

EXHIBIT C



IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

TAPE TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO RECORDING

August 21, 2025

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IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION
Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

TAPE TRANSCRIPTION
IN THE MATTER OF:
CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION
August 21, 2025.
Sacramento, California.
10:18 a.m.

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REPORTED BY:
CHARLES GOLDING,
Certified Shorthand Reporter

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10:18 a.m.

1

2 MR. SPEAKER: The assembly is now in session.
3 Assembly member Wallace notices the absence of a
4 quorum. Sergeant at arms will prepare the
5 chamber and bring in the absent members. Clerk
6 will call the roll.

7 CLERK: Addis, Aguiar. Curry. Ahrens.
8 Alanis. Alvarez. Arambula. Aviron. Fadias.
9 Baines. Bauer. Cahan. Bennett. Berman.
10 Berner. Bonta, Brian. Calderon. Coloza,
11 Carillo. Castillo. Chen. Connolly. Davies.
12 Demaio Dixon. El Hawari. Ellis, Flora. Fong.
13 Gabriel. Gallagher. Garcia. Gibson, Jeff.
14 Gonzalez, Mark Gonzalez, Hadwick Haney,
15 Arabidian, Hart. Hoover, Irwin. Jackson,
16 Kara. Krell. Lackey, lee. Lowenthal, Macedo.
17 McKenna, Mersucci. Quinn. Ortega, Pacheco.
18 Pappin. Patel. Patterson. Pellerin, Petri.
19 Norris. Quirk, Silva. Ramos, Ransom, Celeste
20 Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez. Rogers, Budio
21 Sanchez, Chiavo Schultz. Sharpe, Collins,
22 Solace Soria, Stephanie Ta Tongipa. Valencia.
23 Wallace. Ward, wicks, Wilson, Zabur. Mr.
24 Speaker, members of quorum is present. Decorum
25 please. Assembly members board, you are
recognized members. Democratic caucus of the

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1 members lounge right now. Members, we will
2 caucus for. We will be meeting for 15 minutes.
3 We'll be. Excuse me. Suspending for 15
4 minutes on recess. We'll gavel back in 15
5 minutes.

6 (Brief recess)

7 MR. SPEAKER: Members, we are back in
8 session. We ask our guests and visitors in the
9 rear of the chamber and in the gallery to
10 please stand for today's prayer. Reverend
11 Oshta will offer today's prayer. Reverend
12 Oshta.

13 REVEREND OSHTA: Please join me in a moment of
14 reflection. We concluded our recent trip to
15 Japan. In the city of Kyoto, we were able to
16 visit with a dear teacher and friend who impacted
17 Bob's life nearly 60 years ago. And being much
18 younger, maybe 30 for me, we were quietly feeling
19 our age and how quickly so many decades have
20 passed. Later that day, Bob and I stepped into a
21 small shop to escape the heat. We felt ourselves
22 surrounded by beautiful things from another era.
23 We chatted with the owner about how much we
24 enjoyed the traditional music of the Gion Summer
25 Festival that was concluding. Laughing, he told
us that hearing that music only reminds him of

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1 the sweltering Kyoto summer heat. Bob then asked
2 him, how long has his shop been here? It looked
3 very well established. The owner said, Since
4 1603. Then, with a smile, he added, But I'm not
5 422 years old. He shared that he was the 17th
6 generation of the Nakanishi family to operate
7 their family business. While talking, he went
8 online and found where we could order a CD of the
9 unique Kyoto Summer Festival music that he would
10 never play. It was a delightful meeting that
11 gave us a fresh outlook on the passing of time
12 and also on the responsibilities we have in life.
13 Like Mr. Nakanishi, who is the 17th generation
14 caretaker of his family's tradition, we are all
15 momentary caretakers of a dream that has been
16 unfolding for 249 years, since 1776. It is the
17 dream of creating a nation with liberty and
18 justice for all. A dream that has been a beacon
19 of hope for oppressed people everywhere. Let us
20 continue to try our best to keep this dream alive
21 and the beacon that is America shining bright.
22 Namo mi daotsu. Let us live with kindness and
23 gratitude beyond words.

24 MEMBER CHEN: We ask our guests and
25 visitors to remain standing to join us in the
flag salute. Assembly member Chen will lead us

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1 in the Pledge of allegiance.
2 MEMBER CHEN: Thank you. Mr. Speaker.
3 Please put your right hand over your heart.
4 Ready? Begin. I pledge allegiance to the flag
5 of the United States of America and to the
6 Republic for which it stands. One nation,
7 under God, indivisible with liberty and justice
8 for all, may be seated. To our guests and
9 visitors. Today, state law prohibits persons
10 in the gallery from interfering with
11 legislative business. Legislative proceedings
12 are disrupting the orderly conduct of official
13 business. Persons disrupting legislative
14 proceedings are subject to removal, arrest or
15 other appropriate legal remedies. Members, I'd
16 further like to. State quorum, please.
17 Further like to state that our House rules
18 require us to follow Mason's Manual Sections
19 120 to 126 as it relates to words and tone we
20 use in debating public policy. On this floor.
21 MASON Section 120 and 121 state in part.
22 Freedom of speech involves obedience to all the
23 rules of debate. The language used by members
24 during debate should be temperate, decorous and
25 respectful. No member may indulge in
personalities. No member may impugn the

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1 motives of other members or use indecent or
2 profane language. Members, if you choose to
3 stray from these rules, I will admonish you.
4 And if the violation continues, I will mute
5 your mic and you will forfeit your time. We're
6 going to be moving on to a vote stage. Point
7 of order, Mr. DeMaio.

8 MEMBER DEMAIO: Mr. Speaker, in reviewing
9 the file for today, there are three pieces of
10 legislation that are on the file that are in
11 direct violation of the California State
12 Constitution, rendering it impossible for this
13 body to take up these items. My point of order
14 pertains to Senate Bill 280, which violates
15 Article 21, Section 2 of the Constitution,
16 which only permits an election on
17 redistricting, on the ones this matter, on the
18 ones of every decade. The second bill is ACA
19 8. The third bill is AB 604. Both of these
20 bills violate section Article 21, section 2G,
21 which expressly prohibits the legislature from
22 taking any action on redistricting as well as
23 adopting any maps. Finally, a point of order
24 to Assembly Bill 604, which violates Article
25 21, Section 2E, which says, quote, districts
shall not be drawn for purpose of favoring or

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1 discriminating against an incumbent political
2 candidate or political party. It is my
3 understanding that both the governor and
4 members of the legislature have said that they
5 have partisan goals behind these maps. For all
6 three of these bills. I ask they be removed
7 from the file immediately and that this body
8 cease violating the state constitution.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. DeMaio. It's a
10 lot of information. If you give me just a
11 moment, please. Thank you for your patience, Mr.
12 DeMaio. Your point of order is not well taken,
13 Mr. DeMaio. It's -- let me explain my ruling
14 first and then you are more than welcome to
15 appeal. All the measures that you've raised are
16 properly before the house pursuant to the
17 constitution. Do you wish to -- It's been moved
18 and seconded to appeal the ruling of the chair.
19 Clerk will open the roll. The chair is asking
20 you for an I vote to sustain his ruling. Mr.
21 DeMaio is asking for a no vote. All members vote
22 who desire to vote. All members vote who desire
23 to vote. All members vote who desire to vote.
24 Clerk will close the roll. Tally the votes.
25 Eyes, 58. Nose, 18. The chair is sustained.
Assistant majority leader Garcia, you are

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1 recognized.

2 MR. GARCIA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we
3 move the call, there is no item before, so we
4 will recognize you once we do that.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Okay. We're going to be
6 moving to a vote on the consent calendar at the
7 request of the author. Items 151, SP 482,
8 Weber Pearson has been removed. Does any
9 member wish to remove an item from the consent
10 calendar? Seeing hearing none, the clerk will
11 read the second day consent calendar. Assembly
12 Concurrent Resolution 105 by Assembly member
13 McKenna and others relative to the music
14 industry in California. Clerk will open the
15 roll. In the consent calendar, all members
16 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who
17 desire to vote. All members vote who desire to
18 vote system. Majority leader Garcia, you are
19 recognized. Move the call -- Madam majority
20 leader, you are recognized.

21 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I request
22 unanimous consent to suspend Assembly Rule 69B
23 to adopt late amendments on ACA 8 revis.

24 MR. SPEAKER: We're going to dispense with
25 one item at a time. I'm going to recognize
leader Gallagher. Leader Gallagher. Mr.

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1 Speaker, the member moved the call. I don't
2 believe. There's your point of order, Mr.
3 Gallagher.

4 MEMBER GALLAGHER: The member moved the
5 call. I Don't believe anything before us. The
6 second day consent calendar that you yourself
7 voted on.

8 MR. SPEAKER: Okay, but what we're going to
9 move on. I've made the ruling. This point of
10 order is not well taken.

11 MR. GALLAGHER: Point of parliamentary
12 inquiry.

13 MR. SPEAKER: State your point, Mr.
14 Gallagher.

15 MR. GALLAGHER: We voted on the consent
16 calendar, correct? That's what approves it. So
17 I'm confused by what is the --

18 MR. SPEAKER: Burke did not close the role.
19 Mr. Gallagher. Okay, Mr. DeMaio, you are
20 recognized.

21 MEMBER DEMAIO: I withhold consent from the
22 motion.

23 MR. SPEAKER: Okay, mis -- Mr. DeMaio has
24 requested withholding consent on the majority
25 leader's motion. We will now open the roll. A
majority leader's motion. All members vote who

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1 desire to vote. Majority leader is asking for a
2 aye vote. Mr. DeMaio is asking for a no vote.
3 Motion was seconded by Mr. Garcia. All members
4 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who
5 desire to vote. Clerk will close the roll.
6 Tally the votes. Ayes, 58. No's 19. The motion
7 carries it. Okay. Pursuant to Assembly Rule 69,
8 the amendments were approved by the committee
9 chair and the bill has been amended, is out to
10 print and back on file. All other amendments on
11 this item that were pending at the assembly desk
12 are no longer in order as they are not drafted to
13 the current version of the measure. Madam
14 Majority Leader, you are again recognized for
15 your procedural motions.

16 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you. I
17 request unanimous consent to suspend the rules to
18 allow Assembly member Berman to take up ACA 8
19 Revis as amended without reference to file for
20 the purposes of adoption.

21 MR. SPEAKER: Has been moved and seconded by
22 Mr. Garcia. Assembly member Gallagher, you are
23 recognized.

24 MEMBER GALLAGHER: I will have my own
25 motion after this motion is dispensed with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gallagher.

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1 Assemblymember DeMaio, you are recognized.

2 MR. DEMAIO: Withhold consent.

3 MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Consent has been
4 withheld. We will move to a vote. The clerk
5 will open the roll. All members vote who desire
6 to vote. Majority leader is asking for an aye
7 vote. Mr. DeMaio is asking for a no vote. All
8 members vote who desire to vote. All members
9 vote who desire to vote. Clerk will close the
10 roll. Tally the votes. Ayes, 57, nose 20. The
11 measure carries.

12 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Gallagher.

13 MR. SPEAKER: Assembly member Gallagher, you
14 are recognized. Yeah.

15 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Mr. Speaker, being that
16 this bill was ACA was just amended, I
17 respectfully request that we re refer ACA 8 and
18 SB 280 to the Judiciary Committee so we can have
19 further vetting of these measures.

20 MR. SPEAKER: Just a moment. Okay. Members,
21 it has been moved and seconded. Moved by
22 assembly member Gallagher. Seconded by Assembly
23 member DeMaio. Clerk will open the roll. Mr.
24 DeMaio is asking for an aye vote. Majority
25 leader is Asking for a no vote. All members vote
who desire to vote. All members vote who desire

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1 to vote. Majority leader is asking for a no
2 vote. Mr. Gallagher is asking for an I vote.
3 Clerk will close the roll tally. Votes ayes, 19
4 no's, 58. Motion fails. Mr. Demaio, you are
5 recognized. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move that
6 we immediately take up AJR 21. Independent
7 Redistricting Commission Constitutional amendment
8 without regard to file. There's been. There's
9 been a motion to suspend the rules by Mr. DeMaio
10 to suspend the constitution without reference to
11 file. Seconded by assembly member Wallace.
12 Clerk will open the roll. All members vote who
13 desire to vote. Majority leader is asking for a
14 no vote. Mr. DeMaio is asking for an I vote.
15 All members vote who desire to vote. All members
16 vote who desire to vote. Clerk will close the
17 roll tally. Votes ayes, 19. Nos. 58. Motion
18 fails. Assembly member Tungapa, you are
19 recognized.

20 MEMBER TUNGAPA: Thank you. I move to
21 suspend the rules to allow ACA 15 to be taken up
22 without reference to file. Prove you don't have
23 a vested interest. State your point. State your
24 point. Assembly member Ransom.

25 MEMBER RANSOM: Point of order. It seems
that that is out of order, Mr. Speaker. I

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1 believe earlier when you gave instructions that
2 our comments are not supposed to be directed at
3 anyone's intention.

4 MR. SPEAKER: Members, we are not in the
5 portion of motions and resolutions. It is out of
6 order overall to be making motions on items that
7 are not before us. We have made a motion without
8 reference to file to bring ACA 8 to the floor.
9 You may make points of order and motions on the
10 items that are before this body and nothing more.
11 Assembly member Gallagher, you are recognized.

12 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Again. Point of
13 parliamentary inquiry. I believe we were in
14 motions and resolutions. That's why the majority
15 leader was making motions. And the only place
16 that you can make motions like the one that was
17 just passed to bring ACA 8 to the floor is during
18 motions and resolutions now, albeit you haven't
19 put it up there on the screen, which is curious
20 to me, but the only place that we could ever do
21 these kinds of motions is during motions and
22 resolutions. So I find it unbelievable that
23 you're saying we're not in motions and
24 resolutions right now. Your point of order is
25 the unbelievability of this. Yes, that's your
point of order, that we are actually in motions

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1 and resolutions and resolutions. Otherwise.
2 Just a moment, Mr. Majority Leader could not have
3 made her motion.

4 MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gallagher, once the
5 majority leader's motion was voted on and
6 approved, and that was. Consent was withheld and
7 we voted on it as a body. We are then in the
8 portion where we are dealing with ACA 8 and we
9 must first dispense with ACA 8 before we take up
10 any other bills before this House. Your point of
11 order is not well taken. The Clerk will read
12 Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 by Senate
13 Rebus and others in accolade to redistricting.
14 Assembly member Berman, you are recognized.

15 MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
16 rise to present ACA 8. On behalf of Speaker
17 Rivas, Let me be crystal clear. We don't want
18 this fight and we didn't choose this fight. But
19 with our democracy on the line, we cannot and
20 will not run away from this fight. We're here
21 today because President Trump and Republicans in
22 Texas and other states are attempting to redraw
23 Congressional districts mid decade in an effort
24 to rig the upcoming election. Just last night
25 the Texas House passed their plan to rig the 2026
election. Earlier yesterday, Florida Governor

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1 Ron DeSantis demanded that his state is owed an
2 extra Congressional district right now. And you
3 know that Trump will do everything he can to
4 fulfill this outrageous request. Americans and
5 Californians deserve better. And ACA 8, the
6 election rigging response act is our response to
7 these undemocratic and un American power grabs.
8 ACA 8 allows for the temporary use of voter
9 approved Congressional district boundaries
10 contained in AB604. Unlike Texas where
11 Republican politicians ram through maps after
12 assigning law enforcement to trail their Democrat
13 colleagues every movement.

14 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Berman.

15 MEMBER BERMAN: By all means.

16 MR. SPEAKER: Summit member Patterson, stage
17 point of order.

18 MEMBER PATTERSON: Yes. Hi the -- Thank
19 you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. State your
20 point of order, sir. Yes, we have been
21 admonished for mentioning parties on. Mr.
22 Patterson, state your point of order. There's no
23 explanation needed. What is the rule that is
24 being violated? Your rule that a person speaking
25 may not mention political parties? I ask that
the author no longer do that. That is not a rule

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1 of this body. That is a rule of decorum. The
2 issue with this particular measure is affects
3 political parties. We're going to allow that
4 today. What I spoke with earlier was simply that
5 you should not impugn the motives of your
6 colleagues. Mr. Berman, you may continue.

7 MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As
8 I was saying, unlike Texas where Republican
9 politicians ramp through maps after assigning law
10 enforcement to trail their Democrat colleagues
11 every movement, it is California voters who will
12 have the final say whether or not these new
13 district boundaries get used. Because here in
14 California, we respect the will of the voters.
15 After the 2030 census, ACA 8 returns all
16 congressional district line drawing powers back
17 to the Citizens Redistricting Commission. In
18 addition, ACA 8 calls on Congress to pass
19 legislation and propose a constitutional
20 amendment to the US Constitution to require the
21 use of fair, independent and nonpartisan
22 redistricting in every state across the country.
23 Now, here are some of the arguments we'll hear
24 from our colleagues from across the aisle today.
25 First, this was decided by voters who were
eligible to vote in 2010, and we don't need to

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1 revisit it. At least half of the voter
2 registration file is totally new in 2025. Over
3 10 million California voters who did not have the
4 chance to vote on this and have their voices
5 heard in 2010. Now, you might be wondering, who
6 does that include? We got a couple of people on
7 the floor today. My Republican colleagues from
8 Tulare and Clovis, my Democrat colleagues from
9 San Jose and la. None of them were old enough to
10 vote on this in 2010, and I think they should get
11 the chance to vote on it this year. They will
12 claim that this costs too much money. First,
13 there is no cost too high to save our democracy.
14 Second, the return on investment of this election
15 is off the charts. Something that would make the
16 VCs in my district blush. Trump and his cronies
17 have terrorized our communities. They have
18 targeted our world class institutions trying to
19 extract \$1 billion from UCLA alone. They have
20 decimated local economies. They've even extorted
21 California grown businesses like Nvidia. And I
22 have not heard one complaint from any colleague
23 from across the aisle to these actions that have
24 cost California billions and billions of dollars.
25 They'll argue that there's no urgency to act.
Wake up. The crisis is here and our democracy is

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1 under attack. President Trump is taking advice
2 on our democracy from Vladimir Putin, someone who
3 literally kills his political opponents. And
4 he's not even trying to be quiet about this.
5 He's bragging about this on national television
6 as if it's something to be proud of. This is the
7 same guy who called elections officials in
8 Georgia and demanded they find him 12,000 votes
9 so he could win the state and stay in the White
10 House. This is someone who earnestly talks about
11 the possibility of serving a third term as
12 President of the United States and now realizing
13 that his policies are terribly unpopular and that
14 voters will have a chance to express their
15 opposition next year. He's now trying to rig the
16 election to inoculate himself from the will of
17 the voters and hold on to power. Now, this
18 wouldn't be a problem if any Republican elected
19 officials had a spine like the Georgia elections
20 officials did in 2020 to say, no, Mr. President,
21 this is un American, this is undemocratic, this
22 is wrong. And we will not participate in your
23 steamrolling of democracy. But that Republican
24 elected official no longer exists when it comes
25 between standing up for your constituents, saving
their health care, saving their food assistance,

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1 saving their fathers or daughters from being
2 snatched off the streets by masked and
3 unidentified thugs and flown to torture chambers
4 in foreign countries, or basking in the orange
5 glow of Mar A Lago. Republican politicians in
6 California don't give it a second thought. They
7 drop to their knees and they do whatever Donald
8 Trump tells them to. There is currently no check
9 on Trump in Washington, only sycophants who clap
10 like seals at the circus. Please, somebody.
11 Member Gallagher, you were recognized. The
12 gentleman is, if I can call him a gentleman, is
13 impugning the character of people on this floor,
14 which you already admonished him and everyone in
15 this room not to do. So maybe somebody will
16 regulate that decorum. Assembly Member
17 Gallagher, your point is well taken. Members,
18 please be careful in your speech not to impugn
19 the motives of other members. Mr. Berman, you
20 may continue. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, there is
21 currently no check on Donald Trump in Washington,
22 D.C. only people who do whatever he demands that
23 they do. But not here. Not in California.
24 California is responding to this emergency by
25 empowering our voters with transparency, with
respect for our independent commission, but with

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1 an unwavering will to act. I respectfully
2 request your. I vote on ACA 8. Thank you,
3 Assemblymember Berman. Assemblymember Lackey,
4 you are recognized.

5 MEMBER LACKEY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I
6 appreciate the privilege to share with you a very
7 powerful perspective. What we're spending time
8 on at this particular moment, to me, is a bit
9 disappointing. I will tell you that right now,
10 what this body needs is to build trust with its
11 constituency. Polls have overwhelmingly
12 indicated that there's a lack of trust. And what
13 we're considering on doing is feeding that lack
14 of trust. You know, I had a very respected
15 colleague that I spoke with just recently who
16 told me that this is all political. You can
17 define it as you wish. But I can tell you, no
18 matter what your position is on this thing, and
19 we're going to be talking a lot about it, and
20 there's going to be a lot of blah, blah, blah.
21 But I'm telling you, when it comes down to it,
22 does this enhance trust with our people? We all
23 admit that gerrymandering is controlled by people
24 who have something to benefit. That is not what
25 our people want. That's been very clearly stated
by their vote. So why, no matter what the

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1 justification is, why would we engage in behavior
2 that we know is considered unacceptable by those
3 who elect us? I would Ask for you to please
4 reflect on that, because it's very meaningful.
5 And I know that we can be distracted by a lot of
6 influencers in this institution, a lot of people
7 that we admire and respect. But when it comes
8 down to it, it's a mirror that we have to respond
9 to. Please think about that. Please think about
10 is what we're doing building trust with our
11 constituency. I think you know what the answer
12 to that is. When we engage in supporting
13 gerrymandering, please resist it. And please
14 think about what you're doing. Thank you. Thank
15 you. Assemblymember Lackey. Assemblymember
16 Wallace, you are recognized.

17 MEMBER WALLACE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
18 Members. I rise today in strong opposition to
19 ACA 8, not simply because of what it does, but
20 because of what it represents. ACA 8 represents
21 a tit for tat strategy. It's a reactive move
22 that erodes our credibility, not just here at
23 home, but on the national and international
24 stage. If we abandon the independent
25 redistricting process that Californians created,
we don't just lose a tool, we lose trust. Our

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1 citizens. Redistricting Commission was born from
2 voter demand for fairness and transparency.
3 While drawing our current maps, the commission
4 held hundreds of public meetings, reviewed tens
5 of thousands of comments, and drew maps that
6 reflect people and communities, not politicians
7 and their preferences. That's not just good
8 governance. It's a model for the nation. Some
9 point to Texas as a justification for this
10 proposal. But California doesn't follow. We
11 lead. We don't. Mere dysfunction. We set the
12 standard. Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
13 called gerrymandering the cancer of politics. He
14 championed the commission because he believed in
15 a system that puts voters first. That belief
16 still matters. I urge you. No vote.

17 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you,
18 Assemblymember. Assemblymember Lowenthal, you're
19 recognized from the majority Leader's desk.

20 MEMBER LOWENTHAL: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
21 I love you, dad. I've been deeply torn by the
22 national redistricting debate that has engulfed
23 California. Beyond its vastly consequential
24 political implications, this issue has profoundly
25 impacted me personally, because indelibly seared
in my consciousness is the memory of my father

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1 working tirelessly over decades to create the
2 independent redistricting system about which we
3 now debate. By way of background, my dad, a
4 community psychologist, was elected to the
5 California state assembly in 1998. He ran for
6 public office with the principal goals of
7 restoring public trust in political institutions
8 and ensuring that elected officials listened to
9 their constituents. To effectuate those ideals,
10 he believed that the independent redistricting
11 system was necessary. So in 2002, on this very
12 floor, he introduced a constitutional amendment,
13 ACA 19 to create an independent redistricting
14 commission. But his attempt received no support,
15 and it died. Undeterred, he reintroduced the
16 independent redistricting commission concept once
17 again in the Assembly. But that effort, too
18 failed. And then, in 2006, as a state senator,
19 he reintroduced the concept as SCA3, and for the
20 first time ever, the concept of independent
21 redistricting passed one of our bicameral bodies.
22 However, as described by Common Cause quote,
23 somewhere in the one minute walk from the Senate
24 clerk's office to the assembly clerk's office,
25 SCA3 was lost for just long enough to miss key
deadlines to keep the bill alive. The SCA's

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1 failure was devastating, but my dad's unwavering
2 effort paved the way for the electorate to adopt
3 an independent redistricting commission two years
4 later. But his work did not end there. Upon
5 going to Congress in 2012, the first piece of
6 legislation he introduced was HR 2978, the let
7 the People Draw the Lines Act. This legislation
8 would have required that all states establish
9 independent redistricting commissions.
10 Tragically, the legislation was met by political
11 headwinds and died. But despite that, my dad
12 pressed forward on his quixotic request to
13 establish reform on a national level because he
14 knew that a system in which some states had
15 districts drawn independently and others don't
16 was fundamentally unfair. Because Congress
17 refused to hold a vote on his measures, he
18 commenced advocating for reform in the courts.
19 In 2015, he led an amicus brief in support of
20 Arizona's right to form an independent
21 commission. And then in 2017, he led an amicus
22 brief in Gill v. Whitford, which he asked the
23 Supreme Court to declare political gerrymandering
24 to be unconstitutional, although the Court did
25 not do so, Justice Kagan, in an opinion by
Justices Ginsburg, Breyer, and Sotomayor, cited

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1 my dad's brief writing, the congressional brief
2 describes a cascade of negative results from
3 excessive partisan gerrymandering, indifference
4 to swing voters and their views, extreme
5 political positioning designated to placate the
6 party's base and fend off primary challengers,
7 the devaluing of negotiation and compromise, and
8 the impossibility of reaching pragmatic,
9 bipartisan solutions of the nation's problems. I
10 vigorously agree with the evils of gerrymandering
11 described in my dad's brief and cited by Justice
12 Kagan. That notwithstanding, because Texas has
13 now shamelessly affected the national balance of
14 power, our nation's democracy is faced with the
15 exigency of existential dimensions. If
16 unaddressed Texas actions which occurred without
17 the vote of its populace will disenfranchise
18 Californians and we must not allow Californians
19 voices to be silenced. It is imperative that
20 Californians have a voice in selecting the
21 political party that controls Congress in 2026.
22 The most fundamental concept in our democracy
23 upon which the collective value system is
24 predicated, is fairness. Californians vote in
25 2026. Our votes must be made on a level playing
field. This constitutional amendment ensures

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1 that we have that balanced field. We must all
2 continue to press Congress to create a national
3 system that eliminates unconstrained political
4 redistricting. But until that occurs, fair
5 representation for Californians cannot exist
6 without this measure. So today I proudly join
7 with my father, the architect of this commission,
8 in urging its temporary suspension. I
9 respectfully ask for your I vote on ACA 8.

