M. Gallo from the city of Cranston as President Pro Tempore is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate are now in order.

Senator McKenney nominates Senator Matthew LaMountain, as Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 2025 and 2026 Sessions.

The nomination is seconded by Senator Appollonio.

The motion to elect Senator Matthew LaMountain from the city of Warwick as Deputy President Pro Tempore is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

APPOINTMENT BY THE RHODE ISLAND LIFE SCIENCE HUB

The Honorable President presents the following communication from the Rhode Island Science Hub, transmitting the following appointment and requesting the advice and consent of the Senate thereto:



December 6, 2024

Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President
Rhode Island State Senate
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Room 318
Providence, RI, 02903

Dear President Ruggerio,

On behalf of the board of the Rhode Island Life Science Hub, I would like to nominate Mark Turco, MD as the inaugural President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Life Science Hub for confirmation.

As you know, the Rhode Island Life Science Hub was established in 2023 by Governor Dan McKee and the General Assembly and funded with a \$45 million investment to facilitate the growth of the state's life sciences sector. Since its establishment, the Governor has appointed a Board that includes leaders in the sector representing industry, higher education and health care.

The position of President and Chief Executive Officer is cited in the enabling legislation to lead our quasi-public agency. We conducted a thorough national search led by Korn Ferry and vetted several impressive candidates. We believe Dr. Turco has the experience, presence and commitment to take us forward. Dr. Turco's resume is attached. We have negotiated a three-year contract with him to begin on January 15, 2025, subject to advice and consent of the Senate.

The Life Science Hub has quickly achieved several significant milestones during its first year, including convening over 500 industry leaders this spring at an inaugural summit and launching a \$250,000 Small Grant Fund that has already awarded over \$227,000. We have also approved \$20 million in special grant funding to drive innovation, workforce development and early-stage business growth. Most recently, the Life Science Hub, with the assistance of Brown University and the I-195 Commission, invested \$10 million to lead the development of Rhode Island's first life science incubator. Set to open in December 2025, the incubator will address critical lab space needs for Rhode Island and drive advancements in health care.

Thank you very much for your strong commitment and support of the Rhode Life Science Hub and this important appointment. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil".


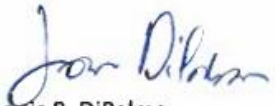
Neil D. Steinberg
Chairman

315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, RI 02903
www.RILifeScience.com

Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President presents the following communications:

<p>SENATOR LOUIS P. DIPALMA District 12</p> <hr/> <p>24 Sail Court Middletown, Rhode Island 02842</p> <p>Room 209 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>RESIDENCE 401-847-8540 OFFICE 401-276-5599</p> <p>sen-dipalma@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>CHAIR Committee on Finance</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Education</p>
<p>January 7, 2025</p> <p>The Honorable Senate Senate Chamber State House Providence, RI 02903</p> <p>To the Honorable, the Senate:</p> <p>This is to inform you that the Democratic Senators met at the Waterman Grille on November 7, 2024 to elect Valarie J. Lawson of the Fourteenth Senatorial District as the Senate Majority Leader for the 2025-2026 term.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>  <p>Louis P. DiPalma Senator – District 12 Democratic Caucus Secretary</p> <p>LD/jp</p>		

Read and ordered to be placed on file.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER
ROOM 120, STATE HOUSE
PROVIDENCE
02903

JESSICA de la CRUZ
MINORITY LEADER
401-222-2708

November 7, 2024

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio
President, Rhode Island Senate

Dear President Ruggerio,

Please be advised that the Senate Minority Caucus met last night and voted to re-elect me, Senator Jessica de la Cruz, as Minority Leader and Senator Gordon Rogers as Minority Whip for the 2025-2026 legislative session.

We look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "de la Cruz".

Jessica de la Cruz

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

January 7, 2025

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
State House
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the Senate Democratic Caucus, I am making the following appointment for the 2025-2026 session:

Senator David P. Tikoian
Senate Majority Whip

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dominick J. Ruggerio".