10 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you,
11 Assemblymember. Assemblymember Cork Silva, you
12 are recognized.

13 CORK SILVA: Thank you, Madam speaker and
14 members. I also stand in support of ACA 8.
15 Colleagues, we are living through a dramatic and
16 historic moment, a moment to stand up for a
17 democracy, one that will shape our future. For
18 generations across the country, we have witnessed
19 efforts to manipulate district lines, not to
20 represent people, but to cling to power, to
21 silence communities and to steal representation.
22 We saw this in Georgia, where three congressional
23 seats were taken midterm through redistricting.
24 We see it again in Texas, where five seats were
25 carved out at the request of President Trump,
all without giving voters a voice. But here in

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1 California, we have chosen a different path. Not
2 to steal, not to rig, not to silence. We have
3 chosen to let the people decide, to let them vote
4 on the California maps. The California
5 redistricting plan is about fairness. It's about
6 trust. So when critics cry power grab, let us be
7 clear. The plan is not a power grab. It is a
8 power return, returning power back to the
9 citizens of California. We did not start this
10 fight. We did not force this issue. It was
11 forced upon us by a president who has threatened,
12 cheated, and tried to steal congressional seats
13 to cling to power. Do not waste your breath
14 scolding those of us who refused to roll over for
15 partisan maps that divide our communities. A
16 bully. And yes, our president acts as one, uses
17 power to intimidate, to harm, and to cheat. He
18 has shown a pattern of refusing to accept the
19 results of free and fair elections in 2020. He
20 falsely claimed victory. When he does not get
21 what he wants, he shouts, he insults, and lashes
22 out like a spoiled child. If you claim to care
23 about justice and fairness, then answer this.
24 Where is your outrage when states silence voters
25 by carving up districts for partisan gain? Where
is your outrage when working families, seniors,

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1 veterans, and marginalized communities are pushed
2 to the sidelines and as they will be with the
3 President's new executive order just this week to
4 prohibit mail in ballots. My colleague from San
5 Diego says actions speak louder than words. On
6 this point, we agree. California's action is
7 clear. We are showing the nation how to rise
8 above partisan bickering and to stand for
9 democracy. We are showing that the people, not
10 the politicians, should choose their
11 representatives. We will not stand idly by as a
12 bully screams and threatens. We will fight every
13 step of the way to protect our democracy. Why?
14 Because this is what our nation was founded on.
15 History will remember that when democracy was
16 tested and California chose fairness,
17 transparency and the people's voice. You can
18 whine and complain or you can stand with
19 democracy, but you cannot do both. As President
20 Lincoln reminded us, elections belong to the
21 people. It's their decision. As Justice Ruth
22 Bader Ginsburg said, real change, enduring
23 change, happens one step at a time. And as Dr.
24 Martin Luther King Jr. Taught us, the time is
25 always right to do what is right. Today,
California is drawing a line in the sand. We are

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1 standing boldly with the people. And today I ask
2 for your support for ACA 8.

3 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember Cork
4 Silva. Assemblymember top. You, you are
5 recognized.

6 MEMBER TOP: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise
7 in opposition to ACA A. ACA A seek to destroy
8 democracy and violating California constitution.
9 I think you all heard about my personal story. I
10 left the country in 1982 at the age of 19 and I
11 came here with my family for freedom. And until
12 today the country that I Left more than 30 years
13 ago doesn't have any fair election. The country
14 had been ruled by one party and that party, they
15 make their own laws and they been violated all
16 lost over time. And it hooked me and my family
17 and my community for what happening here in
18 California. I still remember two and a half
19 years ago when I took an old office with all of
20 you, my first office here. We are blessed that
21 we follow California State constitution. I
22 understand a lot of you have different opinions
23 from the current federal administration and other
24 state. However, what did we have in our office?
25 We may have different opinions, different ideas,
but at the end of the day we have one goal, to

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1 serve the people in California. California has
2 been very proud of independent citizen commission
3 for the last 15 years. And for the last several
4 days we have built about election and we didn't
5 have even 30 days for community inputs. That is
6 outrageous. Unbelievable. A lot of president
7 and community members in my district, they've
8 been calling me. They feel they really
9 frustrated. They didn't know what to do. They
10 Asked me what is going on here. And you all know
11 that in my semi district, heavily, heavily
12 immigrant communities and a lot of us, we came
13 here for freedom. So we really honor the
14 fairness because the country that we left has no
15 fair election whatsoever. So I urge you, I urge
16 you all to listen to the will of the people that
17 the people that we've been serving. Why do we
18 need to follow other state? We elected by the
19 people who live in California. We are elected by
20 the people of California. 30 seconds. With that
21 I ask you to have a no vote on asa.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you assembly member T.
23 Assembly members Bore, you are recognized.

24 MEMBER BORE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
25 Members, I rise today to express my full throated
support for ACA 8 members. We must act today

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1 with an unfaltering commitment to our democracy.
2 Let's be clear. Today we are responding to a
3 serious emergency for our country. Today's vote
4 is an act of patriotism. The vote today is about
5 protecting health care for millions of our
6 people. It's about making people feel safe
7 again. All our people feeling safe again instead
8 of fearing that they'll be snatched off the
9 street with no warning. It's about protecting
10 reproductive choice and safeguarding our planet.
11 And it's about standing up and fighting an
12 unprecedented and exigent march towards
13 dictatorship. You know, my dad fought for this
14 country in the Korean War. He fought and had
15 rheumatic fever and spent his life with health
16 care issues because of that and died an early
17 death. He enlisted in the Air Force because of
18 his love for our country and his love for our
19 democracy. He would be turning in his grave and
20 if he understood what Donald Trump was doing
21 today. When I look into my kids eyes, and
22 hopefully my grandkids eyes in the future, I
23 don't want to regret that we didn't fight hard
24 enough for them. I want them to know that today
25 was an important day for our country, an
important day for our democracy, an important day

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1 for the United States of America that we love so
2 much. I want them to know that we fought for
3 them, we fought for their future. We did
4 everything in our power to assure that they could
5 live in a democracy in the same way that we have
6 lived in a democracy for over 250 years, that we
7 fought for our family, we fought for freedom. We
8 must give the next generation and the generation
9 after that the same benefits of our democracy
10 that we have had. So on behalf of my father, of
11 my kids, my future grandkids, of all of our kids,
12 of all of our future grandkids, I respectfully
13 ask for an I vote on ACA 8. Thank you, assembly
14 members. Boar leader Gallagher, you are
15 recognized.

16 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
17 And I want to start by saying I thank your father
18 for his righteous fight. And they culminated in
19 the vote of the people that created our
20 Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.
21 And it's in that spirit that I really want to
22 encourage everybody that we should stick with
23 that. And I want to start by saying what this is
24 not about. It is not about Texas. And actually,
25 you all just conceded that by your vote this
morning when you amended ACA 8 to take out Texas

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1 as a condition, and that this bill that you are
2 voting on right now doesn't have Texas as a
3 condition and commits California to going back to
4 gerrymandering. And you should really think
5 twice before you go ahead and. And do that
6 today. It's about power. We know that. It's
7 about power on both sides, rigging congressional
8 districts to get partisan results. That's what a
9 gerrymander is. Now, the governor says it's
10 about fighting with. Fighting fire with fire.
11 And what I want to submit to you all today is
12 that fighting fire with fire is the problem.
13 It's not the solution. President Trump is
14 fighting fire with fire. He saw how government
15 was weaponized against him with a Democratic
16 majority in Washington, D.C. in his first term.
17 He saw how states like Illinois and
18 Massachusetts, Hawaii, have severely
19 gerrymandered their congressional districts in
20 ways that ensure more Democratic members are
21 elected. And he seeks to do the same thing in
22 Texas. He is wrong to do so. Let me repeat
23 again, he is wrong to do so. Gavin is fighting
24 fire with fire. So now he's pushing this
25 redistricting plan, this Gavin Mander, illegally
against the Constitution, as we pointed out time

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1 and time again in the committee hearing. Well,
2 the one committee hearing we had on policy
3 grounds. He's violating the Constitution and the
4 clear will of the voters who've already spoken
5 twice. We really don't need to ask him a third
6 time, guys. Twice they told us they want
7 independent redistricting, fair representation.
8 But where does it end? You move forward today
9 and you have the power to do so. You can do
10 that, and Gavin can move forward. He's a
11 governor. He has the power. Greg Abbott has the
12 power. In Texas. You move forward fighting fire
13 with fire, what happens? You burn it all down.
14 And in this case, it affects our most fundamental
15 American principle, representation. Wasn't that
16 the battle cry of our founding forebears? No
17 taxation without representation. But the
18 people's right to representation is exactly what
19 will be sacrificed when we continue down this
20 road. When after you do it Missouri does it or
21 Indiana does it. Colorado is talking about doing
22 it. At the end of that, the parties will
23 determine who represents and the people will be
24 powerless to elect their own representatives.
25 And we've already seen evidence of that in how
some of these districts are proposed to be drawn.

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1 There's really only one way to stop it. Someone
2 has to refrain from striking back and show a
3 better way. And with that, I would like
4 permission to read some very wise words that I
5 think will be without objection. Without
6 objection. You have heard it said, an eye for an
7 eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you,
8 do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone
9 slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the
10 other also. 30 seconds. You have heard that it
11 was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate
12 your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies
13 and pray for those who persecute you, so that you
14 may be the sons of your Father who is in heaven.
15 For he makes the sun rise on the evil and the
16 good, and he sends rain on the just and the
17 unjust. You, therefore, must be perfect, as your
18 heavenly Father is perfect. Today I'm submitting
19 to you, Let us turn the other cheek. Let us show
20 the better way. What more powerful statement
21 will we have if Republicans and Democrats
22 together said, enough is enough? We're not going
23 to do this. And Texas, you shouldn't do it
24 either. Thank you, Leader Galvan. One last
25 point. I'm sorry. Our democracy will persist as
long as we fight back. And if there is one

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1 weakness that we have right now in our republic
2 is that legislators are not standing up to
3 executives of their own party. Thank you, Leader
4 Gallagher. And that's what we need to do. Thank
5 you, Leader Gallagher. Assemblymember Carrillo,
6 you are recognized.

7 MEMBER CARRILLO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and
8 members. I rise in support of ACA 8. This is a
9 rough position that our country and our democracy
10 is in these days. Leaders in D.C. and across
11 the country have time and time again proven that
12 they are willing to bend, stretch, and outright
13 break the law if it means they are gaining more
14 power. They are unashamedly trying to change the
15 rules in the middle of the game, undermine our
16 institutions. And chess flat cheat because they
17 know that is what it will take for them to have a
18 chance to win. I urge you to support this
19 measure to give our constituents and our state a
20 chance to fight with even odds. If at halftime
21 one team decides they're going to play the second
22 half with 15 players instead of 11, we can
23 disagree and cry foul all we want, but we will
24 Play the second half by the same old rules. With
25 11 players, we put our team and the people we're
playing for at a huge disadvantage. And for

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1 what? Pride? Principle? No members. There is
2 far too much at stake. They have made that
3 painfully clear. Obviously, all of us on this
4 floor would rather not be spending our time on
5 this issue. There is certainly no shortage of
6 pressing issues our constituents need us to
7 address. But the unfortunate reality is that
8 this president has manufactured this issue. And
9 I would argue that there is no issue more
10 pressing than ensuring Californians get the
11 opportunity to play by the same rules as the rest
12 of the country, even if we don't like what those
13 rules are. Members, I urge you. I vote on AC8A.
14 Thank you. Thank you, Assembly member Carrillo.
15 Assembly member Mark Gonzalez, you are
16 recognized.

17 MEMBER GONZALEZ: Thank you. Mr. Speaker
18 and members, I rise today in strong support of
19 ACA 8, the map that leads to you. Because this
20 is not just about redistricting. It is about the
21 survival of our democracy. I was born in
22 McAllen, Texas, where voter suppression wasn't
23 theory, it was reality. I saw neighbors turned
24 away at the polls. I saw families silenced. I
25 saw entire communities erased from the map. As a
Latino, I know exactly what it looks like when

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1 politicians draw racist maps to hold power. When
2 they decide some voices count and others do not.
3 That memory never leaves you. And now I see
4 Trump and his allies running the same playbook
5 across Texas, across Florida, across this
6 country. They cannot win on ideas. They cannot
7 win on compassion. They cannot win on the
8 merits. So what do they do? They change the
9 rules. They rig the lines. And as our Texas
10 Democratic colleagues said yesterday, they shield
11 their racism with their party line. That is not
12 patriotism. That is oppression with a ballot in
13 its hand. This is an emergency. Trump has
14 already shown us the length he will go. He sent
15 ICE agents to the schools where our children
16 learn, the churches we pray, the fields where we
17 work to intimidate, to divide, and to silence
18 dissent. He weaponized fear against immigrant
19 families because he knows cruelty is cheaper than
20 compassion. He tore families apart not to keep
21 our country safe, but to score political points.
22 California protects families. We do not divide
23 them. And look at health care. Trump's big,
24 ugly bill ripped \$900 billion out of Medicaid
25 just to line the pockets of the wealthy few.
That is not reform. That is robbery. It

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1 threatens coverage for 3 million Californians,
2 puts our seniors at risk, and sends rural
3 hospitals to to their graves. Seniors, children,
4 working families left with nothing. That's not
5 policy. That is punishment. This is life and
6 death. And yet, while they strip our people of
7 health care while they weaponize immigration
8 raids, while they tilt the scales of democracy.
9 What they fear most is not us. What they fear
10 most is the people. This is why ACA matters.
11 This measure does not force maps on anyone. It
12 gives California a choice. It lets the people
13 hold the pen and draw their future. So I ask,
14 why are Republicans so afraid of the people? Why
15 are they so afraid of democracy itself? Every
16 state in America should have independent
17 redistricting. Every voter should have a choice.
18 But until they do, California cannot and will not
19 play the by rigged rules. If Texas wants to
20 carve up districts to keep their wannabe dictator
21 in power, we will not bow. If Florida wants to
22 silence voters of color, we will not sit quietly.
23 Because when democracy is attacked, silence is
24 surrender. And California has never been and
25 will never be a state that surrenders.
California will fight back. Because this is not

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1 just about the maps. This is about dignity.
2 This is about whether a Latino child in Texas, a
3 black family in Florida, or an immigrant
4 community in California has a voice in their own
5 democracy members. History is watching. Our
6 communities are watching. And they will remember
7 not just what we said in this chamber, but
8 whether we had the courage to act. ACA 8 is that
9 act. It's not just a bill, it's shield. A
10 shield against racist maps, a shield against
11 voter suppression, A shield for democracy itself.
12 It's not just a policy. It's a promise. A
13 promise that democracy in California will not be
14 dictated by the hand of tyranny, but written by
15 the will of the people. I did not come to this
16 floor, like many of you, with the polite request.
17 I came with a call. A call to conscience, a call
18 to courage and a call to history. Democrats
19 fight to survive. Republicans fight to dominate.
20 And when you fight to dominate, you stop at
21 nothing. You cheat, you rig. You kill democracy
22 in the process. Because democracy may bend, but
23 here in California, it will not break. Not on
24 our watch. Not on this floor, not in this state.
25 Sisas Puesta, I respectfully ask for your. I
vote. Thank you, Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez.

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1 Assemblymember Banta, you are recognized.

2 MEMBER BANTA: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and
3 members, I rise today on behalf of the
4 Beautiful people of 8018 of Oakland, Alameda
5 and Emeryville, and as a proud co author of
6 AC88, which would allow each and every
7 Californian the opportunity to weigh in on our
8 very future. The President and the
9 Congressional majority have been so focused on
10 implementing the deeply unpopular policies of
11 Project 2025 that they forgot about the will
12 and needs of the people that they serve. Since
13 the policies of the federal administration and
14 that majority are so incredibly unpopular, they
15 decided they needed to rewrite the rules to
16 win. From Texas to Florida to Indiana, this
17 administration is pressuring governors to
18 create new red districts to silence Americans
19 nationwide. ACA 8 is a direct response to the
20 life threatening policies that Trump and this
21 majority Congress have taken. And this AC8 is
22 our opportunity, the people's opportunity to
23 empower Californians to neutralize that threat.
24 Californians are witnessing for the firsthand
25 the very devastating effects of this
presidency. That's why we must treat this like

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1 the emergency that it is now. Illness and
2 suffering have no party preference. And the
3 lives of people in these districts are our
4 collective responsibility. So I want to remind
5 you, as chair of the Assembly Health Committee,
6 what is at stake. Just this week, our
7 committee has gotten to hear from the public,
8 from our agencies, from health care facilities
9 across the state, from our advocates, what HR1
10 Trump's big ugly bill will have, what kind of
11 impact that will have, how it will ensure that
12 \$900 billion in Medicaid funding to pay for tax
13 breaks for the ultra wealthy. How these tax
14 cuts will take care of out of reach, take care,
15 out of reach of many of our seniors, children
16 and families. How over 3 million Californians
17 could lose their medical coverage under the new
18 Republican provisions passed. How over 100
19 Planned Parenthood clinics across the state may
20 be forced to close their doors, robbing 22,000
21 people a month, a month of reproductive care,
22 STI testing, cancer screenings of women's
23 health care, and put out of reach for decades,
24 for the first time, over 1 million Californians
25 who rely on those services annually. Let's be
reminded of the fact that our hospitals are

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1 rural hospitals as well. Kern Valley
2 Healthcare District, Oroville Hospital,
3 Fairchild Medical center, and the countless
4 other healthcare facilities that are scraping
5 by as the Trump cuts away at crucial funding
6 for them. How this impacts every single one of
7 our health care systems, decimating our ability
8 to provide care for millions of Californians.
9 So when we talk about what is at stake today,
10 what is at stake is the very lives of our
11 constituents. We cannot be mistaken about
12 that. So today we must ensure that every
13 Californian has the ability to be protected, to
14 be represented in Congress, and to continue to
15 stand up against the attacks on our democracy
16 wherever they may rise. And I just have to say
17 this as a woman, the never ending executive
18 orders, the insistence on basically taking us
19 back to a time when women have no voice, when
20 our people have not the ability to love who
21 they want to love and marry who they want to
22 marry and have that be recognized and be able
23 to have the care that they need, whether that
24 be abortion care or basic health care. That is
25 the world that this majority Congress is trying
to turn us back to. And I absolutely refuse to

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1 stand here on this green carpet and let
2 Congress and this Trump administration do that
3 to us, do that to Californians, do that to this
4 country. So make no mistake. We are taking
5 these actions because we are in unprecedented
6 times.

7 MR. SPEAKER: 30 seconds.

8 MEMBER BANTA: Absolutely. And we must
9 take protective action with that. I
10 respectfully ask for your. I vote on ACA 8.

11 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
12 Banta. Assemblymember Di Maio, you are
13 recognized.

14 MEMBER DI MAIO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
15 Gavin Newsom's corrupt redistricting scheme is
16 worse than snake oil. It's arsenic to our
17 democracy. You stand here, he's out there
18 pontificating that in order to save democracy, we
19 must destroy it. In order to empower the people,
20 we must silence them and strip power from the
21 Citizens Redistricting Committee. No one is
22 going to fall for this. The voters want citizens
23 to draw the lines, not politicians. You sit here
24 and say, let the voters decide. They have
25 already decided in 2010 over your objection, over
the political class's objection. They gathered

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1 signatures and they put an initiative on the
2 ballot that said, enough is enough. No more
3 gerrymandering. They saw the ill that
4 gerrymandering represents to our democracy. They
5 saw the corruption. They saw the lack of
6 transparency. They saw the bribery, the vote
7 rigging, politicians carving out communities,
8 silencing voices. And they said, enough. No
9 more gerrymandering. In California, our voters
10 are just. Well, they're more advanced than other
11 states voters. They got it right a lot earlier.
12 They gave us a gold standard in the Citizens
13 Redistricting Commission. And what you're doing
14 is saying, no, we don't care what they said in
15 2010. We are not listening to them. What they
16 voted for, to strip this body of the power that
17 you are now apparently exercising in violation of
18 the state constitution. The fact that we're even
19 talking about redistricting on this floor today
20 is a violation of the oath to uphold the state
21 constitution. The fact that we're voting on a
22 map today purportedly drawn up by the
23 legislature, it's in violation of Article 21.
24 You don't possess the authority to do this.

25 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: The voters already
decided and took you..

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1 MR. SPEAKER: Out of the process. But here
2 we are today. Here we are today violating the
3 state constitution by even voting on these three
4 items. You know what we've witnessed in the last
5 three weeks? This circus is exactly underscoring
6 the wisdom of the voters in 2010. Let me go
7 through the differences between what they created
8 with the independent citizen redistricting
9 commission and what all of you have shown you're
10 capable of in the last three weeks. Citizens
11 draw the map under the citizens redistricting
12 process. Under this process, politicians are
13 manipulating the lines under the redistricting
14 commission that the citizens created. All of
15 their meetings are open meetings. Under their
16 rules, the commissioners are barred from having
17 any conversation ex parte. You lawyers in the
18 room know what that means. You're not allowed to
19 take proposals or talk about lines or draw maps.
20 All the map drawing occurs in real time on
21 camera, in open session. We know that these maps
22 were drawn behind closed doors by a bunch of
23 political consultants and yet none of you are
24 willing to put your names or reveal the names of
25 who drew the maps. The citizens commission has
to do it on a nonpartisan basis. You are openly

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1 admitting you're doing it for partisan advantage.
2 Citizens on the Assembly Member DeMaio. Assembly
3 Member DeMaio, you're out of order. Please do
4 not impugn the motives of members. Thank you.
5 Citizens on the redistricting commission are
6 barred for 10 years for seeking from seeking any
7 election, county, state or federal. We know that
8 legislators that are involved in this process are
9 actively preparing campaigns to run for these
10 districts. The citizens process created
11 competitive districts where voters voices are
12 paramount and determine the outcome of the
13 election. The maps that you're trying to impose
14 are not competitive. And in fact, you take rural
15 voters and you shove them in with urban voters to
16 dilute their voice. How undemocratic. You want
17 to talk about stripping people of their voice? I
18 heard my colleague from Los Angeles and many of
19 you say we're doing this to protect health care.
20 30 seconds. We're doing this because California
21 is losing money. I wish you fought harder to
22 solve the problems of this state. As hard as
23 you're fighting for some of these congressional
24 districts for yourself and your colleagues. I
25 wish you would fight to actually solve real
problems happening here in California that

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1 actually matters. Look, the voters are
2 ultimately going to be forced to decide this
3 again. I think that once they understand what's
4 going on, they will vote you down. Now, I know
5 you're trying your hardest with a dishonest
6 ballot title. Thank you, Assemblymember. To
7 deprive them of a Fair office. Assemblymember
8 DeMaio.

9 MEMBER DEMAIO: Thank you, Assemblymember
10 Summit. Member Schultz, state your point of
11 order. Yes, I would strongly encourage my
12 colleague to adhere to the rules of this body. I
13 have a copy of those rules if you'd like to Read
14 it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.
15 Assembly Member Schultz. Point is well taken.
16 Assembly Member Bryan, you are recognized.

17 MEMBER BRYAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and
18 colleagues, I rise in strong support of ACA 8.
19 And like at least 2/3 of you in this room, I read
20 the constitutional amendment which makes it very
21 clear that we are not approving any maps in this
22 body. We are giving the voters the decision.
23 Something that isn't happening in Texas. And
24 even doing that was something we had to debate
25 fiercely. California's responsibility to
Californians and Californians responsibility to

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1 this country. We didn't want to be in this
2 situation. The authoritarian in the White House
3 put us in this situation when he used House
4 Republicans in Texas to disenfranchise vulnerable
5 people. After those maps in Texas are approved.
6 A Latino voice in Texas is worth one third of the
7 representation as a white voice. A black voter
8 in Texas is worth one fifth of the representation
9 of a white voter in Texas. I didn't say three
10 fifths. There was no compromise. I said one
11 fifth. That is the kind of gerrymandering, that
12 is the kind of theft that they are perpetuating.
13 And we can't just sit by and let it happen. We
14 won't just sit by and let it happen. But that
15 doesn't mean we lose ourselves. That's why when
16 I was chair of the Elections Committee, I
17 authored an update to the Fair Maps act that
18 prevented incumbency from being a consideration
19 in map drawing. And every single Republican on
20 this floor voted against it. That's why I
21 authored legislation calling for independent
22 redistricting commissions on school boards and
23 counties and special districts all throughout the
24 state. And every Republican in this House voted
25 against it. How convenient to switch your tone
when you are now on the line. When we are

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1 stepping up and speaking the way Californians
2 deserve for us to stand up and fight. Because we
3 are tired of of being the punching bag of this
4 country. When we freely give. When North
5 Carolina is on fire, we show up. When a
6 hurricane hits Florida, we show up. When Texas
7 is flooding, we show up. We don't wait for
8 Canada and Mexico to show up first like Texas did
9 supporting Los Angeles this year, we come
10 immediately. When we pay \$80 billion more in
11 federal taxes than we get back, we don't
12 complain. We know our role is to support others.
13 And when the biggest disaster to ever hit our
14 state hits and we ask for a portion of our own
15 dollars back and you withhold it, we have to
16 change our tone. We have to step up. Because
17 your silence is deafening. When they took health
18 care and food and veterans assistance and they
19 made it harder for students to go to college and
20 they put trillions of dollars in national debt.
21 And you said nothing. That forced us to step
22 into the void when they held our number one
23 public university hostage for a billion dollars
24 of California tax dollars. And you have said
25 nothing. We had to step into that void. You
talk about fighting fire with fire and how we

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1 shouldn't do that, while simultaneously a member
2 of your own caucus just yesterday asked the
3 Department of Justice and Pam Biondi to
4 investigate us criminally. I took that
5 personally that you didn't say anything. We are
6 not just going to sit by and let our democracy
7 crumble here in California. We're standing on
8 business. And I respectfully ask for your I vote
9 Assemblymember Bryan. Assemblymember Gibson, you
10 are recognized.

11 MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very much, Mr.
12 Speaker. That was a mic drop. I wasn't going to
13 say anything, but two of my colleagues just said
14 something about being silent that caused me to
15 reflect on what I said on this floor over the 11
16 years that I've been on this floor. And let me
17 just say, and just repeat what I said since I've
18 been on this green carpet from Dr. Martin Luther
19 King Jr. Life begins in life. Life begins the
20 moment you start being silent about the things
21 that matter. In the end, you will not remember
22 the words of your enemies, but the silence of
23 your friends. So being on this floor today, I
24 cannot sit by and be silent on the things that
25 matter. This is a defining moment in history in
California. So I know we referenced our governor

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1 multiple times on this floor, but I am proud of
2 Gavin Newsom, who had the courage to stand up and
3 be bold when a lot of governors refuse to stand
4 up and be bold to stand up and let California to
5 stand up and be bold and be courageous in this
6 moment, saving democracy. Understand this, that
7 our democracy in the United States is on life
8 support right now. And it takes courage, courage
9 to stand up and be counted. We are in a defining
10 moment in America. And I am so proud to be a
11 member of the California state legislature right
12 now that no other state is being. Is standing up
13 and being counted. When this president, I am
14 embarrassed. I am embarrassed to even call him
15 president. Picking on the most vulnerable people
16 among us, sending in ice ages to snatch our
17 students wearing masks. That's what happened in
18 third world countries. How can we not stand up
19 and do what we're doing? It's about a third
20 term. Doing something that no other president
21 dared to do. It's about taking back. It's about
22 changing the Constitution of the United States of
23 America and make no mistake about it, they didn't
24 hide what they were trying to do. Right now,
25 it's about Project 2025. And it's been said time
and time again, if California do not do this, we

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1 are just handing over the Constitution of the
2 United States of America. And it started with
3 the United States Supreme Court. It is about our
4 human rights. So to my colleague who's not here,
5 who talks about the phone calls that he received
6 and it's about him coming to this country, well,
7 it's about the little old ladies who fought in
8 the 60s and the 50s in order to get human rights,
9 civil rights, women's rights, LGBTQ rights in
10 this country, who can right now be taken away
11 from us in this country, in the United States of
12 America. It's about the next generation that we
13 may not even have any black people serving in
14 office to have representation. It's about 10
15 African American members of Congress that could
16 be wiped away in Congress if we don't stand up
17 and be counted. And California stands in the way
18 of that happening. So we cannot afford not to do
19 anything. So I'm proud of Speaker Revis standing
20 up and being counted and being bold and being in
21 this time, making sure that California is
22 counted. It's about making sure that, that we
23 stand in the way of this man and his power. So,
24 yes, it's about ACA 8. It's about us walking out
25 of this room today and holding our head up high
for the next generation. 30 seconds. We can

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1 make a difference, and we shall make a
2 difference, making sure that we save the
3 democracy for not only for the next generations
4 who will sit in this seat, stand on this floor,
5 but it's about our grandchildren and the legacy
6 that we will leave behind. So I'm asking for the
7 54 courageous Democrats because we already know
8 what the other side won't do with a strong I
9 vote. Thank you, Assemblymember Gibson,
10 Assemblymember Dixon, you are recognized.

11 MEMBER DIXON: Well, a lot has been said.
12 It's been a very emotional morning, I think, to
13 bring the temperature down. I'm struck by what
14 we're trying to do today with HC8, and I
15 respectfully am opposed to it. A lot of things I
16 was going to say have already been said just to
17 remind everyone, the independent, and thanks to
18 your father, Mr. Speaker, the best words were
19 said about the independence of a citizen driven
20 committee to decide to draw the lines of the
21 vote. So all this talk today about democracy
22 does not do honor to Congressman or state Senator
23 Lowenthal and Congressman Lowenthal, who fought
24 for the rights of the people to have a voice in
25 our democracy. What strikes me is in yesterday,
if I may read a portion of an editorial on the

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1 Wall Street Journal, Mr. Speaker.
2 MR. SPEAKER: Without objection.
3 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I'm a real
4 practical, pragmatic person, so I'm seeing where
5 problems happen and how we can fix problems. So.
6 So the supermajority in this legislature is
7 speaking in loud terms, often rude, about
8 democracy. You have democracy in your hands.
9 You are in the super majority. It's the minority
10 that is concerned about democracy and the signs
11 of a lack of democracy. When commissions are
12 being ignored, the voters are being ignored, the
13 people are being ignored, the people who. Who
14 want their voices heard in an independent way.
15 Yesterday's Wall Street Journal said, and I
16 quote, the real House. This is the House of
17 Representatives, Congress. We were just making
18 reference to democratic nightmare. This is all
19 about numbers. Democrats could lose 10 seats in
20 2030 because voters are fleeing the blue states.
21 Remind us all, California is a blue state. So
22 let me give you the numbers. Start with the
23 numbers. Between 2020 and 2024, California lost
24 1.4 million people. And where did they go? They
25 may have gone to Kansas. That is larger than the
population of Kansas have left California. And

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1 that resulted in 2020 in the loss of four
2 congressional seats in California. So you're
3 fighting, the super majority is fighting to
4 protect seats that you think are going away.
5 You've already lost them. Why did you already
6 lose those four seats? And why are you
7 continuing? Why is the other party continuing?
8 Why is California losing population? Why is that
9 affecting California? And the projection is in
10 2030, California will lose four more seats.

11 MR. SPEAKER: Why?

12 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: And also an
13 additional fact I did not know. Between 2020 and
14 2024, California's population under the age of 18
15 shrank by 523,000 people. We have to ask
16 ourselves, why are people leaving California?
17 It's because of laws that have been enacted in
18 this state in the last 15 years that have driven
19 out business, that driven out people for reasons
20 related to education, the quality of education,
21 quality of safety in our communities. They have
22 left the state. They're going to other states,
23 whether it's Texas, whether it's Ohio, whether
24 it's Florida, whether it's Nevada, they're going
25 to other states because they do not like the
policies that are coming out of this state. So

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1 until California and its representatives in this
2 body begin to realize what is not connecting with
3 the laws that are being passed and the people,
4 the voters of California, all this histrionics
5 today, all this, the sky is falling. Chicken
6 Little. Democracy is failing.

7 MR. SPEAKER: 30 seconds.

8 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Democracy is Being
9 saved by people who realize it's not being
10 represented by, by the super majorities that have
11 been holding power in this state for the last 10
12 or 15 years. Look at our policy. But we can
13 find \$250 million for a special election when
14 health care, when community safety, Prop 36,
15 wildfire management wiped off out of the budget.
16 But \$250 million magically appears to protect
17 democracy. Democracy starts here. Keep people
18 in California, keep our businesses in California,
19 keep our families in California, and you know
20 what? You'll have more votes probably, and more
21 congressional representation.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
23 Dixon.

24 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you very
25 much.

MR. SPEAKER: Assemblymember Jackson, you are

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1 recognized.

2 MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you very much. Mr.
3 Speaker. Permission to have a prop. Mr.
4 Jackson, we are not going to allow props today.
5 Not a problem. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise
6 because it's hard to have a thorough discussion
7 or debate in which today has been a very good
8 debate. When we talk about the role of
9 democracy, it simply cannot happen without a real
10 consideration and a real review of our U.S.
11 constitution and the Federalist Papers themselves
12 to understand the real wisdom of our founders and
13 just how much thought they put into all the
14 different checks and balances that were necessary
15 to ensure that this democracy can hold. And one
16 of those things is found in the Federalist Papers
17 number 10, where Madison specifically talks about
18 the roles of the state. And over 200 years ago,
19 Madison said that there will be a time where a
20 fractious leader will emerge and that fractious
21 leader will begin to do things to consolidate
22 power. There will be a time when the executive
23 and the legislative and the judiciary fail their
24 constitutional responsibility to properly provide
25 a check and balance. So Madison says, therefore
is now up to the states to provide yet another

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1 stopgap to begin to hold on to slow down this
2 fractious movement until the next election cycle.
3 So there is something special that we are doing
4 today. There is something very constitutional
5 that we are doing today to ensure that we do our
6 part of having the most fair election process as
7 possible given the circumstances of the nation.
8 And then in the Federalist Papers number 16,
9 Hamilton says that at the end of the day, when
10 our three branches of government may fail, even
11 the actions of states may fail. But Hamilton
12 says something beautiful. He says when it all
13 else fails, that the number one protector of our
14 democracy he calls the natural guardians. And
15 those natural guardians are the people
16 themselves. And so an assembly constitutional
17 amendment says the legislature has a
18 recommendation for you natural guardians that we
19 believe is important enough for you to consider.
20 But at the end of the day, this democracy is not
21 ours. We are only your representatives. At the
22 end of the day, the democracy and the
23 preservation of this democracy lies in your
24 hands. 30 seconds. Therefore, there's nothing
25 more democratic, there is nothing more
constitutional, there is nothing that fulfills

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1 both the letter and the spirit of our democracy
2 than to allow the people of California to make
3 the final say. I respectfully asked for an I
4 vote. Assemblymember Jackson, Assemblymember
5 Bennett, you are recognized.

6 MEMBER BENNETT: Thank you very much, Mr.
7 Speaker. There have been many powerful, logical,
8 cogent arguments made today. And so I hope my
9 humble comments can just add a little bit. I
10 would like to direct my comments to those
11 democratic advocates in our state who are
12 questioning whether this is the right move for us
13 to make, who are wondering whether this political
14 effort to counter Texas is the appropriate thing.
15 But I'd like to say to them, let's put this
16 moment in national perspective, let's put it in
17 global perspective, let's put it in historical
18 perspective, and that is that there's always been
19 a fundamental question, how do you transfer
20 power? How do governments transfer power? And
21 it can be done by violent brute force or it can
22 be done by democratic actions. And our founding
23 fathers, to their great credit, and I wish there
24 were mothers there also, right, they sent us down
25 on a path where we transfer power peacefully by
following certain democratic rules and norms as

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1 we move on. And following those rules has been
2 essential for us as we move. But today, in the
3 world, in this country and in the world, we have
4 autocrats that are desperately trying to
5 consolidate their power by weakening democracy,
6 by changing the rules of the game. And so to my
7 friends out there that are questioning whether
8 this is the right move, I want to say autocrats
9 are counting on you to stand by and say, you
10 know, I like the old rules. I want to play by
11 the old rules. I don't like the new rules. And
12 they're counting on you to do that while they
13 consolidate power with their new rules. And it's
14 a false scenario to say that we can defeat that,
15 that we can win by holding onto the old rules
16 while somebody consolidates power. A few decades
17 ago, Russians had a democracy, but Russians lost
18 that democracy as autocrats and the oligarchs
19 consolidated power. They only have to get enough
20 to be at a tipping point. And now, today, and I
21 want to compliment my colleague across the aisle
22 who admitted that what Texas is doing is wrong.
23 I really admire that. But turning the other
24 cheek is not the way to fight this particular
25 situation. Russians turn the other cheek and
they no longer have the ability to fight back.

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1 Today, Texas is changing the rules in a way that
2 weakens California's ability to have input on who
3 controls the vast powers of the federal
4 government. If Californians don't take this
5 opportunity to block Texas's action, we come one
6 step closer to losing our ability to block the
7 autocrats and the oligarchs out there. We come
8 one step closer to becoming a country dominated
9 by those oligarchs. One step closer to letting
10 intimidation, deceit, and false outrage that's
11 paid for by the oligarchs with media outlets that
12 put daily false outrage that appeals and confuses
13 the voters of the United States. And we come one
14 step closer to that kind of society if we don't
15 take this very important step to counter this.
16 Because once you lose, once you cross that
17 critical threshold, you may never be able to go
18 back to what we had. So, to my dear friends that
19 are out there that have contacted me and say, I
20 don't know, I hope you will remember and keep in
21 mind the historical moment that this is here
22 today. 30 seconds. Thank you very much. I'll
23 cede my 30 seconds and respectfully ask for the.
24 I vote on AC8. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
25 Bennett. Members, the drilling that you hear is
not inside your head. It's actually taking place

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1 in the construction. I want to remind all
2 members that is not picked up on your
3 microphones. Please continue. Assemblymember El
4 Hawari, you are recognized.

5 EL HAWARI: Good morning, Mr. Speaker and
6 members. I rise in support of ACA 8 because the
7 only reason we're here today is Donald Trump.
8 And Republicans are terrified of voters. They
9 know people aren't buying their lies, so they're
10 trying to rig the rules and cheat the game. At
11 the same time, Trump has weaponized immigration
12 to create fear. And what did Republicans in
13 Washington do? They responded by giving ICE more
14 money to tear even more families apart. In my
15 district, that means neighbors who are being
16 racially profiled, American citizens who are
17 picked up by federal agents just for the color of
18 their skin. It means families who are too scared
19 to leave their homes. Families like my own, my
20 Guatemalan mother and my Mexican stepfather, both
21 American citizens who are afraid to leave their
22 home because this is not about democracy. It's
23 about intimidation and it's unconstitutional.
24 And now Trump is repeating some of the ugliest
25 times in our nation's history. He wants a census
that excludes undocumented immigrants, the same

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1 way they tried to ensure that enslaved people
2 were not fully counted back when they first
3 created the Constitution. And as if that were
4 not enough, he's also pushing to cancel mail in
5 ballots, silencing millions of voters who depend
6 on their right to vote. To those on the other
7 side, explain how silencing voters is the same
8 thing as protecting them. Or is it just about
9 protecting your power at the federal level? So
10 when Republicans stand up here talking about
11 transparency or protecting voters, don't be
12 fooled. The truth is, the crisis started in a
13 Republican state, Texas lit a match, and
14 California is simply leveling the playing field
15 instead of waiting until Abbott and Trump burn
16 our own house down. ACA 8 does not give us an
17 advantage. It gives us fairness. And let's not
18 forget, this is going to the voters. So if you
19 are opposing this, you. You are siding with
20 hypocrisy and voter suppression because you want
21 to talk about what's unconstitutional. You only
22 want to talk about what's unconstitutional when
23 it comes to what you believe is happening in
24 California. But when it's the United States of
25 America, you're okay with Trump mandering and
Trump pandering. I urge an I vote. Thank you.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember El
2 Hawari. Assemblymember Gabriel, you are
3 recognized.

4 MEMBER GABRIEL: Thank you very much, Mr.
5 Speaker. Colleagues, I rise today with sadness
6 and also with conviction. And I think it's
7 important, as many of our colleagues have said,
8 that we take a moment and step back and ask
9 ourselves, how did we arrive at this moment? And
10 I see it as I often do, through my lens as a
11 parent, as a father of young kids, and I will
12 tell you, everyone who has had the blessing of
13 being a parent understands what is going on here.
14 Start playing a card game with my five year old.
15 He feels like it isn't going his way. He feels
16 like he might lose. And so he starts to change
17 the rules. And that's what we have, that is
18 transparently what is happening with this
19 president. He understands that his policies are
20 not popular. He understands that people do not
21 want him to continue to be able to be unchecked
22 in Washington. And so rather than change his
23 policies or play by the rules, he's trying to
24 change the rules. And they are moving forward
25 and changing the rules in the most undemocratic
fashion. And that has put those of us in

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1 California in a very difficult position. How do
2 we respond? What do we do in this moment? And
3 what we have from our colleagues on the other
4 side of the aisle is saying, close your eyes. Be
5 willfully blind. Ignore what is happening in the
6 rest of the country, as if we in California are
7 immune to that. Stand down. Do nothing
8 unilaterally, surrender. But to me, there are
9 deep moral implications to that unilateral
10 Surrender. There are real impacts to our people,
11 to, to our population, to our planet and to our
12 democracy. And so there are many of us that feel
13 that California cannot stand idly by in this
14 moment, will not stand idly by in this moment.
15 We owe it to our children to stand up and be
16 counted. And so what do we do when we have these
17 two arguments, Those who say California should do
18 nothing, and those who say California should
19 stand up and fight back. We do what is
20 fundamentally the most democratic thing that we
21 can do. We asked the people of the state of
22 California to weigh in on that. Our colleagues
23 have sat here and lectured us about what the
24 people want. They have sat here and told us,
25 they talked to us repeatedly about democracy.
Well, good. Let's let democracy decide. The one

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1 argument here to which they cannot rebut and will
2 never be able to rebut is that the ultimate
3 decision here rests with the people of the state
4 of California. Donald Trump will not decide
5 this. Gavin Newsom will not decide this.
6 Congress will not decide this. This legislature
7 will not decide this. The people of the state of
8 California will get to decide what they want to
9 do at this pivotal moment in history. And that,
10 to me, is what makes this the right approach. So
11 we heard from our colleague from Westminster. He
12 said, listen to the people. I agree. Let's
13 listen to the people. Let's let the people vote.
14 Let's let the people have their moment to make
15 this decision. They have the wisdom, they have
16 the judgment. And I am confident that they will
17 want to stand up and fight back to protect our
18 democracy. And with that, and in the spirit of
19 giving our citizens and our voters the
20 opportunity to make this consequential decision,
21 respectfully request an I vote on ACA 8. Thank
22 you, Assemblymember Gabriel, Assemblymember
23 Salache, you are recognized.

24 MEMBER SALACHE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker,
25 members and to everyone watching out there,
Americans, international community. This is not

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1 a Republican, Democrat or independent issue.
2 This is an American issue. People have died,
3 people have suffered to save democracy. I assure
4 you that if today we took a vote in this same
5 floor and that board, that we all like to watch
6 the outcomes of the votes, if we put a vote about
7 the Independent commission taking their action
8 every 10 years, it would be a unanimous vote.
9 Because not only have the Republicans, but
10 Democrats have acknowledged that, that that's the
11 way to go. I agree. It's the golden standard
12 that California has set for the nation. And as
13 they say, as California goes, so does the nation.
14 So I couldn't agree with you more that we have to
15 protect that in California for The sake of not
16 only Californians, but for America. But, ladies
17 and gentlemen, and to all our communities, our
18 LGBT community, our immigrant community, we have
19 to raise our voices for Californians and for
20 America today. Now, let's not forget that in
21 this action, the commission will continue doing
22 the work so that we don't have to take any more
23 votes, that they will continue doing the work
24 after the 2030 process. This is a temporary
25 approach to react to what's happening with other
states. And so I agree with the minority leader.

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1 The president is wrong on this one, and Texas is
2 wrong on this one. I agree with him
3 wholeheartedly. And that's why I am proud, as I
4 have had some concerns about this process, that
5 California will continue to have its independent
6 commission process. But you see, ladies and
7 gentlemen, and everyone here today, I was sent to
8 Sacramento to represent almost 500,000
9 constituents. I proudly represent a high
10 immigrant, undocumented community. Con mucho
11 ruyo y con mucho corazon. I'm here representing
12 them and being a voice, because just this morning
13 on Atlantic Boulevard in my city of Linwood, at
14 the barbershop, there's three ICE agents trying
15 to force themselves into the barbershop. And
16 once I'm done, I will happily drop that video for
17 you to watch. I'll airdrop it so you can all
18 have it happened this morning in my own
19 community. The very same people that send me to
20 represent them, people who look like me, are
21 being racially profiled and kidnapped on the
22 streets on the way to work, accessing health care
23 while taking their kids to school or even going
24 to church. How disgusting is that? Immigrants
25 are not the problem. Our diversity makes our
state and our country strong. California's

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1 immigrant communities are vital part of this
2 prosperity through all our nation. I will not
3 sit back and watch ICE kidnap more members of my
4 community. Our community. I ask all of us that
5 we temporarily do this for America. People are
6 watching not only locally, but internationally.
7 And I bring not only my heart, my voice today to
8 this Capitol to ensure that the 500,000 people
9 that I represent in my community of Linwood,
10 Southgate, Maywood, Huntington Park, Walnut Park,
11 Lakewood, Bellflower, and Paramount have a voice.
12 I invite all of you to help protect America.
13 This is not a Republican, Democrat, or
14 independent issue. Let's save humanity, let's
15 save democracy and temporarily respond to this
16 horrible situation that we're living. And then
17 California will continue leading the way by
18 protecting our independent commission and our
19 independent maps so that all Californians have a
20 voice. And if some are leaving, we welcome you
21 back. And those that want to leave other states.
22 Welcome to California 32nd. We have great
23 beaches, great parks and of course some of the
24 best restaurants that our community gets to
25 offer. Thank you. Let's continue to lead and
America, we have your back. Gracias. Thank you.

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1 Assembly member Solace, Assembly member
2 Patterson, you are recognized. Great.
3 MEMBER PATTERSON: Thank you. Mr. Speaker,
4 I'm going to take you up on this unique offer to
5 talk about political parties. It's not something
6 I like to do, but some of these comments like
7 quote unquote dropping to the knees of the
8 President. What does that mean? I take offense
9 to that. My grandpa used to say when something
10 miraculous happened, not bad for swirling gases.
11 What he was doing was mocking evolution. Piper
12 wasn't an overly religious man. He loved God and
13 he loved our nation. Especially as he defended
14 it in the military for entire career. He was a
15 man that believed in a higher power. He believed
16 there were no coincidences these miracles were
17 divine. Despite thousands and thousands of years
18 of authoritarian governments, kings, dictators,
19 it wasn't swirling gases that created our form of
20 government. And our founders said as much when
21 they declared us an independent nation. The
22 Declaration of our Independence proclaims the
23 people are endowed by their creator and our alien
24 inalienable rights which are not granted by the
25 government, they are inherently bestowed upon us.
I believe as the Founders did in Divine

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1 Providence, meaning that I firmly believe any
2 internal threats to our democracy, whether from
3 the national level or right here in the chambers
4 of the California State assembly, that we will be
5 okay. The Divine Providence will secure
6 inalienable rights to self determination. And
7 despite attempts by this body or attempts by the
8 Governor, from the moment he went unchallenged by
9 members on this floor, when he exerted so much
10 power with no Democratic input. What did you do?
11 Mention me sitting by idly? You sat idly by.
12 And he chose to close schools. He closed
13 businesses. And at least partially responsible
14 for the pain and suffering you see in our
15 streets. And we continue to see see to this day.
16 And guess what? To address my colleague from Los
17 Angeles about Republicans in this body that sat
18 idly by. I take great offense to that kind of
19 stuff. Mr. Speaker, when someone talks about
20 what Republicans here have and haven't done.
21 Please. Democrats have been in charge of this
22 state for my entire natural life. I know as
23 individual legislators, some of you have tried
24 but you going to talk about sitting idly by as
25 they say on X lol. Democrats, maybe not as
individuals, but as a ruling dictator party of

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1 this state for my entire life are sitting idly by
2 and have effectively done nothing that has
3 resulted in a better education for our children
4 has done nothing to effectively address the
5 people laying in our street just blocks from this
6 building. These things have gotten worse,
7 especially since Democrats have taken full
8 control of every lever of our government right
9 here in California. I believe in democracy.
10 Why? Because it's rooted in our fundamental
11 inalienable right to be free. And you cannot
12 take that away. And neither can Gavin Newsom.
13 What this body is likely to do in a few minutes
14 highlights the flaws of man. Many of you will
15 vote not to turn the other cheek. You will vote
16 under your own admission to fight back, to punch
17 back, to fight fire with fire. I believe at the
18 end of the day, despite your best efforts to
19 participate in attempt to erode democracy, we
20 will be fine. When history looks back,
21 California will not succeed in its mutual goal of
22 joining with entrenched partisan Democrats
23 throughout our nation to throw out democracy in
24 its fight for fire with fire. Because it cannot
25 override the fundamental protections our founding
documents guarantee us. History will not look

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1 proudly on this moment. It will look highly on
2 potential changes to any map in this state. It's
3 going to be frowned upon. And it certainly won't
4 look highly on the partisan gerrymandered maps
5 here in California. And. And those are the
6 words from one of the co authors in committee of
7 this measure. I don't ever want to be lectured
8 ever again by Democrat anywhere that their
9 party's the party of democracy. 30 seconds.
10 Because what you're doing, even by amending this
11 proposal this morning without any input, is
12 showing you are no better. Democracy is flawed.
13 Mankind is flawed. The measure is flawed and you
14 know it. How many people in this body testified
15 by Texas, the public got to know that you struck
16 out the language this morning. I didn't even
17 know it till I walked in the building. To even
18 talk about Texas. No matter what Texas does, if
19 they do nothing, you are asking the people to
20 erode their rights. Thank you, Assembly. Me? I
21 asked for a no vote. Thank you, Assembly Member
22 Patterson, Assembly Member Schultz, you are
23 recognized.