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

January 7, 2025

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
State House
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the Senate Democratic Caucus, I am making the following appointments for the 2025-2026 session:

Senator John P. Burke
Deputy Majority Leader

Senator Ana B. Quezada
Deputy Majority Whip

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dominick J. Ruggerio".

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Interim Senate Rules, I am making the following appointments to the Senate Standing Committees:

Senate Committee on Commerce:

Senator Robert Britto – Chair
Senator V. Susan Sosnowski – Vice Chair
Senator Samuel W. Bell – Secretary
Senator Ryan W. Pearson
Senator Elaine J. Morgan
Senator Tiara Mack
Senator Meghan E. Kallman
Senator David P. Tikoian
Senator Hanna M. Gallo

Senate Committee on Education:

Senator Hanna M. Gallo – Chair
Senator Melissa A. Murray – Vice Chair
Senator Samuel D. Zurier – Secretary
Senator Bridget G. Valverde
Senator Tiara Mack
Senator Mark P. McKenney
Senator Thomas J. Paolino
Senator Louis P. DiPalma
Senator Jacob E. Bissaillon

Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

Senator V. Susan Sosnowski – Chair
Senator Robert Britto – Vice Chair
Senator Lammis Vargas – Secretary
Senator Alana M. DiMario
Senator Victoria Gu
Senator Meghan E. Kallman
Senator Lori Urso
Senator Gordon Rogers

Senate Committee on Finance:

Senator Louis P. DiPalma – Chair
Senator Frank A. Ciccone III – 1st Vice Chair
Senator Walter S. Felag Jr. – 2nd Vice Chair
Senator Jonathon Acosta – Secretary
Senator Robert Britto
Senator V. Susan Sosnowski
Senator Elaine J. Morgan
Senator Lammis Vargas
Senator Samuel D. Zurier

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

Senator Melissa A. Murray – Chair
Senator Pamela J. Lauria – Vice Chair
Senator Lori Urso - Secretary
Senator Peter Appollonio
Senator Brian Thompson
Senator Thomas J. Paolino
Senator Bridget G. Valverde
Senator Linda L. Ujifusa

Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government:

Senator Jacob E. Bissaillon – Chair
Senator Alana M. DiMario – Vice Chair
Senator Gordon Rogers – Secretary
Senator John P. Burke
Senator Meghan E. Kallman
Senator Tiara Mack
Senator Melissa A. Murray
Senator Victoria Gu

Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Senator Matthew L. LaMountain - Chair
Senator Mark P. McKenney – Vice Chair
Senator Jacob E. Bissaillon - Secretary
Senator Todd Patalano
Senator Thomas J. Paolino
Senator Andrew Dimitri
Senator Ana B. Quezada
Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis
Senator Dawn Euer
Senator John P. Burke

Senate Committee on Labor:

Senator Frank A. Ciccone III - Chair
Senator John P. Burke – Vice Chair
Senator Todd Patalano - Secretary
Senator Jessica de la Cruz
Senator Ryan W. Pearson
Senator Brian Thompson
Senator Ana B. Quezada
Senator Andrew Dimitri

Senate Committee on Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight:


Senator Mark P. McKenney – Chair
Senator Samuel D. Zurier – Vice Chair
Senator Jonathon Acosta – Secretary
Senator Hanna M. Gallo
Senator Frank A. Ciccone, III
Senator Jessica de la Cruz
Senator Dawn Euer
Senator Matthew L. LaMountain
Senator Jacob E. Bissaillon

Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs:

Senator Walter S. Felag Jr. – Chair
Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis – Vice Chair
Senator Peter Appollonio - Secretary
Senator Matthew L. LaMountain
Senator Jonathon Acosta

Senator Pamela J. Lauria
Senator Elaine J. Morgan
Senator Linda L. Ujifusa
Senator Dawn Euer

Sincerely,


Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
SENATE CHAMBER**

January 7, 2025

The Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on this seventh day of January, A.D. 2025 the oath of engagement to Helena S. Reid of Providence as Secretary of the Senate for the years 2025 and 2026.

Respectfully yours,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
SENATE CHAMBER**

January 7, 2025

The Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on this seventh day of January, A.D. 2025 the oath of engagement to John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk of the Senate for the years 2025 and 2026.