24 MEMBER SHULTZ: Thank you very much. Mr.
25 Speaker. Permission to read that. Objection.
The people will save their government if the

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1 government itself will allow them. You know,
2 I've thought as I've sat here, I want to first of
3 all mention to my colleague from Lancaster,
4 sorry, from Palmdale, I appreciated your comments
5 at the beginning, sir. I didn't raise my mic
6 right away. I wanted to listen. I wanted to
7 listen to my colleagues speaking in favor of ACA
8 8. I wanted to listen to some of you who have
9 concerns about ACA 8. I also want to thank our
10 esteemed minority leader. We don't agree on
11 much, but I appreciate your words today, sir.
12 The president is wrong. He is wrong to be doing
13 what he's doing. And your point about two wrongs
14 not making a right and burning the entire House
15 down? There's a lot of truth in that statement.
16 I agree with you, sir. And yet over the last
17 week, I've struggled with this issue. I have
18 consulted the Good Book. I've spent time in
19 thought and prayer at the cathedral. I've been
20 trying to find the right answer on this issue.
21 And the remarkable thing is, as I sat here on
22 this floor listening and really giving thought to
23 what we're being asked to do, it was this
24 portrait that hangs above us that really centered
25 my thoughts. The people will save the
government. They will save themselves if the

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1 government simply allows them to do so. The
2 words of probably one of the greatest presidents
3 we ever had, a portrait that hangs over our
4 chamber. A man who, with General Order 141, had
5 to suspend habeas corpus and take unprecedented
6 action because of the risks that face the
7 Republic in an unprecedented time. We're
8 absolutely in unprecedented times. I bring all
9 this up to say that I'm not here to stand with
10 righteous indignation. I'm not here to point
11 fingers at any of you. But what I can say is the
12 house is burning. Democracy is at risk. What is
13 happening in Texas, what is happening across the
14 country, is fundamentally wrong. I don't believe
15 the answer to how we save democracy can be
16 decided among the 119 legislators in our state
17 capitol. I don't believe the governor alone can
18 make that answer. What I do believe, though, is
19 we have to give the people the chance to weigh in
20 on this matter. And that is exactly what aca8
21 does. I believe that this question should be
22 returned to the people. And I'll simply close
23 with one point. Never in the course of history
24 and in the state of California or in any state,
25 have the people been directly given an
opportunity to vote on a map. I believe that is

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1 democracy in its finest hour. Let the people
2 respond and tell us how we should fight to
3 continue saving democracy. I will be voting I
4 and I encourage everyone to vote aye on aca8.
5 Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Assemblymember Schultz,
6 Assembly Member Aarons, you are recognized.

7 MEMBER AARONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
8 Before I give remarks, I just wanted to mention
9 that I'm a proud co sponsor of ACA 8. So when
10 the opposition continues their unserious
11 lawsuits, they know who to direct them towards.
12 I rise in support of standing up and Defending
13 the rights of freedoms for all Californians and
14 Americans. We must take decisive action to stand
15 up to Donald Trump's unprecedented call for
16 Republican led states like Texas and Florida to
17 redraw the Congressional lines and unfairly rig
18 the 2026 midterm elections for Republican
19 politicians to benefit. Donald Trump and
20 Republicans in Congress passed their big ugly
21 federal budget which is set to obliterate health
22 care access for millions and already struggling
23 Californians colleagues, each and every single
24 one of you in this room, regardless of political
25 party, have tens of thousands of constituents who
will lose health care because Donald Trump and

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1 Washington D.C. republicans recently adopted
2 that budget and Republican Congress members
3 passed this big ugly federal budget which cuts
4 hundreds of billions of dollars in funding to
5 America's health system. Without any alternative
6 plan to protect health access for anyone, how
7 will your community's hospitals and health
8 clinics benefit from the suffering of this
9 federal budget, the result of massive divestment
10 of federal dollars in health care? Trump's big
11 ugly federal budget will indeed result in lives
12 being lost. Donald Trump and MAGA extremist
13 Republican politicians will make no plan to
14 protect health care access for any Californians
15 or any Americans. MAGA extremist Republicans in
16 D.C. have decimated our health care in every
17 corner of the United States for no reason and no
18 alternative plan just to give tax cuts to their
19 super wealthy campaign donors and millionaires
20 like themselves. These Trump cuts will kick poor
21 people off of their health care but also result
22 in higher health insurance premium premiums for
23 all of us because without health insurance we
24 will have to get, we will have to get care at the
25 most expensive place and time in whatever
emergency rooms that are left in our communities.

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1 And now that America now Americans are pissed off
2 at Republican politicians for obliterating their
3 access to health care. Trump is leading a
4 Republican led states like Texas and Florida and
5 demanding that they exert their state legislative
6 power to unilaterally redraw their Congressional
7 districts to make it easier for more Republican
8 politicians to win Congressional seats. And what
9 are we to do? We cannot sit by and let Donald
10 Trump and Republicans rig the next election so
11 that they cannot be held accountable and have no
12 chance to be voted out or lose control of
13 Congress. Heaven forbid they actually are held
14 accountable by their failed policies in America.
15 California is honoring our Constitution unlike
16 Republicans in Texas by defending our liberty and
17 giving Californians a choice to defend themselves
18 and against Donald Trump's attacks on our country
19 and our state. I rise in support and ask all of
20 my colleagues to join me in fighting back for all
21 of California regardless of where you represent
22 and stop the robbing of Californians rights, the
23 robbing of our liberty and our lives. We must
24 stop Trump MAGA Republicans steal of our
25 congressional elections and the desecration of of
our founding father's dream for a government by

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1 and for the people. I urge all of my colleagues,
2 all Californians and all Americans to join
3 California's efforts to defend ourselves against
4 the rising tide of fascism and authoritarianism
5 in this country. And I urge your I vote. Thank
6 you, Assemblymember Ahrens. Assemblymember
7 Berner, you are recognized.

8 MEMBER BERNER: Thank you. I rise in
9 support of ACA 8. For this simple, Californians
10 should be given the right to choose. The right
11 to choose, to fight partisanship with
12 partisanship, the right to do something rather
13 than nothing, and the right to have a voice.
14 Let's be clear. There's only one reason a
15 sitting President calls for states to stack
16 Congress in his favor for five years. When our
17 grandchildren look back in a few decades, I want
18 Californians to be able to say that they had a
19 voice, they did something and they had a choice.
20 I respectfully urgent I vote on ACA 8.

21 MR. SPEAKER: Assemblymember Berner,
22 Assemblymember Ransom, you are recognized.

23 MEMBER RANSOM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
24 rise today because democracy is on the line.
25 Freedom is on the line. Liberty and justice is
on the line. Free and fair elections for all is

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1 on the line today. I don't know about anyone
2 else, but I was raised to stand up for people who
3 could not stand up for themselves. We can't just
4 be bystanders when bullies come to push us
5 around, especially when people already don't have
6 a voice. That's what the people elected us to do
7 and that's what this is all about. We're not
8 forcing anything down anyone's throat. We are
9 giving Californians a choice. Do you want to bow
10 down or do you want to fight back? ACA 8 gives
11 the voters, the people that we represent, the
12 decision making power. To those who suddenly
13 have so much to say. I have to say that I have
14 been baffled by the silence that we have heard.
15 It's been very loud. Where was all of the noise
16 when the President and Congress slashed federal
17 funding, cut Medicaid, imposed tariffs that hurt
18 small businesses? Where was the noise? There's
19 been complicity as the Constitution has been
20 undermined as partisan gerrymandering. Maps have
21 been pushed on the people in Texas, which
22 ultimately affects the entire United States.
23 Where was all the noise while America was being
24 hijacked? Today, with all of the objections and
25 with all of the noise, I'm clearly concerned that
it is our job to stand up and to speak out? We

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1 must ask, can you tell us, please? What I've not
2 heard is why are we so afraid to give the voters
3 a choice? What are we so afraid of? And we
4 should also ask, with all the tears to protect
5 the president's gerrymandering plan, where were all
6 the tears for the poor people, the people who
7 have been silenced? People are suffering and
8 dying because we need to lead. People are not
9 leading and that hurts America. So we have a
10 voice and we have a choice. Do we deny the
11 citizens a chance to have democracy, freedom,
12 free and fair elections, and liberty and justice
13 for all? Like we say when we stand up and we
14 pledge allegiance to this same flag when we come
15 into this chamber, this is about citizens that
16 are being terrorized. When those who are being
17 bullied need someone to stand up, California is
18 not going to sit down and be a bystander. If you
19 want to be taken seriously, you need to be able
20 to explain to us why you don't want to give this
21 to the voters. The rules have been changed, and
22 that means we have to act accordingly. We have a
23 choice. Do we want to allow the entire nation to
24 be disenfranchised, or do we ask the citizens of
25 California to lock arms with us and to march
forward to save democracy in the world where the

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1 US has now become an authoritarian government and
2 has adopted the strategies of dictators to rig a
3 system? I say that it's our duty to give it to
4 the voters so that we can have a chance to fight
5 back on behalf of the citizens of the United
6 States. And I respectfully ask for your. I
7 vote.

8 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
9 Ransom. Assemblymember Avila Farias, you are
10 recognized.

11 MEMBER FARIAS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
12 rise as a proud co author of ACA 8. For years,
13 Trump's administration has targeted our state,
14 holding California wildfire and disaster relief,
15 hostage taking food out of the family's mouths by
16 cutting SNAP benefits, terrorizing immigrant
17 communities with brutal raids and no due process,
18 and kidnapping our community members, imposing
19 tariffs that have punished the working families.
20 And now Trump and his allies, his domestic
21 terrorists, are trying to dismantle democracy
22 with California's redistricting proposal. We're
23 not racing to the bottom. We're drawing the
24 line. While Republican led states rampartisan
25 maps in secret, we're doing the opposite. Voters
made it clear they want independent

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1 redistricting, not partisan power grabs. For
2 those who know me, I have dedicated much of my
3 public service to protecting the right to vote
4 and to ensure that historically disadvantaged
5 communities enjoy a voice at the TABLE Every
6 state should have an independent redistricting
7 commission. And guess what? This measure, we
8 still do. But let's be clear. We're also
9 defending against the coordinating power grab.
10 This isn't politics as usual. This is an
11 emergency. This is an emergency for our state.
12 This is an emergency for our country. It's an
13 emergency to protect our democracy. California
14 will always defend the right to vote. And we
15 will. And the will of the people. Unlike Texas,
16 we won't be silenced. That voice. We will send
17 the issue to the ballot box where it belongs.
18 California voters will see maps. California
19 voters will decide. California will not back
20 down. We will protect our vote, our voice and
21 our values. Thank you.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember Avila
23 Farias. Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, you
24 are recognized.

25 MEMBER RODRIQUEZ: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't
going to talk on this bill today and I'm still

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1 not. We just needed a little break and Get our
2 minds on something else.

3 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
4 Rodriguez. Assemblymember Davies, you are
5 recognized.

6 MEMBER DAVIES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
7 Members, I just have a simple question for you.
8 In your hearts, do you honestly believe this aca8
9 is the right thing to do? For a second, let's
10 ignore the partisan noise. I think we can all
11 agree gerrymandering anywhere is wrong. It's not
12 hard or controversial to say that. Imagine what
13 we could fund with \$235 million.

14 MR. SPEAKER: We could use pardon decorum in
15 the chamber, please. Let's respect the speaker.

16 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you, Mr.
17 Speaker. We could use this money to help with
18 the state's insurance crisis or pay raises for
19 first responders. Members, let me remind you
20 that our independent redistricting commission
21 held 196 public meetings, had 3,800 public
22 comments and received 32,000 written submissions.
23 Compare that to the process where Californians
24 had four days to view the public maps and submit
25 comments through a portal and had one assembly
hearing to voice their support and opposition.

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1 That wasn't even put into record. Has anyone in
2 this chamber ever seen the 16,000 written
3 comments we have supposedly received on this
4 issue? Anyone? Need I remind you that voters
5 approved the commission drawing congressional
6 districts via Prop 20 with 61% of the votes.
7 Californians gave our government a mandate that
8 it should be everyday citizens who will be given
9 the power to draw fair maps using these six
10 principles. Population equality, compliance with
11 Federal Voting Rights act, geography and geodic
12 geographic integrity and geographic compactness.
13 And lastly to nest state Senate and Assembly
14 districts into compact areas. Democrats,
15 Republicans and Independents came together
16 believed politicians should not draw their own
17 maps. On a personal note, let me tell you how
18 ACA 8 will affect Assembly District 74. This
19 proposal splits my assembly district into three
20 congressional districts and divides communities
21 of interest and goes against the principles of
22 geographic integrity. That's absurd.
23 Communities of interest are supposed to remain
24 together. What does a desert community have in
25 common with a suburban city? You have chosen to
stifle the voices of California. You say you

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1 know what is best. Well, I believe that their
2 voices matter. I hear. Listen. Listen to the
3 people. Well, that's what I do. I listen to the
4 people. It's not my agenda, it's their agenda.
5 Through lcms, I sent out a five question poll.
6 My district is the most purple and balanced
7 district in the state. So you should be all
8 interested in these results. The first question
9 that was asked stated, currently California has
10 an independent citizens redistricting commission
11 that draws election district maps. Do you think
12 redistricting should be done by an independent
13 commission? The legislature are unsure. These
14 answers might surprise you. 65% of Democrats
15 favored an independent commission, 96% of
16 Republicans favored an independent commission,
17 and 92% of independents favored an independent
18 commission. The second question that was asked
19 stated, how important is it to that the
20 redistricting division be made through a process
21 that is open to the public and allows for
22 community input? 78% of Democrats said very
23 important, 97% of Republicans said very
24 important, and 96% of independents said very
25 important. At the beginning of this year and
session, it was very clear what the concerns of

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1 Californians were. 30 seconds they needed from
2 this legislature. I think everyone agreed the
3 people know what's right and what's wrong. And
4 in my district they have responded and told me,
5 Mr. Speaker, question to.

6 MR. SPEAKER: The author without objection.
7 Your time is about to elapse.

8 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Yep, just finish up
9 here. My final question to the author is did you
10 or do you know anyone that signed an NDA? Thank
11 you.

12 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, madam. Thank you,
13 Ms. Davies. Assemblymember Rogers, you are
14 recognized.

15 MEMBER ROGERS: Thank you so much, Mr.
16 Speaker. I agree with many of my colleagues. We
17 know that gerrymandering is bad for
18 representative democracy. Our system was built
19 on checks and balances. And unfortunately, right
20 now we have a TEMU dictator in the White House
21 and we have a Congress that has completely
22 abdicated their responsibility to act as that
23 check on that dictator. And I do not for a
24 moment want us to leave here with sound bites of
25 sanctimonious pearl clutching from my colleagues
about protecting Californians without making sure

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1 we talk about what our legislature has been doing
2 this year to protect Californians. Not one of my
3 colleagues across the aisle has condemned the
4 president for turning our Military against our
5 own people in LA and in D.C. not one of my
6 colleagues across the aisle condemned the
7 President for sending armed thugs to a press
8 conference that the governor and the legislature
9 was having last week in an act of intimidation.
10 Not one of my colleagues across the aisle has
11 condemned the President for being in the Epstein
12 files. Not one of my colleagues across the aisle
13 has condemned the president for withholding funds
14 for fire victims in California. If we're going
15 to talk about protecting Californians, we're
16 going to talk about how this legislature is
17 protecting Californians. To quote and paraphrase
18 Ben Franklin, it's a democracy if they choose to
19 keep it. Every time we go to the ballot box, we
20 get to choose if we are going to fight for
21 democracy. And this November, Californians and
22 Democrat Democrats in California are going to
23 fight for democracy. Thank you, Assemblymember
24 Rogers. Assemblymember Fong, you are recognized.

25 MEMBER FONG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
rise as a proud co author of ACA 8 and its

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1 importance in defending our democracy. We didn't
2 ask for this fight and we need to fight back
3 against President Trump's power grab. This is
4 more about defending our democracy and making
5 sure that every voice counts. This is our chance
6 to stand up and raise our voices to fight for our
7 democracy. The stakes couldn't be higher. The
8 President federal administration is denying
9 wildfire relief, targeting our diverse immigrant
10 communities, targeting our number one public
11 university with an extraction request of \$1
12 billion and pulling millions off of health care.
13 We will stand up and we will defend the Voting
14 Rights act and protect our historically
15 marginalized communities. We must fight fire
16 with fire and we will let the voters decide.
17 That is democracy at its best. I strongly urge
18 an I vote on acai. Thank you. Thank you,
19 Assemblymember Fong. Members, this is a last
20 call to raise your microphone if you are going to
21 be speaking on ACA 8. Last call, please.
22 Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, you are recognized
23 colleagues.

24 MEMBER GONZALEZ: Today I rise in complete
25 and utter disappointment. We're about to
potentially waste \$230 million to undo something

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1 Californians already decided on in 2010, that an
2 independent commission, not the governor and not
3 the legislature, should draw district lines. The
4 majority of Californians don't want this. Yet
5 here we are. I'm exhausted that this is what
6 we're choosing to spend our time on. This body
7 has all the power to make the lives of
8 Californians better. And Californians are sick
9 and tired of watching us come to this floor week
10 after week with no solutions to the crises that
11 are faced that we're facing. We as a body are
12 out of Touch with the issues raging in our state,
13 from affordability, health care to the housing
14 crisis to homelessness. As a marine corps
15 veteran, it sickens me to know that men and women
16 who I fought alongside are sleeping on the
17 streets. We can fix that, but we aren't.
18 Instead, the governor and members of this body
19 are playing partisan politics. Let me be clear.
20 Californians in my district tell me every day
21 they feel forgotten by. By this body.
22 Forgotten. Let me be clear about that. You see,
23 in my district, the needs are urgent and real.
24 Palo Verde Hospital in Blythe is on the brink of
25 closure. I requested 4 million in emergency
funding to keep it operating a lifeline that was

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1 not fulfilled. As a result, the hospital now
2 faces an uncertain future, and residents of
3 Blythe could soon be forced to travel over 100
4 miles just to access emergency care. This is not
5 just a health care issue. It's a public safety
6 crisis. In Imperial county, the last sugar beet
7 plant, Spreckles, has shut down, wiping out over
8 700 jobs in a county that already suffers a 20%
9 unemployment rate. And. And yet instead of
10 focusing on jobs, we're debating on
11 gerrymandering. At Ironwood State Prison in
12 Blythe, leadership is doing incredible work
13 rehabilitating incarcerated people with programs
14 that gives men something to look forward to.
15 Imagine what a fraction of this money could do
16 there. In the mountain communities from
17 Winchester to Anza, families live with a constant
18 threat of wildfires. We should be filling
19 reservoirs and doing real forest management, but
20 we aren't. I've heard arguments in these halls
21 that just because Texas is doing it, we should
22 too. That the White House is holding onto money
23 that should go to California and democracy is in
24 flames. Colleagues too. Wrong zone. Make a
25 right like my colleagues, that if democracy is on
the line, then California should be strengthening

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1 it, not rigging it for political gain. Hundreds
2 of millions of dollars could be directed towards
3 fighting food insecurity, helping organizations
4 like FIND and the Imperial Valley food banks who
5 are doing God's work every single day and serving
6 the most vulnerable in our communities. We
7 cannot claim to serve the people while
8 prioritizing the their most basic needs. And I
9 could go on. Families in Imperial, Riverside and
10 San Bernardino county can't afford gas,
11 groceries, childcare. Parents are choosing
12 between filling their gas tanks or their fridge.
13 That's the reality my district is living with
14 every single day. So let me ask why are we
15 wasting time and money on reckless measures that
16 that is being pushed down onto Californians from
17 those at the highest levels of government in our
18 state? You know, when I was at war. At least I
19 was able to see the threats coming at me. But
20 here in Sacramento, I have no idea about the
21 backroom deals. I still can't get answers as to
22 who actually drew the lines. I ran for office
23 because of my son, RJ who has cerebral palsy. He
24 can't speak for himself. So I ran to be his
25 voice and the voice for his families. And we
fought together to take back in home supportive

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1 services. We work together to do that. We can
2 do so much more. We can get so much more done.
3 So, colleagues, I end by saying this. Let's rise
4 up. Let's work together to fix the problems in
5 our state, because we can do it. I've seen it
6 done. So let's make this happen. Thank you,
7 Assemblymember Gonzalez, Assemblymember Arambula,
8 you are recognized.

9 MEMBER ARAMBULA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and
10 members, for the opportunity to present on this
11 floor. I don't oftentimes speak, but I felt
12 called today to be able to share some words.
13 Just yesterday, an icon of this great country
14 reminded me of our family's roots that began in
15 Tejas. My my father being born in Brownsville,
16 Texas, in 1952, during a particularly racist and
17 xenophobic period in American history, a time
18 that was known as Operation Wetback, what is
19 still to this day America's largest mass
20 deportation event, an event that helped to sweep
21 up my father, who is an American citizen, and
22 deported our family to Mexico. That we learned
23 that there are states that value and give dignity
24 and respect to all who called that state home and
25 states that do not. And so we migrated to the
great state of California, to Delano, where it

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1 was Dolores Huerta who reminded me yesterday that
2 we were fighting for dignity and respect when it
3 was UFW. My father, who I spoke about earlier,
4 also had the honor of serving, serving in this
5 institution where he had an independent streak.
6 Now, back in 2008, he was one of those Democrats
7 who, along with Republicans, voted for the
8 independent redistricting commission to go before
9 the people. And so it is with great pride that
10 many of us have been watching their work and
11 honored by the service of those who wish to serve
12 on that commission. And I too was watching each
13 one of those hearings and impressed with what was
14 happening in 2020. But I had dinner with my
15 father this past weekend and I spoke with him
16 about that vote. And he reminded me that today's
17 electorate looks different than when he made that
18 vote nearly two decades ago, that today's
19 democracy looks different than it was two decades
20 ago. And that fundamentally representation is
21 about returning Resources, the taxes that we pay.
22 And for those of us who come from poor areas, who
23 represent poor people, we are not getting our
24 fair share. And the representation that we have
25 in Congress is not returning resources. That
big, beautiful bill was bad for our communities.

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1 And despite my ideals of wanting to fight for
2 independence and redistricting, we must make sure
3 we're getting our fair share of resources. And
4 so that means that you have to stand up against
5 your ideals and stand up for your morals. You
6 have to stand up for a community who too often
7 doesn't get represented here in the people's
8 house. And so I will put my ideals to the side
9 and instead stand up for our morals. But it
10 comes with a warning that this institution might
11 not be able to resist the temptation to come back
12 here again, and that we have to make sure that we
13 are fundamentally believing that we can maintain
14 that independent redistricting commission. So I
15 will tell you, while I share that fear, what I
16 put my faith in. I put my faith that there's
17 someone here in the great state of California who
18 one day will be walking around being the
19 President of the United States and the White
20 House, and that our governor then will be able to
21 pass federal independent redistricting commission
22 for all states. And by doing that, we can have a
23 balanced, level playing field where every single
24 person counts and we have representation that is
25 returning resources for our communities. I put
faith in the people of our state to decide their

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1 future. That while we might not have been a
2 state when our nation was created, we are the
3 bearer of its future. It is incumbent on us to
4 rise up and to defend our democracy. I
5 respectfully ask for an I vote. Thank you,
6 Assembly Member Arambula. Assembly Member
7 Tangipa, you are recognized.

8 MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
9 This measure before us is neither bold nor
10 principled. It is, in plain terms, a blatant
11 attack on the most transparent process our state
12 has ever had for drawing congressional districts.
13 It undermines what has become the gold standard
14 for the nation, the Independent Citizens
15 Redistricting Commission. The commission was
16 created to restore fairness to ensure
17 representation in California is not based on
18 which party controls the government, but on
19 principles of independence, transparency, and
20 community. And it worked. Californians can look
21 at their districts today, and they know that they
22 were not manipulated for partisan advantage. And
23 now, in just four days, with two rushed committee
24 hearings and almost no opportunity for real
25 public comment, we are on the verge of throwing
all of that away. Let me remind this body.

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1 During committee hearings, one of our colleagues
2 brazenly admitted that this entire thing was
3 about partisan gerrymandering. Admitted partisan
4 politics. This was a direct response to the
5 question about protecting voters and underserved
6 communities. Not a word about fairness, not a
7 word about transparency. An open admission to
8 partisan gain. So how can we stand in this
9 chamber and criticize Texas, Florida or other
10 states for gerrymandering when we've joined them
11 in the same practice? How can we demand fairness
12 in the courts or before Congress when we're
13 willing to sacrifice it here at home? We have
14 lost all credibility. Let's not forget this is
15 not free. We are wasting money and resources on
16 an election that that is unnecessary and
17 unwanted. Every dollar spent on this political
18 stunt is a dollar not spent on addressing the
19 cost of living crisis or wildfires, not spending
20 on improving our schools, not spent on keeping
21 our communities safe, and not spent on expanding
22 healthcare access. Californians never asked for
23 this election. What they did ask for was a fully
24 fund Prop 36, which this legislature failed to
25 do. What they asked for was for us not to ration
medi cal because Californians and families are

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1 dying. Dying. We were told at the start of this
2 session that our priority was addressing cost of
3 living. Yet I haven't seen any bills rushed
4 through four days to lower utility rates, to make
5 housing more affordable, to bring down our food
6 prices. But when it comes to the bills that
7 serve political ambition, suddenly four days is
8 plenty of time. Suddenly co authoring bills
9 without even reading them is no problem. This
10 isn't just bad policy. It flies in the face of
11 established fact. Study after study shows
12 gerrymandering reduces federal dollars coming to
13 our communities, depresses voter turnouts,
14 disenfranchises us and and even leads to lower
15 wages. None of that helps Californians who are
16 already stretching every single penny thin. None
17 of it helps to cover rent, grocery gas. None of
18 that helps the families that are deciding whether
19 to pay for medicine or if they can afford their
20 utility rates or if they can make an insurance
21 payment or if they can afford to even buy a house
22 for the next generation. None of it. These
23 facts again highlight my concerns with our
24 spending problem and leveraging the future. Ten
25 to \$30 billion structural deficit is what we were
told with the LAO and the Department of Finance.

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1 That is year over year all the way to 2028. If
2 we don't stop this reckless spending on measures
3 like this, we're going to drain what's left of
4 our rainy day fund and we are going to have to
5 make significant, significant cuts for
6 Californians and you are saying for partisan
7 gain. It is worth it for families that are
8 dying. To me, the message from the majority
9 party is clear. Principles and independence only
10 matter when it's politically convenient. And
11 Californians can do worse. Better. 30 seconds.
12 Shameful. The level of Trump derangement
13 syndrome in this party is debilitating our
14 ability to govern properly. It is being claimed
15 that the reason reason for this bill is to combat
16 authoritarianism. Before redistricting, before
17 the big beautiful bill, before any cuts were
18 implemented, it was this legislature that
19 stripped the minority of the committees because
20 they spoke out in opposition. It was this
21 legislature that restricted our time. The real
22 authoritarian problem is in the mirror. The.
23 What about him? Thank you, assembly member Tony.
24 Everywhere else. Thank you, Assemblymember. The
25 youngest member of this committee, Assemblymember
Harbidian. You are recognized.

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1 MEMBER HARBIDIAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
2 There's an old adage for lawyers that when the
3 law is on your side, you pound the law. When the
4 facts are on your side, you pound the facts.
5 When neither the facts of the law are on your
6 side, you pound the table. And I'll tell you, my
7 friends on the other side of the aisle, we've
8 been hearing a lot of pounding the table today.
9 Most of what we heard, including what we just
10 heard, was completely hyperbolic and devoid of
11 fact. And with all the bluster, let's be clear
12 about the admission of partisan gain. There is a
13 representative that will go down in history in
14 Texas, one by the name of Representative Todd
15 Hunter, who admitted that this was nakedly
16 partisan. What happened in Texas, and I quote,
17 the underlying goal of what happened In Texas, as
18 Mr. Hunter said of this plan, is straightforward
19 to improve Republican political performance.
20 That is the admission of partisan objectives that
21 we should be focused on. That is the admission
22 of gerrymandering. That why we are here today.
23 And for every friend across the aisle that stood
24 up today, including my friend from Fresno that
25 has held up independent commissions for
redistricting as the model. When my friend From

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1 Merced introduced AB 1441 for independent
2 redistricting in her district, every single one
3 of you voted against it. So save it. This is
4 about one thing. It's about one man trying to
5 control California, trying to control our
6 country. We will not bend, we will not break.
7 And we will do everything in our power to save
8 California and save our country. This is one of
9 the proudest moments of my short term as a
10 legislator here. It's one of the easiest votes
11 that I will take and I will be very proud when
12 the California people who ultimately make this
13 decision actually help us save our country. I
14 request AN I vote, Mr. Speaker. Thank you,
15 Assemblymember Harbidian. Assemblymember Hoover,
16 you are recognized.

17 MR. HOOVER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
18 agree with my colleague from Lynwood that this is
19 not a fight between Democrats and Republicans.
20 In fact, redistricting has never been a fight
21 between political parties. It has always been a
22 fight between the people and power hungry
23 politicians and friends. This did not start in
24 Texas. For over 200 years, politicians have used
25 gerrymandering to choose their preferred voters,
protect their own political interests, and avoid

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1 accountability. And let's be clear, it is wrong
2 when this is done by either party. In fact, many
3 of the points raised by my colleagues on this
4 floor today highlight the harms of partisan
5 gerrymandering and underscore exactly why
6 politicians should not be drawing their own maps.
7 That is why I was proud when California citizens
8 chose a better path forward. A system where
9 politicians no longer choose their voters, but
10 one where the voters get to choose their
11 politicians. Our Citizens Redistricting
12 Commission is a model for the nation and a model
13 that should be adopted nationwide to end all
14 partisan gerrymandering once and for all.
15 Despite Governor Newsom's insistence that ACA 8
16 preserves this model, make no mistake that it
17 undermines the will of the voters and forever
18 tarnishes California's legacy as a leader on
19 independence redistricting. You are all correct
20 that the voters will get a say once again if this
21 passes today. And I truly believe that they will
22 see through this veiled attempt to return power
23 to the politicians. As of this week, polls
24 already show that 64% of Californians do not
25 support the proposal before us today. So I urge
you to reject this race to the bottom, to stand

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1 on principle and vote no on ACA 8. Thank you,
2 Assemblymember Hoover. Assemblymember Kalra, you
3 are recognized.

4 MEMBER KALRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's
5 really tiresome to hear these sanctimonious cries
6 from the opposition to this measure. For the
7 past several weeks and even months, as Trump has
8 been clamoring for more and more power, talking
9 about having a third term and then very directly
10 demanding seats be given to him that he's
11 entitled to from Texas. We didn't hear our
12 Republican colleagues say a word about that.
13 When it's their party in control of Congress,
14 their party in control of the White House. That
15 fight was brought to us and we didn't hear
16 anything about redistricting and, and fairness at
17 all until today when it's brought to our doorstep
18 and we have to now stand up to defend our
19 democracy against a tyrant. And these crocodile
20 tears about, oh, what about the children, oh,
21 what about the health care when not any one of
22 Them spoke about this big ugly bill that was
23 passed that's going to take over over a trillion
24 dollars away from Medicaid, millions in snap
25 giving food to children and seniors. They talk
about a cost of an election. They never talk

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1 about a cost of an election when time and again
2 they try to recall the governor. We didn't hear
3 about cost of election then, but we hear about it
4 now. What is the cost of election? Oh, about
5 the cost of one. Trump Ballroom. So let's be
6 real about what we're talking about when we talk
7 about getting on your knees. You talk about
8 taking and bending the knee. You're bending the
9 knee to a tyrant. And we will not have any
10 kings. We will have no kings in America. Not as
11 long as California exists. Not as long as we
12 have the ability to fight back. We will not have
13 a king. You all are choosing your supreme leader
14 over your own constituents. You're choosing your
15 supreme leader, Trump over children that are
16 going to lose health care and food. You are
17 making that choice and we're standing up against
18 it. We're not going to stand up for trillions in
19 tax cuts for billionaires. We're going to stand
20 up for democracy. We are going to go down
21 fighting for our democracy. And we'll let you be
22 on the wrong side of history, Republicans.

23 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Assemblymember
24 Kara. Members, this is the second and final
25 request. Anyone who wishes to speak must raise
their microphone now. They do not, will not be

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1 recognized. Speaker Reavis, you are recognized.

2 MEMBER REAVIS: Well, thank you, Mr.

3 Speaker. Protam. Quite the year we have had

4 here. 2025. I'm proud of this chamber. I'm

5 proud of my colleagues for meeting this moment

6 with courage. President Trump wants us to be

7 intimidated. And his playbook is a simple one.

8 Bully, threaten and silence, then rig the rules

9 to hang onto power. And we are here today

10 because California will not be a bystander to

11 that power grab. We are not intimidated and we

12 are acting openly, lawfully, with purpose and

13 resolve to defend our state and to defend our

14 democracy. And look, Donald Trump, he does not

15 believe in democracy. He is terrified of losing

16 and he will do whatever it takes to cling onto

17 power. We saw this on January 6 when he

18 unleashed a violent mob on our nation's capital

19 and he did this to overturn an election. We saw

20 it yesterday in the state of Texas where

21 Republicans advanced a mid decade map designed to

22 flip a up to five congressional seats and lock in

23 a partisan edge in the U.S. house of

24 Representatives at President Trump's order.

25 Again, this is the same dangerous playbook. If
Trump can't win fairly. He'll try to make it

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1 impossible for Republicans to lose. And why?
2 Because Donald Trump knows what we know. Voters
3 are ready to hold him accountable from California
4 to New York, from north to South. But of course,
5 President Trump, he doesn't want to be held
6 accountable for his failures in an election,
7 especially the next one, and that's why he is
8 trying to rig it. And of course, our Republican
9 colleagues in this chamber don't want their party
10 to be held accountable by voters, and certainly
11 not in California. Accountable for ripping away
12 \$1.25 billion billion dollars from our state for
13 food assistance for hungry kids, hungry children,
14 our most vulnerable families. Accountable for
15 the millions of Californians who will lose their
16 health care coverage because of this president.
17 Accountable for the cuts to our disaster
18 preparedness while our communities burn and
19 flood. Accountable for the communities in our
20 state torn apart by ICE raids. Neighbors,
21 friends, the people who put food on our tables,
22 shoved into unmarked vans by men wearing masks,
23 taken without warning or due process.
24 Accountable for tariffs that are driving up our
25 grocery prices every single, single day.
Accountable for corruption that makes Trump, his

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1 family and his friends richer while everyone else
2 struggles to get by in California. In
3 California, we will do whatever it takes to
4 ensure that voters, not Donald Trump, will decide
5 the direction of this country. This is a proud
6 moment in the history of this Assembly.
7 Californians, we believe in freedom. We will not
8 let our political system be hijacked by
9 authoritarianism. And today, we give every
10 Californian the power to say no. To say no to
11 Donald Trump's power grab and yes to. To our
12 people, to our state and to our democracy. Mr.
13 Speaker, I proudly ask for an I vote. Thank you,
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 MR. SPEAKER: All debate having ceased.
16 State your point, assembly member Gallagher.

17 MR. GALLAGHER: Mr. Speaker, in the past and
18 actually earlier today, you've said that. State
19 your point of order. Assemblymember Gallagher,
20 you have said that votes are to suspend the
21 Constitution. ACA 8 specifically says,
22 Notwithstanding provisions of the state
23 constitution. So when we vote on this, would you
24 please reference it as a vote to suspend the
25 Constitution as you have done previously.
Moment, Mr. Gallagher. Point is not well taken.

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1 Assemblymember Gallagher, this is a vote to put
2 the measure on the ballot for the people of the
3 California, of the state of California. It is
4 not a suspension of the Constitution. All debate
5 having ceased, Clerk will open the roll. All
6 members vote who desire to vote. All members
7 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who
8 desire to vote. Clerk will close the roll.
9 Tally the votes. Ayes 57. Nose 20. The measure
10 passes. The measure is adopted. Media
11 transmittal to the Senate not. Objection.
12 Members. We actually have a very special guest,
13 historic Californian is visiting us today and
14 we're going to take an opportunity to take a
15 quick break from business on the Daily File and
16 recognize Assemblymember Wicks for her guest
17 introduction and Assemblymember Banta for her
18 guest introduction.

19 MEMBER BANTA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and
20 colleagues. I rise today to recognize one of the
21 greatest athletes of all time. In addition to
22 being an Oakland native, a proud UC Berkeley
23 alumni. That's right, a business owner, a
24 philanthropist, an actor, he's also the only man
25 who has ever single handedly caused an
earthquake. I am honored to introduce to you Mr.

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1 Marshawn Lynch. He is a true renaissance man.
2 During his NFL career, Marshawn, nicknamed Beast
3 Mode, rushed over 10,000 yards, scored 85
4 touchdowns, earned five Pro bowl selections and
5 led the Seattle Seahawks to their first Super
6 bowl victory in 2014. Since retiring, Marshawn
7 has continued to make a lasting impact off the
8 field. From co founding the Fam First Family
9 Foundation, a non profit dedicated to empowering
10 youth through mentorship, to starring in a number
11 of movies, Marshawn has dedicated his career to
12 representing and uplifting his community. He's
13 also involved in a variety of business ventures
14 including Beast Mode Apparel, Rob and Ben's
15 Sports Bar and Restaurant in Emeryville, Beast
16 Mode and Beast Mode Productions. And of course,
17 we all know his love of Skittles. Sorry, Mr.
18 Gabriel. Please join me in giving a nice warm
19 California welcome to a leader, a legend in
20 sports, entertainment, business and community,
21 Marshawn Lynch.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to the California
23 assembly members. We have a few other welcomes
24 for Mr. Lynch. Just a moment, just a moment.
25 Assemblymember Bonta and Assemblymember Tangipa,
Assemblymember Banta, you are recognized.

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1 MEMBER BANTA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm
2 honored on behalf of the beautiful people of
3 Oakland to welcome to the town our own Marshawn
4 Lynch to the Capitol. Before he was a Super bowl
5 champion, Marshawn's love for football was born
6 in Oakland and his talents on the field were
7 quickly recognized. During his time time at
8 Oakland Technical High School, Marshawn would go
9 on to bring his fierce skills to Berkeley, the
10 Bills, the Seahawks and the Raiders. Off the
11 field, Marshawn has never failed to show the love
12 for his hometown of Oakland, particularly as he's
13 seen working with his family fam First Family
14 foundation, embodying the true spirit of
15 California and the soul of the town. As he
16 constantly outdoes himself. Marshawn has even
17 made a name for himself on the silver screen in
18 smash hits like Bottoms, Freaky Tales and I Know
19 My kids are waiting to see what you'll bring this
20 next season. With Euphoria, we want to thank and
21 love on our Marshawn Lynch, because right now,
22 Oakland deserves the defender, the caretaker, the
23 champion that is embodied in our icon, Mr.
24 Marshawn Lynch. Thank you for being here.

25 MR. SPEAKER: And finally, Assemblymember
Tangipa.

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1 MEMBER TANGIPA: I just wanted to say really
2 brief. Marshawn lynch and I, we had an amazing
3 mentor of ours, Coach Jeff Tedford, that taught
4 principles and values to us. And you as a teddy
5 bear and me as a teddy dog. We all know that
6 that man said it. And shout out to kp, my
7 teammate at Fresno State, thank you. Thank you
8 for coming and speaking to us and fostering the
9 next generation. Because most people don't see
10 that. They don't see what you do to the young
11 men out there. And you tell them to buy in. And
12 when you don't have a man in your life, you can
13 find a leader who will build that foundation for
14 you. You did that for hundreds of thousands of
15 young men across the state that believe in you,
16 that found passion, that drove themselves when
17 they had nothing and no hope. But one man
18 believed in us and changed our lives. They did
19 that. And you are leading that same example.
20 And I just wanted to say thank you and it's good
21 to see you. Welcome to the California Assembly.
22 IT members, we have continued business on the
23 daily file. We are now moving to the Senate
24 third reading file, item 145, SB 280, by Senator
25 Cervantes, presented by Assemblymember Pellerin.
Members, can I have you take your desk, please?

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1 Members, please take your desks. Take your
2 conversations off the floor. Leader Gallagher,
3 you are recognized. Is this on the amendments?
4 Mr. Speaker, you're recognized, Leader Gallagher.

5 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Thank you. Mr. Speaker,
6 I do have amendments at the desk on SB 280. This
7 amendment would require the proposed
8 congressional maps to be publicly available for
9 at least 131 days. Mr. Gallagher, I'm going to
10 ask the clerk to read first, and then. And then
11 I'll ask you to recognize you once again. A
12 Clerk will read SB 280. Senate Bill 280, with
13 amendments by Assembly Member Gallagher. Set
14 two. Assemblymember Gallagher, you are
15 recognized.

16 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Yes. Thank you again,
17 Mr. Speaker, this amendment would require that
18 the proposed congressional maps to be publicly
19 available for at least 131 days before the voters
20 make the decision on ACA 8. This is about
21 putting people over politics. Rushing through
22 maps without scrutiny is unacceptable. By
23 requiring the maps to be publicly available well
24 in advance and in compliance with the
25 constitutional deadline of 131 days. We protect
the integrity of our democracy democracy and give

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1 citizens ample time to review and challenge any
2 unfair boundaries. We can't ignore the stark
3 contrast. The commission's independent public
4 driven approach has delivered fair
5 representation. But this legislative push
6 sparked by other politics threatens to drag
7 California into redistricting wars that
8 prioritize party power over people. The
9 Independent citizens redistrict Commission held
10 over 100, actually over 200 meetings and welcomed
11 extensive input from voters on the communities
12 and needs ensuring a thorough and transparent
13 process. These amendments to SB280 are essential
14 to ensure that there is enough input and review
15 time for voters to understand what they are
16 voting on. This is a very complex matter. These
17 are very intricate maps that cover the entire
18 state and people need to know what communities
19 have been split, what communities have, what
20 counties have been split out, what their
21 representation will actually look like. So
22 giving California that time that they deserved,
23 much like they had during the commission's
24 exhaustive process, helps ensure that we have
25 fundamental fair review before those are voted
on. And I respectfully ask for your I vote on

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1 this reasonable amendment. Thank you.

2 Assemblymember Gallagher. Majority Leader.

3 Madam Majority Leader, you're recognized.

4 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I move delay the

5 amendments on the table.

6 MR. SPEAKER: Seconded by Assemblymember

7 Garcia. This motion is not debatable. It takes

8 a majority of those present and voting members.

9 This is a procedural vote. Clerk will open the

10 roll. All members vote who desire to vote.

11 Majority leaders asking for an I vote. Leader

12 Gallagher is asking for a no vote. All members

13 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who

14 desire to vote. The clerk will close the roll.

15 Tally the votes. Ayes 48, nos. 19. The

16 amendments are laid on the table. Assemblymember

17 Demaio, you are recognized.

18 MEMBER DEMAIO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I

19 rise in strong opposition to SB 280 and have an

20 amendment at the desk. Assemblymember Demaio

21 will. We still need to open on the measure first

22 and then you will be recognized for the amendment

23 at the author. There's an amendment at the desk.

24 Mr. Demaio, you're out of order. Mr. Demaio, you

25 may approach the deus and speak with the chief

clerk. Your amendments are not here at the desk.

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1 Assembly member Pellerin. Okay, we have. We
2 have sets of amendments here. Assemblymember
3 Castillo, we have your set of amendments. Would
4 you like to speak on your amendments?

5 Assemblymember Castillo, you are recognized to
6 speak on your amendments. Clerk will read the
7 amendments.

8 CLERK: Senate Bill 280 with amendments by
9 Assembly Member Castillo. Set one. Assembly
10 Member Castillo, you are recognized.

11 MEMBER CASTILLO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
12 Members, I am presenting these Amendments today
13 because California voters created the Citizens
14 Redistricting Commission for one clear purpose.
15 To take the power of drawing district lines away
16 from politicians and return it to the people.
17 Yet Governor Newsom and Democrat politicians are
18 seeking to redraw our maps without transparency
19 and public input. What we see before us today is
20 exactly the kind of gerrymandering Californians
21 thought they ended when they approved the
22 Citizens Redistricting Commission in the first
23 place. These amendments to SB280 make sure the
24 commission remains truly independent. By making
25 it a misdemeanor for elected officials to
communicate with commissioners about district

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1 lines, we close the door to backroom deals and
2 unethical political pressure. If redistricting
3 is to happen, it should happen on the merits of
4 the needs of the people, not because powerful
5 politicians whispered in the ear of the
6 commission. This is simply about trust. The
7 public deserves to know what the maps they live
8 under are drawn fairly, not manipulated for
9 partisan advantage. We stand here as elected
10 representatives of California, not Texas. We
11 were sent here to protect the will of the
12 California voters. This has nothing to do with
13 Texas. I respectfully ask for your support on
14 these amendments to protect the will of
15 California voters. Thank you for your attention
16 to this matter.

17 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Assemblymember
18 Castillo. Madam Majority Leader, you are
19 recognized. I moved.

20 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Lay the amendments
21 on the table.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Seconded by Assemblymember
23 Garcia. Members, this motion is not debatable.
24 It takes a majority of those present voting.
25 This is a procedural vote. Clerk will open the
roll. All members vote who desire to vote. The

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1 Majority Leader is asking for an aye vote.
2 Assemblymember Castillo is asking for a no vote.
3 All members vote who desire to vote. All members
4 vote who desire to vote. Clerk will close the
5 roll. Tally the votes. Ayes, 55. Noes, 19.
6 The amendments are laid on the table.
7 Assemblymember Gallagher Set 3. You are
8 recognized for your amendment, sir. The clerk
9 will read. Excuse me. Clerk will read. Senate
10 Bill 280 with amendments by Assembly Member
11 Gallagher. Set three. Assembly Member
12 Gallagher, you are recognized.

13 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
14 So this is the amendment that I was. I was
15 speaking to earlier that was taken out. So right
16 now, ACA8 does not have a trigger provision. If
17 Texas were to move forward with redistricting,
18 that this would only go into effect if that
19 happens. I am proposing this amendment to SB280
20 to make that the case. And truly, if the debate
21 that we just heard is true, that we have to do
22 this because of what Texas is doing. And by the
23 way, one House has passed the redistricting
24 measure. Another House still has to pass it.
25 The Governor would Still have to sign it in
Texas. Put the condition in the bill. If it's

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1 truly about Texas and you're countering what
2 Texas is doing, then there should be a condition
3 on this ACA and this measure going forward. If
4 you truly believe that, then you should support
5 this amendment. And that's again another simple,
6 reasonable amendment I'm proposing to this
7 legislation. I hope that this body will support
8 it and put your money where your mouth is. Thank
9 you. Assembly member Gallagher. Madam Majority
10 Leader, you are recognized.

11 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I move delay the
12 amendments on the table.

13 MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion by the
14 Majority leader. Seconded by Assemblymember
15 Garcia. Members, this is a procedural vote. It
16 is not debatable. Takes majority of those
17 present voting. Clerk will open the roll. All
18 members vote who desire to vote. The majority
19 Majority leader is asking for an aye vote. Mr.
20 Gallagher is asking for a no vote. All members
21 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who
22 desire to vote. The clerk will close the roll.
23 Tally the votes. Ayes. 55, nos. 19. The
24 amendments are laid on the table. Clerk will
25 read set four of the amendments. Senate Bill 280
with amendments by Assemblymember Tangipa. Set

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1 four summary. Member Tangipa, you are
2 recognized.

3 MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you. This amendment
4 is simple. And if you voted for aca8 and the
5 maps it created or sorry and you're about to vote
6 on this, you shouldn't be allowed to immediately
7 run for those districts. You shouldn't have a
8 vested interest in approving the measure. And if
9 you truly believe that SB280 was about fairness,
10 then you should have no problem stepping back and
11 giving up the chance from benefiting from it.
12 This amendment closes that loophole. It makes
13 sure the legislature legislators can't change the
14 rules one day and cash in on them the next.
15 Public service should come first before self
16 interest, period. I ask that you support these
17 amendments and you prove that you don't have a
18 vested interest. Thank you.

19 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you,
20 Assemblymember Tangipa. Madam Majority Leader,
21 you are recognized.

22 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I move to lay the
23 amendments on the table.

24 MR. SPEAKER: Majority leader has moved to
25 lay the amendments on the table. Seconded by
assembly member Garcia. Members, this is a

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1 procedural vote. Takes 40 majority of those
2 present in voting. Clerk will open the roll.
3 All members vote who desire to vote. Majority
4 leaders asking for an I vote. Mr. Mr. Tangipa is
5 asking for a no vote. All members vote who
6 desire to vote. All members vote who desire to
7 vote. Clerk will close the roll. Tally the
8 votes. Ayes 53, nos. 19. The amendments are
9 laid on the table. Now onto the bill in Chief.
10 The Clerk will read Senate Bill 280 by Senator
11 Cervantes and others inaccurating to election and
12 making it appropriation, therefore declaring the
13 urgency thereof to take effect immediately.
14 Assemblymember Pillorin, you are recognized.