Respectfully yours,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
SENATE CHAMBER

January 7, 2025

The Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on this seventh day of January, A.D. 2025 the oath of engagement was administered as President of the Senate of the State of Rhode Island to the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio.

Respectfully yours,

Gregg M. Amore

Secretary of State

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Interim Senate Rules, I am making the following changes to Senate Standing Committees:

I am appointing the following Senators to the Senate Committee on Finance:

Senator Alana DiMario vice Senator Robert Britto

Senator Brian Thompson

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominick J. Ruggerio".

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

DJR/tm

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Felag and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family and friends of Senator Tikoian; mother Ann Tikoian, brothers Michael and Gary Tikoian, Karen Stamp, Ricky Caruolo, Larry Mancini, Artur Cayo, and Kevin Elliot.

Upon suggestion of Senator Gu and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Family of Senator Gallo; husband Russell Gallo, daughter Julie Gallo, granddaughter Annabelle Krensky and grandson Enzo Krensky.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Ruggerio; sister Lisa Aceto, brother in law Jim Aceto, son Charles Ruggerio, daughter in law Jilian Ruggerio, daughter Amanda Fallon, son in law PJ Fallon, Grandchildren Ava Ruggerio, Mia Ruggerio, Natale Fallon, and Jameson Fallon.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Urso; husband Mr. Marty Richards, daughter Ms. Sara Elizabeth Urso, sister Dr. Monique DiSanto, best friend Ms. Ann Marie Finizia, Mayor of Pawtucket Honorable Donald Grebien and First Lady of Pawtucket Mrs. Lauren Grebien.

Upon suggestion of Senator Paolino and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber his mother Marie Issa, father Louis Paolino, girlfriend Miranda Veliu.

Upon suggestion of Senator Raptakis and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Barbara and Tim Leyden from the Town of Coventry, and Gregory Mozzi from the City of Warwick.

Upon suggestion of Senator McKenney and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Andrew Tainsh, Rebecca Maritti, Glen Terrilli, and Gina Appolonio.

Upon suggestion of Senator Burke and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Raptakis, Dr. Donna Raptakis.

Upon suggestion of Senator Burke and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Bissaillon, Kim Bissaillon.

Upon suggestion of Senator Sosnowski and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Felag; brother Mark Felag, sister Mary Johns, niece Jayne Balasco, and niece Allie Oliveires.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiMario and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Britto; wife Danielle Britto, daughter Illiana Britto, son Indiana Britto, brother Sotto Brother, sister Karen Britto, sister Donna Silva, and brother Tony Britto.

Upon suggestion of Senator Britto and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senate Majority Leader Lawson, sister Kathleen McCabe, brother in law Donald McCabe, and friend Patricia Angilly.

Upon suggestion of Senator LaMountain and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Dimitri; father in law William C. Dimitri, mother Lisa Dimitri,

sister Angelica Dimitri, granddaughter Paula Recchia, uncle Representative Steve Smith, cousin Andrea Dimaio, aunt Doreen Picozzi, uncle Joe Picozzi, cousin Joe Picozzi, cousin Ronnie Papa, Rob Perillo, Grant Pillington, Nick Feolla, Rick Pacia, and Marc Manfredi.

Upon suggestion of Senator Rogers and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator de la Cruz; her husband David de la Cruz, Sr., son David de la Cruz, Jr., son Jonathan de la Cruz, Benjamin de la Cruz and Patrick Vallente.

Upon suggestion of Senator de la Cruz and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Rogers; Heidi Rogers.

Upon suggestion of Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Gu; mother Lisa Chen, father Dr. Kenneth Gu, and brother Christopher Gu.

Upon suggestion of Senator Ciccone and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator DiPalma; wife Margaret DiPalma, bother Vin DiPalma, daughter Abigail Isom, granddaughter Margaret Isom, granddaughter Grace Simeone.

Upon suggestion of Senator LaMountain and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber his family; wife Cassandra LaMountain, son Desmond LaMountain, daughter Nora LaMountain, parents Eileen and Josepeph LaMountain, aunt Karen Nori, and uncle Ali Nori.