15 MEMBER PILLORIN: Thank you. Good
16 afternoon, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise to
17 present SB 280, a bill that is jointly authored
18 by Senator Cervantes and myself. This bill calls
19 for a statewide special election on November 4th
20 of 2025. This special election gives California
21 voters the opportunity to vote on a Congress
22 constitutional amendment. Let me repeat that.
23 California voters, not elected officials, will
24 make the final decision. ACA 8 as was presented
25 by my colleague from Menlo park, will allow for a
one time temporary mid decade redistricting of

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1 our state's Congressional districts. Not because
2 we want to, but because we want to allow voters
3 to to decide if they want to fight against the
4 horrific Trump policies that are harming their
5 families, businesses, communities and
6 institutions. SB 280 also makes the necessary
7 statutory changes to allow for the election to be
8 held on time and to allow elections officials to
9 conduct a fair and transparent, secure and
10 accessible election. As a former county
11 elections official, I can attest that the county
12 elections officials I know are the most
13 professional, well trained, dedicated group of
14 public servants I have ever met. They have
15 proven time and again that they can deliver
16 elections with accuracy, integrity and
17 dedication. From presidential contests held
18 during a pandemic to recalls held during
19 wildfires, they have risen to every challenge. A
20 special election in November will demand
21 extraordinary effort and resources. But I have
22 full confidence that with the proper state
23 support and under the leadership of our Secretary
24 of State and her team, they will once again
25 ensure that every voter has access, every ballot
is secure and every voice is heard. SB 280 also

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1 includes language to ensure that counties are
2 made whole for the cost of conducting this
3 special election. This provision was especially
4 important for me and I know that it's important
5 for counties of all sizes to quickly touch on the
6 issue of costs. I know there's been concern from
7 some the of of my colleagues that having this
8 special election is not the best use of state
9 dollars. Whatever it costs to conduct this
10 special election pales in comparison to the
11 massive economic harm by Trump on our state.
12 We've heard many people speak of it today. His
13 tariffs have fueled higher prices. Families are
14 paying more at the grocery store. And yet he's
15 slashing billions of dollars from families food
16 assistance, leaving 735,000 Californians at risk
17 of losing calfresh. He's cutting nearly a
18 trillion from Medicaid to pay for tax breaks.
19 For billionaires putting Medi cal coverage for 3
20 million Californians on the line. And he's
21 holding back nearly a billion dollars for our K
22 through 12 schools. Trump's mass arrests,
23 detentions, and deportations will cost the state
24 billions of dollars and eliminate \$23 billion in
25 tax revenues. Trump's policies slash science and
climate funding, strip women's and LGBTQ rights,

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1 cut support for veterans, seniors, and people
2 with disabilities, and target our communities of
3 color, undermining health, dignity, and
4 opportunity for the most vulnerable. The list
5 goes on. Trump's policies don't just hurt our
6 economy. They hurt our families, our schools,
7 our health, and our future. That is the
8 democracy we are fighting for. It's the people.
9 A government of, for, and by the people. The
10 cost of this election is pennies compared to the
11 price Californians are already paying for Trump's
12 failed policies. But ultimately, California
13 doesn't have to spend a single dime on this
14 special election. Our state's Republican
15 representatives in Congress can march over to the
16 White House right now, pick up the phone,
17 organize themselves, and tell the president to
18 stop what is happening in Texas right now. Now,
19 his grab for five seats that he thinks he is
20 entitled to. And they better act fast, because
21 we know that map has been passed by the House and
22 it's going to the Senate today. As long as this
23 president thinks he's entitled to more Republican
24 seats in Congress, regardless of how the people
25 vote, and as long as Republican officials
nationally are unwilling to stand up and to fight

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1 for it and to preserve our democracy, then
2 California must give voters this opportunity to
3 decide whether to fight back against these
4 authoritarian tactics by approving the use of
5 these temporary congressional district maps. I
6 respectfully ask for your. I vote on SB280.

7 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assembly Member
8 Pellerin. Assembly Member Demaio, you are
9 recognized.

10 MEMBER DEMAIO: Mr. Speaker, permission to
11 use a prop. We are not allowing props today, Mr.
12 Demaio. Then why have you become props to
13 Governor Gavin Newsom's presidential campaign?
14 That is what SB 280 is. An unnecessary special
15 election at a cost of a quarter billion dollars.
16 Why? Because his campaign for president has been
17 going down in flames and he needs something to
18 prop up his chances. Make no mistake about it,
19 this is a political stunt. An unnecessary,
20 costly special election because Gavin Newsom
21 needs chum in the water for political attention.
22 You know it and I know it. And you're allowing
23 state taxpayer money to be used for it. My
24 friends across the aisle say that this is no more
25 than a special election, like the recall was in
2021. But let me tell you why there's a big

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1 difference. The recall in 2021 was a citizen's
2 right. You may disagree with it. I know you all
3 likely voted against it. But it is a right of
4 the citizens to collect signatures and place
5 items on the ballot and trigger a special
6 election. If you felt that this was necessary to
7 overturn the 2010 citizens initiative, that took
8 the power out of your hands to manipulate lines
9 and that's what you're doing here. That's what
10 ACA8 does. Takes the power away from the
11 citizens commission and gives it right back to
12 the politicians so they can do what they've done
13 for the last 72 hours. Go behind closed doors
14 and manipulate maps and draw lines and fashion
15 congressional districts for themselves or their
16 friends in the future. If you wanted to do all
17 that, then you should have done a citizens
18 initiative campaign. You should have collected
19 your signatures like the recall backers did. But
20 you didn't. Because you have no problem spending
21 precious scarce state tax dollars in the middle
22 of a budget crisis. You say that we have to
23 defend dollars for California, but you have
24 wantonly wasted money. For example, giving free
25 health care to illegal immigrants at the cost of
\$10 billion and counting. \$250 million applied

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1 to our state budget may not make up for your
2 multi billion dollar deficit, but it's a start.
3 You know what \$250 million would do? It would
4 fully fund Prop 36 so that we could give power to
5 and tools to the prosecutors and the law
6 enforcement agencies to arrest and punish
7 criminals. Voters voted for Prop 36, but you
8 refused to fund it from the party that says let
9 the voters decide and let's do what the voters
10 want. Baloney. You do what you want. Might
11 makes right. And that's exactly what you've done
12 for the last 72 hours by trampling over
13 constitutional provisions and violating House
14 rules. And you talk about a fair election.
15 SB280 shortens the timeline necessary for an
16 election. But because you have an urgency clause
17 there might makes right. You change election law
18 and now you're going to slap a misleading ballot
19 title on. You can't even win based on the truth.
20 You say you trust the voters, but you don't trust
21 them enough to tell them the truth. Because your
22 ballot measure title. Because we've seen it.
23 We've seen your polling that the DCCC or someone
24 paid for. Retains the Independent Citizens
25 Redistricting Commission. Are you proud of
yourselves? Retains the Independent Citizens

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1 Redistricting Commission. You are eviscerating
2 that commission. You are nullifying that
3 commission. You are suspending the voice of the
4 citizens. And what they decided to grab the
5 power back for yourself. And don't for a moment
6 call it temporary. You know darn well that this
7 is permanent. You will never give the power back
8 to the people once you seize it back from them.
9 30 seconds. And finally you say that you're
10 going to respect the vote of the people. Did you
11 do that with Prop 36 by fully funding it? No.
12 Did you respect the vote of the people who put
13 Article 21 in our state constitution and said you
14 shouldn't have the ability to draw maps? You are
15 drawing a map in violation of the state
16 constitution. You don't care about what the
17 voters said. You're disregarding it from 2010.
18 Oh, but they'll retroactively approve our
19 decision here, will they? Give them an honest
20 ballot title. You'll see what these voters.

21 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. DeMaio. Thank
22 you, Mr. DeMaio. Mr. DeMaio. That was pretty
23 funny. I was so tempted to recognize birthdays,
24 but I refrained. Assemblymember Gallagher, you
25 are recognized.

MEMBER GALLAGHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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1 I rise in opposition. You know the scripture
2 that I quoted earlier about turning the other
3 cheek, It. It is a hard word. It's a hard word
4 for me because all this week, all I've wanted to
5 do is fight back. And when you see something you
6 think is wrong, that's your immediate gut
7 reaction. But that scripture is for me, and it's
8 for everyone in this room. And it may be hard,
9 it may go against the grain, but it is
10 nonetheless true. And I think what is also true
11 is that we have to stop saying that our democracy
12 is in peril. And let me talk about that a little
13 bit more. I've been hearing that since I was in
14 college. I remember when George W. Bush won the
15 election, and that was all you would hear. Oh,
16 my God, our democracy is over. He's a warmonger.
17 All these outlandish statements that we make
18 about our opponents, right? To gin up the base,
19 to make. To further polarization. It really
20 started even back then on my side, when Obama got
21 elected, oh, my God, our democracy is over. You
22 know, he's a communist plant. He's probably
23 going to bring about communism, right? To gin up
24 the base, right? And then, of course, when Trump
25 got elected, oh, our democracy is over. And yet
we had an election, right? And Joe Biden was

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1 elected president. Imagine that. Our democracy
2 wasn't over, right? And of course, on our side,
3 a lot of people upset as well. We didn't like
4 what Joe Biden was doing. I didn't like his
5 policies. I Did not like his executive orders
6 that I thought were an overreach of executive
7 power. I certainly called them out. But our
8 democracy was not over, no, not by a long shot.
9 We didn't stop meeting in these halls as the
10 representatives of the people. We didn't stop
11 doing those things. People still voted,
12 elections still happened. And Donald Trump was
13 re elected president in the last cycle. I know
14 that that bothers you. I know you don't like it,
15 but he was duly elected. And our democracy is no
16 more in peril than it was back when George W.
17 Bush or when Barack Obama was elected or when Joe
18 Biden was elected. So stop saying that because
19 it contributes to the problem, ginning everybody
20 up further polarization, more vortex of
21 polarization that we can't get out of. That's
22 the problem. We have a responsibility right here
23 in this building to pass just laws. And now we
24 have a bill before us. It is not just to suspend
25 election laws, to suspend the time that people
have to review constitutional amendments, to

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1 shorten the time for when you're supposed to have
2 elections, shorten the time when people have the
3 ability to review and, and that give public
4 input, to move through these bills in three days
5 when you're supposed to have at least 30 days in
6 print before you even hear them. And you know
7 it. It's not just. So don't pretend that it is.
8 And here's another truth. All the flowery
9 language, all the defending democracy, standing
10 up, fighting for your democracy, all of that is
11 all subterfuge for this one principle. Because
12 this is exactly what you were saying, that in
13 order to save democracy, we must dismantle it, we
14 must undermine it. In order to preserve
15 representation, you must temporarily suspend it.
16 That principle has never been true and has always
17 led to despotism and authoritarianism. But
18 you're following along, marching along right to
19 it, giving away power that belongs to the people,
20 subverting the Constitution, and then saying
21 you're doing it under the auspices of democracy.
22 30 seconds. You know, I had no problem saying
23 that. I think my president is wrong. I agree
24 with a lot of his agenda, but I think he is wrong
25 on this point. What I don't hear over there on
this other side is that our governor is wrong and

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1 you were silent. Don't talk to me about
2 executive overreach when he didn't even let us go
3 worship in our churches. And you said nothing.
4 When he shut down businesses, many of them Latino
5 owned immigrant businesses, you said nothing.
6 Thank you, Assembly member Gallagher --

7 MEMBER GALLAGHER: -- So stand up for
8 executive overreach when it really Matters.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, assembly member
10 Gallagher, state your point. Assembly member.
11 Assembly Member Schultz, state your point of
12 order.

13 MEMBER SHULTZ: Yep. All right. Thank you,
14 Mr. Speaker. Just want to encourage everyone to
15 follow the rules and not impugn the integrity of
16 any member of the body. I'm pretty sure I can
17 borrow another handbook here by my seatmate.

18 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Schultz. Thank
19 you, Mr. Schultz. Your point of order is well
20 taken. Members, I will remind you what I read
21 earlier, based in section 120 and 121. Freedom
22 of speech involves obedience to all the rules of
23 debate. The language used by members during
24 debate should be temperate, decorous and
25 respectful. Assembly member Tangipa -- You are
recognized.

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1 MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
2 really like to do data, facts and dates, so let's
3 have some. Seven months ago, there was a
4 different president in the White House. Let's be
5 clear. The challenges Californians faced are the
6 same ones they are now. But then, back then,
7 seven months ago, the average cost of a home in
8 the state, in this state was 825,000. One in
9 every five Californian right now can't afford
10 their utility bills. Recent college graduates
11 were drowning in student loan debt, and small
12 businesses were shuddering at an alarming rate.
13 The fact of the matter is this. The common
14 denominator in all of this isn't who sits in the
15 White House. It's the priorities.

16 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Assemblymember
17 Tangipa. Just a moment, somebody. Member
18 Harbidian, state your point of order.

19 MEMBER HARBIDIAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
20 Would ask the speakers to actually speak to the
21 bill in front of us and --

22 MR. SPEAKER: -- Thank you, Assemblymember
23 HarBidian. Your point is well taken. Member
24 Tangiba, please speak to the merits of this bill.

25 MEMBER TANGIBA: And we are here today
debating a bill that does nothing to address

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1 housing affordability, utility rates, education,
2 or small business survival. Instead, we're
3 debating a bill that writes blank checks for an
4 election that solves nothing that was never asked
5 for by anybody. The Legislative Analysis Office
6 and the Department of Finance, two offices that
7 rarely agree on much, are in lockstep on one
8 thing. Our state faces a structural deficit
9 between 10 billion and 30 billion. Until 2028,
10 we don't even know the final cost of this
11 election. The analysis says it'll likely run in
12 the hundreds of millions of dollars when. At a
13 time when we're already in the red. And that's
14 even before we even factor in the additional
15 blank checks that are written by the Attorney
16 General for an inevitable litigation that will
17 truly, truly follow colleagues. This bill and
18 the manner in which it is being forced through
19 the legislature is the exact opposite of fiscal
20 responsibility. Again, as a business owner and a
21 realtor, it usually takes around 21 days to
22 perform due diligence. When spending \$500,000 on
23 a home. I can't even get 21 minutes in a
24 committee to perform due diligence and we're
25 debating on spending over \$200 million. That's
just financial insanity. This is a bill that

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1 would spend millions of dollars and affect 40
2 million Californians. Writing Blake checks
3 without due diligence is grossly negligent.
4 Californians deserve more than two hearings,
5 limited comments and no answers. Rather than
6 wasting hundreds of millions of dollars on a
7 special election that nobody asked for, we have
8 an opportunity to reevaluate our priorities. The
9 money could be used to address very real and
10 critical issues. Madera County, a rural county.
11 The hospital is struggling to remain open in that
12 exact county. You cannot have a baby in it. And
13 I represent them along with others colleagues.
14 Let's be honest. This bill is not about solving
15 California's real problems. It's about political
16 gamesmanship at the expense of 40 million people
17 who are already stretched to their limits. Every
18 dollar we throw at a vanity project is a dollar
19 we steal from families who cannot afford
20 groceries, from the six to eight hospitals on the
21 verge of closing its doors from student to buried
22 in debt and small businesses just trying to
23 survive. If we pass this bill, we're not just
24 writing blank checks. We're writing off the very
25 people we elected to serve. Californians deserve
leadership, not recklessness. They deserve

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1 solutions, not distractions. They deserve a
2 legislature that treats their hard earned tax
3 dollars the same as they treat their own. I will
4 not stand by and rubber stamp financial insanity.
5 I urge you to join me in rejecting this wasteful,
6 shortsighted and hypocritical bill. When asked
7 multiple times, how much does it cost? Can we.
8 Can we allocate money? I was attacked over and
9 over and over again. And if we want to use
10 hypocrisy as an argument, then let's look at it.
11 Let's look at the independent redistricting.
12 Let's look at all this. Let's bring up 1441 when
13 it was. If you even read the bill, if you even
14 read that partisan gerrymandering bill, you would
15 realize that it's based off of the registration
16 in that county, gets the majority. And it also
17 has written in that bill that the minority party
18 doesn't even have to agree with it. That is
19 structurally different than the independent
20 redistricting Commission we have here, and it is
21 a blatant lie. And you are trying to gaslight
22 people that we are hypocritical. Let me do you
23 one better, because I look at this so much.
24 There's another bill that was AB 2030 in 2022
25 that created the exact same thing that was a
partisan Citizens Redistricting Commission. I

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1 ask that you look at a nonpartisan, independent
2 one and you protect the sanctity of it. And you
3 also prioritize a Californian's wallets because
4 they can't afford the BS. I urge a no thank you,
5 Assemblymember Tangipa. Assemblymember McKinner,
6 you are recognized. Yes.

7 MEMBER MCKINNER: Mr. Chair and members, I
8 urge an eye on SB 280 as we look at how much it's
9 going to cost to. To hold this election. My
10 colleague quoted \$200 million. Where I can find
11 that \$200 million? Donald Trump. He's froze
12 nearly \$1 billion in education funds meant for
13 California schools. This money supports after
14 school programs, teachers training and English
15 learning programs that tens of thousands of
16 California kids rely on. He's stripping these
17 funds, punishing our most vulnerable. Look,
18 Donald Trump is not just playing politics. He's
19 deliberately punishing California's families,
20 students and workers by withholding billions of
21 dollars we've already earned. We can, we cannot
22 allow one man's vendetta to rob our state of his
23 future. He's also holding research in higher
24 education funds. Trump has pulled \$584 million
25 in federal research grants from UCLA alone,
threatening groundbreaking cancer research.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: He's pulling money.

2 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: He's holding money.

3 I haven't heard anyone stand up and.

4 MR. SPEAKER: Say why he is pulling money
5 from.

6 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Our state on this
7 vendetta. And so I think that we can find the
8 money to save democracy. And with that, I ask
9 for an I vote.

10 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
11 McKinner. Assemblymember Davies, you are
12 recognized.

13 MEMBER DAVIES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
14 Yes. There were five questions to my poll, so I
15 thought I'd finish them up again. Listen to the
16 people, because what I'm hearing is there's no
17 limit to the cost for this election. So we had a
18 question. If the state were to hold a special
19 election to change the redistricting process, it
20 could cost taxpayers more than \$200 million.
21 Knowing this, would you support or oppose holding
22 a special election on this issue? Democrats
23 supported it by 64%, Republicans opposed it by
24 90%. And once again, independents opposed it by
25 69%. Also, some people say giving redistricting
power back to politicians could lead to

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1 gerrymandering. Districts drawn to favor
2 incumbents or one party. Others say politicians
3 are accountable to voters and should have this
4 responsibility. Which view comes closest to
5 yours and your concerns? 56% of Democrats said
6 they had concerns. Republicans, 98% said they
7 had concerns with politicians making the maps.
8 And 90% of independents had strong concerns about
9 putting it in the hands of politicians. So once
10 again, it's not my voice, it's the people's
11 voice, and they deserve to be heard. I recommend
12 an opposition to SB 280. Thank you.

13 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Assemblymember
14 Davies. Assemblymember Berman, you are
15 recognized.

16 MEMBER BERMAN: Mr. Speaker, is there a
17 doctor in the House? Are you asking the chair,
18 Mr. Berman? Yeah, I'm asking the speaker if we
19 have. I am severely worried. Some colleagues
20 from across the aisle are suffering from severe
21 Gavin Derangement Syndrome, and I'm worried about
22 their health. But I'll tell you, I'm so tired.
23 I'm so tired of hearing the faux outrage and the
24 lecturing and the hypocrisy from colleagues who
25 are silent or worse yet, support efforts to rip
food assistance away from hundreds of thousands

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1 of Californians who supported efforts to rip
2 health care away from millions of Californians,
3 especially in their districts. I'm so tired of
4 Republicans. Excuse me, colleagues from across
5 the aisle who complain about the cost of
6 democracy, but who are silent when the President
7 of the United States. The duly elected President
8 of the United States. Never a debate on that for
9 me. No, stop the steal over here. Wants to
10 extort California institutions for billions of
11 dollars. But now, now when we're trying to
12 defend democracy, it's too high of a cost to
13 bear. Eight and a half years in, and the faux
14 outrage has gotten a little nauseating. I
15 encourage my colleagues to vote Aye on SB 280.
16 Thank you, Assemblymember Berman. Assemblymember
17 Hadwick, you are recognized.

18 MEMBER HADWICK: Mr. Speaker, I rise today
19 in strong opposition. Arise today for rural
20 California, for the communities that have once
21 been get once again been forgotten and sidelined
22 by a process that should have been transparent,
23 but instead was conducted in secret behind closed
24 doors. I've stood side by side by colleagues on
25 both sides of the aisle to fight for federal
funding. I truly try to make decisions for

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1 people, for the people that live in my very
2 unique district. I went to D.C. to speak again
3 to both sides of the aisle for funding for secure
4 rural schools, for Head Start, for tribes. So I
5 was not silent then, and I can't be silent now.
6 These redistricting efforts divide my district
7 into pieces, splitting apart communities that
8 share history, geography, and real human
9 connection. How Does Modoc county belong in a
10 district with Marin and the Golden Gate Bridge?
11 These counties are 400 miles apart and separated
12 by two mountain ranges. The priorities of
13 Alturas and Sausalito could not be more
14 different. My rural county that borders Oregon
15 and Nevada, with eight residents now will have
16 the same representative as our governor in Marin
17 County. Modoc county, one of the poorest and
18 most remote in the state, grouped with Marin
19 county, one of the wealthiest and urban. That is
20 not a community of interest. That is political
21 Frankenstein. The people, not the politicians,
22 should choose their representatives. My district
23 hates government. I grew up in the original
24 state of Jefferson. They don't trust our state.
25 This plan is a violation of what little public
trust we have left with Californians. It's

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1 expensive, it's rushed, and it's done without the
2 consent of the very people that we claim to be
3 protecting. And if it can happen here, it can
4 happen anywhere. And I don't agree that it
5 should happen anywhere. The games, the revenge,
6 the hate, the politician answers to very simple
7 questions. The actions taken by this body this
8 week. This is why people, people don't trust us.
9 We've heard a lot of quotes from Martin Luther
10 King Jr. Today, and one of my favorites that
11 he's also most probably his most famous quote
12 that I try to live by every day is, darkness
13 cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do
14 that. And hate cannot drive out hate. Only love
15 can do that. My district has two congressmen
16 that are bold, relentless fighters who stand tall
17 for rural California. They don't back down from
18 a fight, whether it's defending our water, our
19 farms, our natural resources, disaster relief, or
20 simply our way of life. Now they are being
21 targeted with this new map designed to silence
22 our voice. Again, strip what little power these
23 rural communities have, and we cannot afford to
24 lose them. We need leaders who know us, who
25 stand with us and fight like hell for us. They
are loved in my district because they understand

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1 my very unique district. You cannot serve
2 communities that you do not understand, and you
3 cannot fairly represent people whose voices you
4 deliberately silence. My district is arguably
5 the most conservative in the state, and I truly
6 hate the party lines, the divide. I represent
7 everyone that lives in my district, no matter
8 what party, and I try to take that into
9 consideration in my work because that is good
10 governance. The party divide in these new maps
11 are not my only concern. My concern is that my
12 district is diced into pieces, creating an urban
13 versus rural divide that already happens every
14 day in this building. This is not good
15 governance. This is about control. And it's
16 rural Californians who will pay the price? This
17 isn't just bad policy. It's bad faith. And
18 Californians, my constituents, deserve better
19 than to be used as pawns in a political game that
20 we weren't even invited to play in. I believe
21 the voters will see through this in November, and
22 the results will be that we all lose. The only
23 thing that we're going to have is more
24 Californians that think that their government is
25 once again trying to trick them, once again
wasting money on political messaging and once

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1 again letting them down. The people, not the
2 politicians, should choose the representatives.
3 And at the end of the day, Californians deserve
4 better than this.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
6 Hadwick. Assemblymember Sanchez, you are
7 recognized.

8 MEMBER SANCHEZ: Colleagues as we listen to
9 the debates today on the floor. Do you
10 understand now why people feel the system is
11 rigged against them? These discussions are not
12 just about maps. They are about our values.
13 It's about whether this legislature is listening
14 to the people of California or only to itself.
15 On April 23, 2025, Speaker Robert Rivas said
16 something that hit home for so many of us.
17 California's cost of living is the single biggest
18 threat to our future. Middle class families
19 earning 125,000 a year are struggling to afford
20 rent, child care, groceries. And that is not
21 sustainable. He was right. I see it in my
22 community every single day. Heck, I've lived it.
23 Families working two to three jobs, parents
24 leaving the house before the sun comes up and
25 coming home late at night still wondering if
they're able to make enough for rent to keep the

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1 lights on or to put food on the table. And yet
2 here we are asking for \$250 million from those
3 same families and spending it on redistricting,
4 on carving up maps to protect politicians. Let's
5 be real. This \$250 million is not going to put a
6 bag of groceries on the table. And it doesn't
7 help a mom pay for childcare. It doesn't keep a
8 roof over a family's head. What it does do is
9 make life harder for the very people who are
10 already struggling the most. That money could be
11 used to keep teachers in classrooms, to reduce
12 childcare wait lists that working parents have
13 been stuck on for years, to fund wildfire
14 prevention or to expand mental health services
15 that our communities so desperate desperately
16 need. Instead, Sacramento wants to waste it on
17 politics. And that's the problem. Too often,
18 this building puts the needs of politicians
19 before the needs of the people. And that's why
20 so many Californians, especially in working class
21 communities and in Latino communities like mine,
22 feel forgotten. We came here to Serve the
23 people, to serve our brothers, to serve our
24 sisters in our neighborhoods, not to serve
25 ourselves. And the people are telling us loud
and clear they cannot afford more broken

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1 promises. So I urge you, stand with our
2 California families. Stand with the workers who
3 are breaking their backs to give their children
4 and their kids a better Future. Reject this \$250
5 million power grab. Reject rigging the system
6 against the people. Protect families, not
7 politicians. I urge a no on SB 280.

8 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
9 Sanchez. Assemblymember Stephanie, you are
10 recognized.

11 MEMBER STEPHANIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
12 I rise after a contentious week being in
13 elections committee on Tuesday. And one of the
14 things I said in that committee was just stating
15 the obvious. They feel one way about what is
16 happening in Texas or what has happened in Texas,
17 and we feel another. And I'm desperately trying
18 to understand the other side. And it came to me
19 that this is really just about power. They are
20 okay with his power. We are not. What is
21 happening in Texas may be happening in Ohio,
22 Missouri, Florida and others doesn't scare the
23 other side. You might say gerrymandering is
24 wrong, but it doesn't scare you. It scares us.
25 Scares me a lot. You are okay with his
leadership. We are not. You are okay with his

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1 insane all caps tweets that embarrass this
2 country? I am not. You are okay with the
3 rolling out of the red carpet for a murderous
4 dictator on American soil? I am not. There are
5 so many things about his power that scare me, and
6 his attempts to increase it scare me even more.
7 And that is why I am fine with what we Democrats
8 are doing here today in California. Because as a
9 member from Palmdale said earlier in another
10 debate, gerrymandering is wrong when it's
11 benefiting people. When you're doing it to
12 wrongly benefit certain people, you shouldn't do
13 it. And Texas is all too willing to redraw the
14 lines without voter input to benefit Trump, whose
15 power scares the hell out of me. They are not
16 just enabling Trump, they are handing in the
17 keys, the maps and the Sharpie. We're eight
18 months in, eight months in. No disaster relief
19 while California's homes literally burn. Cuts to
20 Medicaid. I hear a lot about health care cuts to
21 Medicaid that hurt the poorest of California's
22 kids, seniors, people with disabilities, putting
23 them at great risk. Public schools defunded,
24 cruel, pointless immigration raids that just
25 scare and really bother anyone if you have any
empathy at all. Tariffs that tank small

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1 businesses that we all care about raise prices
2 for working people, and that includes food
3 prices. Courts stacked with extremists These are
4 your stupid prizes, the stupid prizes that I
5 talked about the other day in committee. And
6 it's going to get worse and you're going to get
7 more. And it's not going to be on us because we
8 are doing everything we can in California to stop
9 it. We're not doing this to the people. We're
10 doing this with the people. And we are asking
11 the people on November 4th to validate our fear
12 of Donald Trump's power. Thank you.

13 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
14 Stephanie. Assembly Member Patterson, you are
15 recognized.

16 MEMBER PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
17 You know, I was fortunate enough, I'm very
18 fortunate enough to be able to go home every day
19 and see my family, kiss my babies good night,
20 drop them off at school. Despite my colleague to
21 my left, I'm always miss pre session at the
22 caucus because dropping my kids off at school
23 every single day. You know, I come into this
24 building and I think about the things that we've
25 worked on together. Social media, harms of our
children, over processed foods that are causing

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1 detrimental impacts on our children. And all of
2 us, colon cancer screenings that might not be
3 required pretty soon together, hopefully we can
4 get that done and through the finish line if it's
5 not vetoed again this year. But these are things
6 we've worked on together and many, many other
7 things. And I just wonder if there's a little
8 bit of amnesia about 90% of the work that we do
9 together, Republicans and Democrats. Some of the
10 things just to address the points that have been
11 made on this floor is that Republicans joined
12 together with you to pass resolutions about cuts
13 occurring on the federal level. Does anybody
14 remember that? We supported many of those
15 resolutions, but yet we're being accused of not
16 standing up to the man or bending at the knees,
17 whatever that means. We joined with you on
18 issues like that. Republicans authored a
19 resolution today saying that we need independent
20 redistricting everywhere, and the Democrats voted
21 no. The Republican leader of our caucus, one of
22 the most conservative individuals that I'm proud
23 to serve with, actually said it was wrong for
24 Republicans in the president to pressure
25 redistricting in other states. He actually said
that. And it's like the very next speech from a

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1 colleague on the other side of the aisle. I hear
2 about how Republicans don't stand up to the
3 president. All governments, including the
4 federal government, no matter who's in charge,
5 can have problems. But before we left for
6 recess, Governor Newsom was talking his initial
7 statement on this, he didn't even want to put
8 this on the ballot. That was his initial
9 statement, that he would just tell you to do this
10 well, guess what? Somebody told him that it's
11 actually got to go to the people. But I remember
12 my prediction that day, actually on my favorite
13 social media platform, was make no mistake about
14 it, if Governor Newsom asks the majority party
15 Democrats to pass this out of the building, they
16 will pass it. And here we are doing exactly as I
17 predicted. I didn't need a crystal ball. When
18 he wanted to undermine Proposition 36, did
19 anybody speak up and say, hey, you know what?
20 That's a bad idea. Very few of you maybe behind
21 closed doors, but who doesn't have the courage to
22 speak up when Governor Newsom says crazy things
23 like that, undermining Prop 36. Again, I don't
24 want to be lectured on us not standing up. Who
25 stood up there? By the way, most of my
colleagues in this chamber Oppose Proposition 36,

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1 and it passed in every single district. 30
2 seconds. Ask yourself, have you even voted
3 against a member of your party's bill? Some of
4 you may have, some of you may have, but you know
5 what happens? You, you kill it behind closed
6 doors because you, you don't have the courage to
7 even do a no vote. By the way, I have voted
8 against bad Republican bills. But please do me a
9 favor. Don't lecture us on who has the courage
10 to stand up, because I've never seen you say one
11 bad word on public record about the governor.
12 With that, I ask for a no vote. Thank you,
13 Assemblymember Patterson, Assemblymember Lackey,
14 you are recognized for the first time.

15 MEMBER LACKEY: I will tell you that I'm not
16 proud of the way we spent our time this morning.
17 We've spent this whole, this whole floor
18 experience talking about circumstances that
19 aren't really in our purview. We think that
20 we're proxy Congress people today, and I think
21 that's misplaced. I think we have some very
22 severe problems here in the state of California,
23 and we haven't spent one minute talking about
24 them. In California. We all admit it's not
25 broken here. We have an independent redistrict
commission that we're proud of the process, but

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1 we're going to get rid of it temporarily because
2 we don't like what another state is doing. Is
3 that really where we should be spending our time?
4 I don't think so. I think it's sad that we've
5 let the circumstances nationwide distract us from
6 our real responsibility, and that is to the state
7 of California residents. We have very severe
8 affordability problems. We have insurance
9 problems. We have all these crisis circumstances
10 we didn't spend one minute on today. We need to
11 be better than that. Everybody. And I'm not
12 here to insult anyone either. I think that's
13 shameful. I think it's shameful when we point at
14 other people, we make them feel small, or at
15 least try to make them feel small. Shame on all
16 of you for doing that. I don't care if it's our
17 people or your side or our side. Why are we
18 doing that? The people expect better from all of
19 us. And I don't normally like to raise my voice,
20 but I'm telling you, everybody, we are better
21 than this. I am proud to belong to this group of
22 people, even though people that think like me are
23 in small number. I'm proud of the fact that we
24 care. But I think we can also be distracted.
25 And that's what's happened this morning. And I'm
sorry about that. And I had to express my

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1 regrets along that line. I hope we can be better
2 from here on out. Quit insulting people that
3 disagree with you. Make your point and make it
4 effective. Thank you. Thank you, Assemblymember
5 Lackey, seeing and hearing no further debate.
6 Excuse me. Assemblymember Schultz, you're
7 recognized.

8 MEMBER SCHULTZ: Thank you very much, Mr.
9 Speaker. I just wanted to actually thank my
10 colleague from Palmdale for his remarks. I think
11 that decorum is important in this. In this
12 debate today. In response to my colleague from
13 Rockland, I would simply say I have voted no on a
14 colleague's bill. I have disagreed with the
15 governor, and many of you have exploited the.
16 That, to be very blunt, in the past, the point
17 I'm bringing up is this. We have to find a way
18 to disagree without being disagreeable. We're
19 not going to see eye to eye on this issue. I'm
20 not going to stand here and challenge or question
21 any of your integrity or your motivations. I
22 think that we have to find a way to move forward
23 on the issue. ACAA has passed out of this
24 chamber. I believe it will pass out of the
25 Senate, and it will be signed by our governor.
SB280 is a companion piece of legislation that

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1 will ensure that every Californian's voice can be
2 heard. It is essential that we pass it. I'll be
3 voting aye, and I humbly ask all my colleagues to
4 vote. I thank you to the authors.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
6 Schultz, seeing and hearing no further debate.
7 Assemblymember Pellerin, would you like to close?

8 MEMBER PELLERIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and
9 members, thank you for the robust debate on this
10 floor today. When I woke up this morning, I knew
11 this was going to be a tough, difficult day. And
12 in looking for inspiration, I came across this
13 wooden pen I had in my closet that's a memorial
14 from the Holocaust that simply says never again.
15 And I thought about the people in Germany in
16 1930, in those 53 days that the authoritarian
17 dictator in their country changed the course of
18 history forever, that resulted in millions of
19 deaths of innocent Jewish lives. We are now at
20 the 212th day of this administration and we have
21 been fighting, fighting every single day for the
22 things we care about here in the state of
23 California. We've been passing laws, we've been
24 passing resolutions, and we've been making our
25 voice heard for the people of the state of
California. And at the end of this day, this is

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1 about those people, those people we represent
2 that live in our communities, those hard working
3 families, those moms struggling to find
4 affordable daycare. It's for our seniors, our
5 veterans, our persons with disabilities, our
6 immigrant families who are out there making sure
7 we have food on our table, who serve in our
8 hospitality industries, who provide those vital
9 health care services to our loved ones. These
10 people who were heralded as heroes during the
11 pandemic are now being taken away from their
12 families, ripped away and put in detention
13 centers and treated like criminals without due
14 process. This is about the people. This is
15 about our democracy. And we can't just fight
16 what is happening right now with thoughts and
17 prayers and values and principles. We must fight
18 this urgent fight. And I'm sorry we don't have
19 more time. I wish we had more time. But time is
20 up. Texas has taken its action and California
21 will stand up for the people of California. And
22 we will this election on November 4, 2025. And I
23 am telling every eligible registered voter in
24 this state to make sure that you get that ballot
25 and you vote your ballot and you make sure your
voice is heard. With that, I ask for your I

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1 vote.

2 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
3 Pelleran. I'll debate. Having ceased, the clerk
4 will open the roll. All members vote who desire
5 to vote. Members, this measure requires 54
6 votes. All members vote who desire to vote. All
7 members vote who desire to vote. Kirk will close
8 the roll and tally the votes. Eyes 57 nos 20 on
9 the urgency. Ayes 57, nose 20 on the measure.
10 The measure passes without objection. Immediate
11 transmittal to the senate. Assistant Majority
12 Leader Garcia, you are recognized for your
13 procedural motions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.
14 AB604 has been received from the Senate. I
15 request unanimous consent to suspend Assembly
16 Rule 63 to allow assembly member Aguiar Curry to
17 take up the bill today without reference to file
18 for the purpose purpose of concurrence and senate
19 amendments. Thank you assembly member Garcia.
20 Assembly Member Flora, you are recognized.

21 MEMBER FLORA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. With
22 hold consent and ask for a roll call vote. Okay.
23 The motion has been made by Assemblymember
24 Garcia. It is seconded by Assemblymember Ortega.
25 This motion is not debatable. It requires 40
votes. Clerk will open the roll. All members

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1 vote who desire to vote System. Majority Leader
2 Garcia is asking for an aye vote. Mr. Flora is
3 asking for a no vote. All members vote who
4 desire to vote. Clerk will close the roll and
5 tally the votes. Ayes 54 noes 18 rules are
6 suspended without reference to file AB 604 by
7 Majority Leader Aguiaracuri for concurrence and
8 senate amendments. The Clerk will read Assembly
9 Bill 604 by Assemblymember Agriacuri and
10 accolades for redistricting declaring the urgency
11 thereof to take effect immediately. Madam
12 Majority Leader, you are recognized.

13 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you Mr.
14 Speaker and members, let's not dance around the
15 issue here. If California Democrats had our way,
16 the midterms would continue under the maps drawn
17 by our independent Citizens Redistricting
18 Commission. But that's not the moment we're in.
19 We weren't planning on redistricting again until
20 after the 2030 census. But once Republicans in
21 other states started stacking the deck with mid
22 decade maps designed to rig the 2026 election, we
23 had no choice but to act. We didn't start this
24 fight. We've said that numerous times. And
25 we're not going to roll over. We have to meet
the moment. AB 604 lays out our new

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1 congressional districts, but only if voters
2 approve AC8. This temporary map will only take
3 effect if the voters approve it, and only because
4 Republicans force partisan maps on voters in
5 other states. Unlike Texas, which is imposing
6 its maps on voters or asking voters for their
7 approval, there's nothing more Democratic than
8 that. The legislator's map represents the work
9 of the independent Redistricting Commission. By
10 keeping 76.7% of Californians in their same
11 congressional district, the legislator's map
12 respects California constitutional requirements
13 to maintain communities of interest. The
14 legislative map respects redistricting guidelines
15 by reuniting 26 cities, reducing the breakup of
16 local jurisdictions based upon the Citizens
17 Redistricting Commission's work, hearings and
18 public input. More districts are more compact
19 and most importantly, the people, not
20 politicians, decide. So to my Republican
21 colleagues, if you want to stop this, the answer
22 isn't in this chamber. It's with your colleagues
23 in Texas and with the President. Tell them to
24 stop trying to rig the elections. Tell them to
25 support a truly fair system where every state
uses an independent redistricting Commission

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1 colleagues, until that happens, California cannot
2 sit around and do nothing. So what happens next
3 year is up to the president, to the national
4 Republicans, and with this proposal, to the
5 California voters. Thank you.

6 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam majority
7 leader. Assemblymember DeMaio, you are
8 recognized. And now we get to the map. The map
9 that's the murder weapon, killing democracy in
10 our state. Excuse me, Mr. DeMaio. Excuse me,
11 Mr. Demaio. Assemblymember Harbidian, state your
12 point of order.

13 MEMBER HARBIDIAN: The speaker is using
14 maps, Mr. Speaker. Against the rules. Thank
15 you, Mayo. Please refrain from using props. We
16 get to the map, the murder weapon of democracy in
17 California, the murder weapon that will end
18 competitive elections, fair districts, exactly
19 what voters sought to prevent in 2010 when they
20 took the power away from you. And what did you
21 do over the last several weeks? You proved them
22 right, that you cannot be trusted to safeguard
23 our democracy, to give us a voice. Because if we
24 adopt this map, we are silencing millions of
25 voters. And you seem to be comfortable with that
because the ends justify the means. You've

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1 already laid out your ends. You don't like
2 Donald Trump. We got the message. You don't
3 like Donald Trump. That's what elections are
4 for. Fair elections. You get to state your
5 point of view. The American people get to hear.
6 They get to decide. And they decided what you
7 could do is get back to work for Californians.
8 But you've spent the last eight months fighting
9 the guy in the White House rather than doing the
10 job for the constituents here in California. And
11 now you're going to continue to not do your job
12 and instead call an unnecessary special election
13 to try to cram these maps through. So it leads
14 the question. And there are two reasons why I'm
15 asking this question. But it's a simple
16 question. Who drew the maps? This is a question
17 that you've refused to answer. The reason why we
18 ask who drew the maps is, number one, we need to
19 know whose interest was behind these maps.
20 Perhaps a sitting state legislator that wants to
21 create their own congressional district, or
22 perhaps a special interest that wants to dilute
23 the voices of certain constituencies. We deserve
24 to know who drew the maps to know what was their
25 interest. But secondly, I want to know who drew
the maps because I want to know who to hold

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1 accountable. In the absence of that, there is
2 the citizens initiative that was filed earlier
3 this week, the poison pill to hold politicians
4 accountable for trying to subvert the will of the
5 voters, to overturn the Citizens Redistricting
6 Commission. That initiative would bar anyone who
7 voted for the map or voted for the ACA. Today
8 from seeking election for 10 years.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. DeMaio. Mr.
10 Schultz, please state your point of order

11 MR. SHULTZ: Thank you. Mr. Speaker would
12 ask the speaker at the time to direct his
13 comments to the bill and not anything external to
14 our process today. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
15 Schultz, your point is well taken. Mr. DeMaio,
16 please state of the merits of the the
17 legislation.

18 MEMBER DEMAIO: Well, I'm trying to get the
19 who because in the absence of knowing who, to
20 hold accountable for this gerrymandered map, we
21 must hold everyone involved in the. Call it a
22 conspiracy, a collusion, whatever you want to
23 call it, the effort to subvert democracy. This
24 map is partisan. You admit it's partisan. You
25 want to seize congressional districts for your
party. This map is self serving. A number of

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1 legislators allegedly are going to get
2 congressional districts drawn for themselves.
3 This map silences the voices of communities,
4 cities and counties by splitting them up. And I
5 have a colleague from San Bernardino who likes to
6 always tell us how he fights for the tribes. But
7 do you know that this map splits tribal
8 reservations? Did you know that? I don't think
9 you know that. You haven't even been bothered to
10 look at the map. Most of you. Agua Caliente is
11 split. Santa Rosa tribe split. Rincon split,
12 split. San Pasqual tribe, split. Mesa Grande
13 split. Sequan tribe split. La Posta tribe
14 split. Campo tribe split. Morongo tribe split.
15 Round Valley tribe split. Did you bother to
16 consult the Native American governments with
17 sovereignty? No. I checked with several of
18 their representatives. Not a single call. But
19 you split those tribal governments, scattering
20 them across different congressional districts.
21 So much for minority rights. So much for the
22 voice of the people. 30 seconds. We want to
23 know who drew the maps. But in the absence of
24 that, I will tell every single Californian in the
25 next seven weeks as we educate them as to what
really this initiative does. You want to hold

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1 people accountable, hold the majority party
2 accountable for everyone who voted for this, who
3 wasted our money. And by the way, Mr. Newsom,
4 when your campaign for president ends, kindly
5 transfer your campaign treasury over to the state
6 of California. Thank you, Assemblymember Demaio.
7 Thank you. Thank you, Assemblymember DeMaio.
8 Assemblymember Tangipa, you are recognized.
9 MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So this
10 is how liberty dies. With thunderous applause.
11 That's what we've seen. That's the actions we've
12 had today. I grew up always in a toxic
13 relationship, in an abusive relationship. You
14 could see it from 100 miles away. When you hide
15 behind platitudes and. And percentages. When
16 we're saying that 76% of this map remains the
17 same. That means 24%, but in raw numbers, that
18 means 10 million Californians. 24% of this map
19 is only a huge majority of this state.
20 Republicans only represent 18%. So that means
21 100% of the Republican representative
22 representation in this state has changed. We can
23 see it. We see the toxic relationship, the
24 gaslighting coming out of this legislative body
25 and we're losing transparency that was built
under the Citizens Redistricting Commission on

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1 how maps are allocated. People loved. People
2 may not have always loved every outcome, but they
3 knew the process was open and they knew who was
4 responsible. But with the maps before us today,
5 we can't say the same thing. In fact, we can't
6 answer the most basic question. Who drew the
7 maps? Who decided which cities should be kept
8 whole and which should be divided? Who made the
9 judgment call about where communities of interest
10 begin and end? I asked nine different questions
11 and got nine different answers. Was it the
12 Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee as
13 reported by the media? Was it Paul Mitchell and
14 special interests as stated in a podcast? Was it
15 Democrat leadership as stated by my colleagues on
16 the election committee? Or is it the assembly
17 and Senate Elections Committee as written in the
18 bill? You couldn't even say that. And it's in
19 the legislation that somehow it was prepared by
20 me on the Elections committee. Couldn't even get
21 that part right. The lack of authorship and the
22 lack of transparency should trouble every
23 Californian, regardless of your political
24 ideologies. Normally, when the commission does
25 its work, there are dozens, dozens of political
hearings. There are transcripts. There are

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1 recorded votes. There are explanations of
2 criteria, details about competing priorities.
3 Here there is nothing. These maps simply
4 appeared handed to us in 11th, in the 11th hour,
5 even as we. As if we're supposed to take them on
6 faith. But democracy doesn't run on faith. It
7 runs on accountability. If we cannot point to
8 the people who drew the lines, how can the voters
9 have confidence in them? And let us look at
10 these maps. Let's look at what these maps do.
11 In city after city, neighborhoods are carved up.
12 Communities are fought for decades to have their
13 voices heard, split all into pieces. And let me
14 ask this plainly. How does it benefit a city to
15 be broken into small fragments across multiple
16 congressional districts? Does Fresno gain
17 strength by being cut into four different seats?
18 Or does it simply dilute the voices of its
19 residents? We are told that these maps protect
20 Californians against gerrymandering in other
21 states. You removed that language this morning
22 and didn't even tell anybody. But secrecy is in
23 its own form of gerrymandering. When lines are
24 drawn behind closed, closed doors, without
25 explanation, without participation, and without
accountability. We invite the very abuse our

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1 commission, the gold standard was set out to
2 prevent. So I ask this again. Who drew the
3 maps? Why won't anybody say it? If this is
4 truly about fairness, why not allow the Citizens
5 Redistricting Commission, which voters created
6 precisely for this person, to do its job? Job?
7 Why, Rush? Why the secrecy? At the end of the
8 day, Californians deserve to know who is drawing
9 the lines that will shape their communities for
10 the next decade. They deserve to see the process
11 that the process and trust that is fair.
12 Anything less undermines the very foundation of a
13 representative government. Our votes created the
14 Citizens Redistricting Commission because they
15 wanted fair maps, not political maps. They
16 wanted a property process that belongs to them.
17 Not politicians, not insiders, and certainly not
18 partisan, anonymous map makers working in the
19 shadows. California should remain a model for
20 democracy, not a cautionary tale.

21 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: 30 seconds.

22 MR. SPEAKER: If we accept maps with no known
23 authors and no known accountability, it doesn't
24 matter how many times you say the word
25 transparency, there is none. The saying goes, as
California goes, so goes the nation. But passing

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1 this bill, it will now be, as Texas goes, so goes
2 California. And for those reasons, I
3 respectfully ask you to lead this nation by
4 example and vote no on these maps, because you
5 don't even know who did them.

6 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Assemblymember
7 Macedo, you're recognized.

8 MEMBER MACEDO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
9 not sure how many of you watched the elections
10 committee this week, so I want to walk you
11 through a few very key things that happened.
12 First, there was an attorney there to be a
13 technical witness. I asked him, who are you here
14 on behalf of? He informed me that was protected
15 by attorney client privilege. I asked him, who
16 is paying you to be here? Once again, he
17 wouldn't answer that question. So then I asked,
18 are you being paid to be here? Once again, he
19 didn't answer that question. So then, as my
20 colleagues have stated, I asked the most
21 fundamental and simplest of questions. Who drew
22 the maps? So let me share the answers. I was
23 shared with. First, it was Assembly. Here we
24 are. Put your hands in the air if you drew the
25 maps. Didn't see one go in the air. So then I
was told it was the legislature. Once again,

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1 here we are. I'm part of the legislature. I
2 didn't draw these maps. So then I was mocked for
3 not being a part of leadership. That leadership
4 and the leadership team drew these maps. The
5 leadership team's here. Anybody want to own up
6 to it? Our majority leader admitted she did not
7 directly draw these maps, and she is Leadership.
8 Is this the type of transparency you're promising
9 voters that? I was mocked for asking that
10 question. You're not mocking me. You're mocking
11 voters by not answering that question. These
12 maps, in the language it says the Assembly
13 Elections Committee wrote it. That is seven
14 people. Seven. Me and my colleague can say we
15 did not participate in the drawing of these maps.
16 So I am asking that this is factually incorrect
17 in the bill and I am asking the author to remove
18 the words the Assembly Elections Committee and
19 include the Democrat colleagues on that committee
20 that are willing to put their names on paper that
21 they drew these maps because I will not be
22 included in the debauchery that has happened with
23 the drawing of these maps. Are you requesting to
24 ask a question of the author? I'm requesting
25 that the author takes the amendment that we
remove the Assembly Elections Committee language

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1 because I do not want. I am one of seven people.
2 That is a small group of people that you have
3 lumped me in with when I didn't even know my
4 member. Portal did not even say that I had an
5 Elections committee hearing until 20, less than
6 24 hours before the hearing. Concurrences cannot
7 be amended. Then I am asking a question of the
8 author. I will address without objection. I
9 will address this in my clothes. Thank you.
10 This is not transparency, and you know it's not.
11 You can stand here and admonish us all day long,
12 but this is fundamental to your entire lecture
13 today, that this is the most transparent process.
14 The chair of this committee didn't even know that
15 the maps had been amended. And you want to say
16 that the Elections Committee drafted these maps.
17 This is wrong, this is deceit, and I will make
18 sure the voters know that. Assemblymember Flora,
19 you're recognized.