Upon suggestion of Senator Valverde and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Kallman; sister Anna Kallman, cousin Emily Kallman, and friend Sean Collins.

Upon suggestion of Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the chamber the family of Senator Vargas; husband Christian Vargas, son Christian Vargas, Jr., daughter Nevari Vargas, sister Geraldine Ferrer, father Manny Ferrer, mother Vicenta Ferrer, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne of Somerville Massachusetts, friends Carol Aguasvivas, Isabel Reeves, Marcy Reyes, Mark LeBleau, and friends of Leadership Rhode Island Sean Fontes, Sharon Harmon, Doris Blanchard, and Sandra Victorino.

Upon suggestion of Senator Appollonio and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Sen. McKenney's wife Tricia, daughter Caitlin Whalley, daughter-in-law Dionne Fabiatos, grandchildren Owen and Liam Whalley, and Councilman Bill Muto.

Upon suggestion of Senator Patalano and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Patalano; wife Gina Patalano, sons Jason, Justin, and Jared, mother Clarice Patalano, brother Scott Patalano, father in law Robert Pascale, mother in law Sandra Pascale, Bille Hebert, Marty Cappelli, and Stephenie Kaffemberger.

Upon suggestion of Senator Murray and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Thompson; wife Christine Thompson, daughter Ariel Thompson, daughter Kathleen aThompson, son Sean Hiclefelter, father Joe Thompson, and close friend Melissa Travis.

Upon suggestion of Senator Morgan and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber her mother Joy Eaton, Director of Public Welfare in Hopkinton Maria Christina Lavine,

Vice President of the Exeter Town Council Diane Allen, Professor Jody Hall, and Medical Professional Tonia Mozzarella.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance meet on Thursday, January 09th at 5:30pm in Room 211.

Senate Majority Whip Tikoian announces that a reception will immediately follow in the Senate Lounge.

Senate Majority Whip Tikoian announces that the Senate will meet next Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 at 5:00pm.

Senate Majority Whip Tikoian announces that the State of the State Address is next Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 at 7:00pm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of the President of the Senate Ruggerio and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Rhode Island Attorney General, Peter F. Neronha and Rhode Island General Treasurer James A. Diossa.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents Councilman Steven A. Loporchio to perform God Bless America.

BENEDICTION

The Honorable Senator Lawson, by unanimous consent, presents Rabbi Preston Neimeiser, of Temple Beth-El in Providence for purposes of delivering the Benediction.

RECESS

Upon motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and the Senate stands in Recess at 5:47 o'clock P.M.

NEW BUSINESS**Senate Resolution No. 1****BY** Lawson, Britto**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CAROL A. BRIDEN
{LC35/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 2**BY** Lawson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DANIEL A. SPAIGHT, JR.
{LC22/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 3**BY** Lawson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CONSTANCE M. SILVEIRA
{LC26/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Chairman DiPalma, from the Committee on Finance, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measure:

*The Appointment of Mark Turco, MD as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Life Sciences Hub for a term expiring January 15, 2028.*Placed on the Senate Calendar for Tuesday, January 21st, 2025.**CALL TO ORDER**The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, on Tuesday, January 14th at 5:20 o'clock P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the Motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate adjourns at 5:21 o'clock P.M.

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix**INVOCATION****THE REVEREND DR. CHRIS ABHULIME***King's Tabernacle Church in Johnston*

Good evening Honorable President and all Honorable members of the Rhode Island Senate, eminent guests, ladies & gentlemen. Thank you for the invitation. May we pray together. Heavenly Father, upon whom Government rest and who ordains government. We thank you for the privilege granted these men and women to be members of this August body; for they represent the highest aspiration of our Rhode Island family. In their passion to serve, we find true patriotism, In their election, we find hope and optimism. O Lord, We are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy in this great state. As the Psalmist declared, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord". Lord, we recognize that our state was founded on principles rooted in faith, liberty, and justice. We come before You today, humbly asking for Your guidance and wisdom as we begin this session of the Rhode Island Senate. Grant this body the strength to act with courage and integrity. May our hearts be guided by Your truth, and may our minds be filled with understanding. Even when we defer philosophically, sophistically may we always remember that we are one Rhode Island family. Even when we defer politically, may we always remember that we are, the word of Martin Luther King, Jr, tied together in the single garment of destiny. Even when distracted by our own personal enterprise, May we commit ourselves to the highest ideas of this lively experiment. O lord of mercies, bless the leadership and every member of this Rhode Island Senate, bless their families and their staff, everyone here gathered and bless people of this great state. May your glory shine upon our beautiful state of Rhode Island from the shorelines of Newport to the skylines of Providence, upon every farmland and every factory across this state. May Your grace be upon this Senate. May this chamber be filled with warmth of love and hope for a glorious future. When all is sad and done, may we give you the glory. The Lord Bless, You & keep you, the Lord makes his face to shine upon you, the Lord lifts his countenance upon you and give you peace, you and your children and your children, in matchless name of Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Appendix**BENEDICTION****RABBI PRESTON D. NEIMEISER***Temple Beth-El in Providence*

O Guardian of life and liberty, May this holy assembly vivify our collective strivings for the common good. Grant its members wisdom and forbearance to establish and maintain our shared purpose through cooperation and understanding. Let their governance bring justice and healing across difference throughout our state. Let freedom ring from Cumberland to Block Island. Let the harmony of liberty resound from the Rhode Island sound to Sandy Point. Source of all Life, Guide our leaders with righteousness, strengthen but do not harden their hearts. Let them use their influence and authority to speak truth and act for justice. May all who dwell in this state share in its bounty, enjoy its freedoms and be protected by its laws. May we be strong and have courage to be bold in our action and deep in our compassion, that we might respect and uplift the many ways that we may serve You. Establish and make enduring the labor our hearts this legislative session, May this state be sound in body and spirit, and let justice well up like waters, righteousness like a mighty stream. Amen.

Appendix

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

**Dominick J. Ruggerio**

Senate President

Thank you, Melissa and Bobby, for your very kind words.

And thank you to all of my colleagues ... I have such deep respect and admiration for each of you.

It is truly humbling to be re-elected President of this extraordinary Chamber.

To my returning colleagues: welcome back.

And please join me in welcoming six new members to our Chamber today:

- Peter Appollonio
- Andrew DiMitre
- Todd Patalano
- Brian Thompson
- Lori Urso
- Lammis Vargas

Congratulations to you ... and to every member of the Chamber. I look forward to working in collaboration with all of you to address the serious challenges facing our state.

We have made tremendous progress on many pressing issues ... from health care to housing ... and from the economy to education.

But there is still much work to be done in these ... and many other ... areas.

As we work to build upon the progress we have made, we are fortunate to have a talented and diverse membership, each of whom brings different expertise and perspectives.

One area that requires more focused attention is public policy around rapidly advancing technologies.

To bring needed diligence to this area, I will be asking Senator Victoria Gu to lend her expertise and chair a new committee on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies.

I am also privileged and excited to welcome Valarie Lawson as the new Majority Leader, and David Tikoian as our new Majority Whip.

Val and David are both enormously capable and dedicated leaders.

I look forward to working with them – and with all of you – towards the betterment of our state.

In the spirit of service and collaboration, let us find common purpose in our shared commitment to our communities ... our shared love for our state ... and our shared hope for a better future.

Thank you all.

Appendix

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025:

1. **2025-S 1**
 BY Lawson
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE
 PASSING OF CAROL A. BRIDEN

 Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
2. **2025-S 2**
 BY Lawson
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE
 PASSING OF DANIEL A. SPAIGHT, JR.

 Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
3. **2025-S 3**
 BY Lawson
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES
 ON THE PASSING OF CONSTANCE M. SILVEIRA

 Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

Appendix
CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025:

1. *The Appointment of Mark Turco, MD as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Life Sciences Hub for a term expiring January 15, 2028.*

Committee on Finance recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

Helena S. Reid
Secretary of the Senate