20 MEMBER FLORA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
21 Colleagues, there's been a lot said today and
22 I'll keep my remarks very short. There's a lot
23 of emotions today on both sides. Clearly there's
24 a lot of emotions with the federal government on
25 how people feel about that. Not a single one of
us have said, what Texas is doing is good, what

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1 California is about to do is good. But it's
2 because of emotions. And because of that
3 emotion, we have policy. If you do policy that
4 is emotional, it usually turns out bad. And one
5 way or the other. So I rise on behalf of a
6 community 33 miles south of here, community of
7 just under 69,000 people called Lodi. Lodi is
8 split into three congressional districts almost
9 in the center of town. A community that is by
10 and large family have been there for generations.
11 A farming community. We have now split that.
12 Parents voting differently than their kids, than
13 their grandparents, colleagues. When we do
14 things that are emotional, we get bad policy.
15 When we talk about keeping communities together.
16 Splitting a community of 68,000 people is simply
17 wrong. And my heart truly goes out to Lodi and I
18 know there's other examples that have been
19 stated, but this needs to be fixed. It truly,
20 truly does. We need to take the emotion out of
21 policy so we can create good policy and we move
22 forward. Thank you. I respectfully asked for a
23 no vote. Assemblymember Flora, Assemblymember
24 Patterson, you are recognized.

25 MEMBER PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I appreciate the opportunity. Today, these maps.

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1 I'm going to answer a question for one of my
2 colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The
3 worst kept secret in Sacramento history. There
4 aren't very many secrets in this place. This is
5 definitely not one. I was looking at an exchange
6 between two members of our press corps where one
7 member kept asking elected officials, because,
8 you know, maybe elected officials answer these
9 questions like who drew these maps? And you
10 know, that question was kind of asked a lot
11 because, you know, it's an important question.
12 And another member of the press corps said, oh,
13 come on, everybody knows who drew the maps.
14 Actually, they were just on a podcast saying they
15 drew the maps. So the worst kept secret in
16 America is that Democratic consultant Paul
17 Mitchell drew these maps and told you all to
18 adopt it. And so there's no secret. We all knew
19 that. We all knew that. But I think what's,
20 what's. What's interesting is that there.
21 What's even not a secret is that one of the
22 presenters of the bill said something and, and I
23 want to ask the author, and I'll put down my mic.
24 One of the co presenters had mentioned in
25 committee said specifically these are partisan,
gerrymandered maps. That is what was said in

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1 committee by our co presenter. And I would just
2 like to know if that's your feeling as well with
3 that. Also, I respectfully asked for a no vote.
4 Thank you, Assemblymember Patterson.

5 Assemblymember Gallagher, you are recognized.

6 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
7 Speaker. And first of all, I just want to say I
8 do write all of my own speech speeches. You
9 know, I don't need the governor's press office to
10 write my speeches like the speaker does. And
11 just a moment, Mr. Gallagher. Assemblymember
12 Berman, you're recognized.

13 MEMBER BERMAN: I want to ask in his own
14 words, definitely not the gentleman. Not the
15 gentleman. The person from Nicholas. Not to
16 insult people on the floor and to keep his
17 comments to the bill that we're debating. Thank
18 you, assembly member Berman, your point is well
19 taken, Leader Gallagher. Please do not impugn.
20 Please be respectful, be decorous, follow the
21 rules of debate as always.

22 MEMBER GALLAGHER: I only speak the truth,
23 and I can do no other, Mr. Speaker. And you
24 know, and apparently the majority leader's speech
25 was written yesterday because she read those
remarks. You are out of order, Mr. Gallagher.

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1 This is the last warning. If you don't abide by
2 the rules of this House, we will move on. In her
3 remarks, she says that this is only if Texas
4 moves forward. And we all know from the
5 amendment this morning that Texas is not a
6 condition of moving forward with this partisan
7 gerrymander. But let's just talk actually about
8 you guys saying fighting fire with fire, like
9 what is actually happening, because right now,
10 actually, Texas and California are very similar.
11 The minority party in both states gets about 40%
12 of the vote. Democrats get about 40% in Texas.
13 Here in California, we get around 40% here on
14 statewide votes. But right now, Texas
15 congressional delegation is made up of 30%
16 Democrats. You know how much it is here in
17 California? 17%. So already disparity. And
18 even if Texas does move forward, they would be.
19 If they're successful in getting five seats in
20 Texas, they'd actually still be better than us in
21 representation because 18% of the delegation
22 would be Democrats. And meanwhile, here at 17.
23 And what you guys are doing with these maps is
24 taking us down to 7%. That's fair. That's
25 representation. That's fire with fire. Seems
like a sledgehammer. And more importantly, it's

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1 not about party. It's about taking away people's
2 rights of representation. Places. Places that
3 have meaning, that have values, that have certain
4 views on. They share industries. And you can't
5 sit here and tell me that a map for all of us to
6 see from MODOC to Marin county is fair
7 representation, that that meets the
8 constitutional principles of compactness that are
9 in our Article 21 of the Constitution. This
10 specifically says districts shall not be drawn to
11 encourage geographic. That they shall be drawn
12 to encourage geographical compactness such that
13 nearby areas of population are not bypassed for
14 more distant population. And that's exactly what
15 that map does, and you know it. And the majority
16 leader knows this because we both represent
17 districts, and I think we do it pretty well. We
18 stand up for our people. We fight for the things
19 that are in their interests. We represent them
20 well. And in Congress, I have A representative
21 Doug LaMalfa, who does that. And you have one
22 Mr. Mike Thompson, who does the same thing. And
23 those congressmen actually work together on a lot
24 of issues on water issues and that bipartisan
25 Fashion actually is very helpful when
administrations change. But what this is going

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1 to do is blow that all up and create a one party
2 system. And here's the other thing. Who gets to
3 decide who gets represented? Not the people, the
4 parties and the party insiders and the people who
5 have the favored inside track. And I'm only
6 saying what's been reported is that one of the
7 most powerful politicians in this legislature,
8 the pro tem, is reported to have been involved in
9 drawing a district that favors him that he plans
10 to run in. I don't know if that's a fact, but it
11 has been reported. 30 seconds. And I think
12 that's a big problem, that the people don't
13 longer get to choose who the representative is,
14 but the party insiders do. And that is the real
15 issue here. And guys, I'm just going to end on
16 this because it is important you don't stand up
17 to this governor. You never have. And he is
18 doing wrong things and he is pushing you and he
19 insults you all the time and says he jams you.
20 And this is what he's got to do and he's going to
21 push it through. And for all this talk, man,
22 that I've heard on this floor today, I just don't
23 understand it.

24 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
25 Gallagher, while you always bow and go to the
beck. Thank you, Assemblymember Gallagher.

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1 Thank you, Assemblymember Gallagher.

2 Assemblymember Ellis, you are recognized. I'd
3 like to know who drew the maps.

4 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I do too.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, assembly member
6 Ellis, Assemblymember Davies, you are recognized.

7 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: On behalf of
8 500,000 Californians, I'd like to know who do the
9 maps.

10 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
11 Davies. Assemblymember Dixon.

12 MEMBER DIXON: I too, on behalf of Assembly
13 District 72, 500,000 Californians who drew the
14 maps.

15 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember
16 Dixon. Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez, you are
17 recognized.

18 MEMBER GONZALEZ: Let's be clear, members.
19 I write my own talking points, so let's start
20 with that. And let's also be clear that the maps
21 didn't just come out of thin air. They were
22 drawn through California's process with experts
23 and community input years ago. Don't act brand
24 new. What frustrates me is that people keep
25 obsessing over who held the pen instead of why
these maps even matter in the first place. This

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1 isn't a Scooby Doo mystery. There's no mask to
2 rip off, no hidden villain. The process was
3 open, transparent and accountable from day one.
4 And let's be honest, the hypocrisy is glaring.
5 Reporters aren't grilling Republicans in Texas
6 about who's drawing their maps, even though those
7 maps are blatant gerrymandering designed to
8 silence voters and lock in power. I don't hear
9 anybody on the right side saying that because
10 they know that they're wrong. But here in
11 California, we followed the rules and did it
12 right. Suddenly, it's treated like a scandal.
13 Meanwhile, Republicans in Texas, Florida and
14 across the country are actively rigging districts
15 to silent voters and protect Donald Trump, your
16 hero. California is not going to sit back and
17 let them cheat their way into power. These maps
18 are about protecting our democracy and making
19 sure every community here has a fair voice,
20 period. Thank you, Assembly member Gonzalez.
21 Summit member Gallagher, state your point of
22 order.

23 MEMBER GONZALEZ: My point of order this,
24 Mr. Speaker, is there's been a lot of things that
25 misstate the facts in the record through our
committee process and, and what we know today on

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1 the floor, one is that the election. Excuse me,
2 Mr. Gallagher. What is the rule that has been
3 violated? State your point of order. Misstates
4 the testimony and the record. Your point is not
5 well taken. Okay. Appeal. Assembly member.
6 Assembly member Ramos, you are recognized.

7 MEMBER RAMOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And
8 I'm sitting here and hearing the different
9 debates going on from colleagues from both sides
10 of the aisle. But I have to raise my mic and be
11 able to talk about when a colleague from the
12 other side is talking about history, talking
13 about California's first people and drawing them
14 into this conversation. Where was that voice?
15 Where was that voice when this state was taken
16 from them? Where was that voice when their
17 representation isn't there? Where was that voice
18 when they were being murdered in the state of
19 California? And now you want to bring them into
20 this debate because it benefits you. These are
21 things that we have to come together and look at.
22 But when you start to exploit the history in the
23 state of California and. And for your own gain
24 is the same tactics that were used when this land
25 was stolen and murdered people of our culture to
get it. I would rather you stand up for all of

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1 those things, all those bad things, than to bring
2 them in to justify your seeing what's going on
3 here. You should not, and you should be ashamed
4 of yourself to bring in the history. Because we
5 all know in these chambers the atrocity, the
6 genocide, the bloods that shed and the bones that
7 are still in the archives of many institutions in
8 this state who still call our remains of our
9 ancestors trophies in their backyard. It's time
10 that we come together. And if you want to bring
11 things forward for your own gain, this body will
12 not stand for it. It's time that we stand for
13 the voices of all California Indian people and
14 stand up when they are brought into these debates
15 for your own gain. That's the same tactic that
16 was used in colonization and. Mr. Speaker, I
17 called the member out. I called the member out
18 for using our people for self gain. That's what
19 brought down the state of California. That's
20 what the history is, what we're still fighting
21 for in the state of California. And when he
22 brings up lines in land that has been drawn.
23 Drawn on stolen land. Come on. He should be
24 reprimanded for even bringing those things
25 forward to this floor. It's time that we stand
in one unified voice. And when we talk about

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1 debate, let's have it. But if you want to go
2 back into history and. And start to look at what
3 has happened and somehow smirk and smile about
4 the murders that took place against our people,
5 this body will not stand for it. Yes. Thank
6 you. Assemblymember Ramos. Assemblymember
7 DeMaio, you are recognized.

8 MEMBER DEMAIO: Mr. Speaker, I believe the
9 member from San Bernardino would like to change
10 his vote on ACA 8. Mr. DeMaio, your point is not
11 well taken. Assembly Member Macedo, you are
12 recognized.

13 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Mr. Speaker, I have
14 a point of parliamentary inquiry.

15 MR. SPEAKER: State your point.

16 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I would like to ask
17 if it would be possible to submit a letter to the
18 Journal based on my colleague's testimony that we
19 are willing to say who drew the maps. That it is
20 not the Assembly Elections Committee. That based
21 on his testimony.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Assembly member
23 Macedo, you're asking whether or not it is
24 appropriate.

25 MEMBER MACEDO: I am asking.
MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. You're asking. Let

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1 me finish. Whether or not you can submit a
2 letter to the Journal. Why you're submitting a
3 letter to the Journal is irrelevant to your
4 inquiry. Is that your question?

5 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Yes, sir.

6 MR. SPEAKER: Just a moment, Ms. Macedo. So,
7 Ms. Macedo, to answer your question, it is
8 appropriate if you have a letter. Where is that
9 letter?

10 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I was unaware that
11 the testimony would be given on the 4th.

12 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. Please answer the
13 question. Where is your letter?

14 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I cannot prepare
15 for something if I'm not.

16 MR. SPEAKER: The answer to your inquiry is
17 if you had a letter, we would be able to vote
18 whether or not that letter could be accepted.

19 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Then I asked a
20 motion for recess to draft my letter and then we
21 can come back and vote.

22 MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded
23 that we recessed. Just a moment, please. It's
24 been moved and seconded that we recess
25 temporarily. Takes a majority of those present
and voting. Clerk will open the roll. Clerk

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1 will open the roll motion by Macedo. We'll wait
2 till the roll is open. All those vote who desire
3 to vote. Ms. Macedo is asking for an I vote.
4 Majority Leader is asking for a no vote. All
5 those vote who desire to vote. All those vote
6 who desire to vote. Clerk will close the roll.
7 Tally the votes. Ayes 19, nos. 52. The motion
8 fails. State your point of order, Mr. Gallagher.

9 MR. GALLAGHER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Let me
10 try to address this issue. State your point of
11 order, Mr. Gallagher. The point of order is that
12 the bill says that the Elections Committee drew
13 the maps. And that is factually incorrect based
14 on the test. Okay, Your point is not well taken.
15 Members, let's take a step back for a moment.
16 Let me give you a quick lesson on what a point of
17 order is. When you raise your microphone for a
18 point of order, you need to state the rule that's
19 being violated. And we're speaking of the House
20 rules. That is the point of order that you need
21 to make. Mr. Gallagher, I'm going to recognize
22 you again. The point of order is it factually
23 misstates the testimony in the record, in the
24 legislative record. Thank you, Mr. Gallagher.
25 That is not a violation of the House rules. Your
point is not well taken. We will continue

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1 proceeding on debate on this measure, seeing and
2 hearing no further debate. Assemblymember
3 Gallagher, you have already spoken on the point
4 of order. Mr. Gallagher, you are out of order.
5 Seeing and hearing no further debate. Madam
6 Majority Leader, do you wish to close?

7 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you
8 colleagues for this debate. And I want to thank
9 you to my colleague, Senator Gonzalez, for
10 partnership in this important issue. Let me
11 answer some of the questions that were raised
12 here today and over this week. The map in AB604
13 was drawn in partnership with a group that
14 includes legislative leadership and a team of its
15 members, Members of Congress, leading independent
16 redistricting experts and groups that have worked
17 on more than 100 city and county non partisan
18 independent redistricting efforts and legal
19 counsel to review and assure we meet all the
20 requirements of our state and the federal laws
21 and constitutions. We use the work of the
22 Independent Commission and their many hours of
23 hearings and public testimony. Our maps keeps
24 more cities whole. 60 compared to 57 in the
25 Commission's map. We respected constitutional
guidelines, including communities of interest and

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1 seeking more compact and contiguous districts.
2 In fact, under this map, 76.7 of Californians
3 stay in the same district drawn by the
4 Commission. The Commission maps were public for
5 14 days and approved by 14 commissioners. These
6 maps will be public for 74 or 5 days. I got to
7 remember that and tens of millions of California
8 voters.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Madam Majority Leader, just a
10 moment, please. Assembly member Tangipa you are
11 recognized for your point of order.

12 MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, and a point of
13 clarification. The comments. Sir, you are
14 recognized for your point of order. The comments
15 that were made are not in the legislation and
16 those comments should be included in the
17 legislation if that's what's being done. That is
18 not a point of order. If you're saying that her
19 speech is not just germane to the bill, your
20 point is not well taken. Anything further, Mr.
21 Tangipa? A point of clarification. Thank you,
22 Mr. Tangipa. We're going to continue. Madam
23 Majority Leader, you may continue.

24 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: This is the most
25 transparent than any other process in the
country. In an ideal world. In an ideal world,

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1 we not need to go through this process. We
2 respect the work of the Independent Redistricting
3 Commission. In fact, the only challenges to the
4 work of the Independent Redistricting Commission
5 map came from the Republican challenges in 2011.
6 Those challenges did not give voters a chance to
7 decide. And yes, the cost is worth it. We are
8 fighting to ensure Californians have at least a
9 fair chance in next year's election. And the
10 stakes are high. Maybe that's why the
11 Republicans in this country are so afraid to let
12 the voters have a say. Maybe it's because they
13 know why this president and Washington
14 Republicans are trying to rig the 2026 elections.
15 They can't run on their record. A record that in
16 seven short months have been devastating to
17 working Californians and Americans across the
18 country while benefiting only the wealthy. A
19 record that includes cutting fresh food from
20 family farmers that feeds our school children,
21 closing rural hospitals and clinics, cutting
22 health care for 3.5 million California seniors
23 and the most in need, separating immigrant
24 families who work in and contribute to our
25 communities. Families guilty of nothing. Not
nothing, but they just want to seek a better

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1 life. And turning the clock back 50 years on
2 women's reproductive rights. If you want to stop
3 this.

4 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Madam Majority
5 Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Pardon me.

7 MR. SPEAKER: Assemblymember Macedo, you are
8 recognized for your point of order.

9 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I have my letter
10 prepared and would like to submit it to the
11 record. Based on the testimony on the floor
12 today.

13 MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.
14 Point of point is not well taken. Excuse me,
15 we're not in motions and resolutions. Your point
16 is not well taken.

17 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: You asked me for my
18 letter.

19 MR. SPEAKER: Members, we're in the last
20 minute debate. We do not use parliamentary
21 procedure as a mechanism to debate bills. Not a
22 majority leader may continue.

23 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: If you want this to
24 stop, the easiest way to do this would be to use
25 all this passion demanding this president to stop
trying to rig next year's Elections. Help your

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1 DC colleagues pass Democratic and Republican
2 bills to prevent mid decade gerrymandering and
3 have an independent redistricting process in
4 every single state. Until you succeed, we will
5 continue to fight for the interests of
6 Californians. Colleagues, I am very proud to ask
7 you for your I vote today for AB604.

8 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you madam Majority
9 Leader. All debate having ceased, the Clerk will
10 open the roll. All members vote. You desire to
11 vote? All members vote who desire to vote.
12 Members, this measure requires 54 votes. All
13 members vote who desire to vote. Clerk will
14 close the roll. Tally the votes. Ayes 54 knows
15 20 on the urgency eyes 54 knows 20 on the
16 measure. Senate amendments are concurred in
17 without objection. Immediate transmittal to the
18 governor. Members, we now must continue with
19 business on the daily file reading of the
20 previous day's journal. Assembly Assembly
21 Chamber Sacramento Thursday, July 17, 2025 the
22 assembly met at 9am The Honorable Josh Lowenthal,
23 Speaker Protein Leader Agar Curry moves and Mr.
24 Flora seconds that the reading of the previous
25 day's journal be dispensed with presentations and
petitions. There are none. Introduction and

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1 reference of bills will be deferred. Reports of
2 committees will be deemed read and amendments
3 deemed adopted. Messages from the Governor?
4 There are none. Messages from the Senate? There
5 are none. Moving on to motions and resolutions.
6 The absences for the day for bereavement.
7 Assembly member Addis moving. Moving back to
8 procedural motions. Madam Majority Leader,
9 you're recognized for your procedural motions.

10 MEMBER ADDIS: I request unanimous consent
11 to suspend Assembly Rule 45.5 to allow assembly
12 members Alanis, Sharp, Collins and Wicks to speak
13 on adjournment and memory today.

14 MR. SPEAKER: That Objection. Such shall be
15 the order.

16 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I request unanimous
17 consent to Suspend Assembly Rule 118A to allow
18 assembly members Alanis, Quercilvo and Wicks to
19 have guests in the rear of the chamber today.

20 MR. SPEAKER: Non. Objection. Such shall be
21 the order.

22 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I request unanimous
23 consent to rescind the action whereby on July
24 7th, 17th, 2025 SB 255 sierto was read a third
25 time, passed and sent to the Senate. Please
order this bill back to the third reading file.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: Objection. Such shall be the
2 order. Members, I'm rescinding the action by
3 which I referred AB786 Salache to the banking and
4 Finance Committee pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2.
5 Madam Majority Leader, I request unanimous
6 consent.

7 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: To return AB 786
8 Salache to the Senate for further action.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Not Objection. Such shall be
10 the order. Mr. Alanis, we're going to be getting
11 to you in just a moment. Please Members, the
12 quorum call is in place. We have more business
13 on the daily file. Please take your desk.
14 Moving to business on the daily file. Second
15 reading. The clerk will read Senate Bills 21,
16 3403-743894-46440, 4474-804895-04506, 5075-
17 446096-17626, 6716-867317-64792, 847, 854, 857,
18 859, 30, 40, 62, 68, 81, 97, 233, 262, 283, 3043-
19 583623-95415, 4534-564664-70486, 4935-125135-
20 43547, 5486-256306-70697, 777, 805, 825, 841.
21 Senate Bill 98 with amendments, 627 with
22 amendments and Senate Bill 400 with amendments.
23 Okay. All bills will be deemed read and all
24 amendments will be deemed adopted as the items on
25 concurrence. Excuse me, Madam Majority Leader,
you are recognized. Yes.

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1 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: At the request of
2 the author, please move file item 30, SB 97
3 Grayson to the inactive file.

4 MR. SPEAKER: Clerk will note. Now we're
5 going to the items on concurrence. We're going
6 to pass and retain on all items. Getting to the
7 assembly third reading. Going to pass and retain
8 on all items. Senate third reading. File item
9 77, 145. We're going to pass and retain on all
10 items other than file item 145, which has been
11 dispensed with Members. We are now lifting the
12 call on the consent calendar. Clerk will post on
13 the consent calendar all those vote who desire to
14 vote. All members vote who desire to vote. All
15 members vote who desire to vote. Clerk will
16 close the roll. Tally the votes. I77, no. 0.
17 Consent calendar is adopted. Clerk will read the
18 remaining items on consent. House Resolution 49,
19 I77, no. 0, Senate Bill 621, I77, no. 0 Senate
20 Bill 440, I77, no. 0 senate bill 392, I77, no.
21 0 SENATE BILL 510, I77, no Senate Bill 598, I77,
22 no. 0 CONATE BILL 856, I77, no. 0 SECATE BILL
23 733, I77, no. 0 SUREATE BILL 858, I77, no. 0
24 SERATE Concurrent Resolution 97, I77, no. 0 AND
25 SENATE Concurrent Resolution 99, I77, no. 0
Members, we're moving on to adjournment's memory.

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1 The quorum call remains in place. Please give
2 our respectful attention to those who were
3 granted prior permission to speak on their
4 adjournment. In memory. Please take all
5 conversation off the floor. Please take all
6 conversations off the floor. Assembly member
7 Alanis, you are recognized for your adjournment
8 and memory.

9 MEMBER ALANIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And
10 first off, I just want to apologize to the family
11 for having us take so long to have you guys
12 recognized. So thank you for your patience.
13 Colleagues, it's with a heavy heart that I ask
14 that we adjourn in memory for Avery Roxanne
15 Mellerek Avery will be remembered as a
16 compassionate young woman who brought light into
17 any room she walked into. Avery was taken from
18 this world too soon following a car accident on
19 June 21st of this year, Avery was pursuing her
20 love for cinematic film arts at the California
21 State University Northridge and spent her summer
22 breaks giving back to the Modesto community at
23 Camp Taylor. In my district, she gave back. As
24 a camp counselor, Avery was focused on improving
25 the lives of children with heart conditions.
Camp Taylor is only one of eight medically

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1 supervised camps focused on serving children with
2 heart disease. After graduation, Avery hoped to
3 combine her love for film and her passion for the
4 children at Camp Taylor by making documentaries
5 about the stories of children born with heart
6 conditions. Avery's cheerful personality will
7 continue to shine through memories with her
8 competitive cheer team, serving as a role model
9 to young children and energetically cheering on
10 the Sacramento Kings. Avery chose to be an organ
11 donor, a decision that shaped by personal
12 experiences with her brother Ethan and her best
13 friend Anneliese, both who have received heart
14 transplants. Through her final act of
15 generosity, Avery continues to touch lives and
16 saved others. Today, we are joined by Avery's
17 beloved family here in the back of the room,
18 including her mother, Sierra, her older brother
19 Ethan, her stepfather Jason, her aunts Joanna and
20 Vanessa, and her Camp Taylor friends and family,
21 who are also up in the gallery. I want to extend
22 my condolences to Avery's family, her friends,
23 and the Camp Taylor community. Thank you for
24 allowing me to honor Avery's life here on the
25 assembly floor, and I ask that we adjourn in
memory of Avery. Thank you.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assembly member
2 Alanis. Members, let us observe a moment of
3 silence to honor the life of Avery. Roxanne
4 Millerick just a moment, Ms. Wicks.
5 Assemblymember Wicks, you are recognized for your
6 adjournment and memory.

7 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you, Mr.
8 Speaker and members, I rise to adjourn in the
9 memory of Zona Roberts, an unwavering champion of
10 the of disability rights and a trailblazer of the
11 independent living movement. Zona was born in
12 Portland in 1920 and grew up between Oregon and
13 California. She met her husband, Verne Roberts
14 through a mutual friend in high school, and they
15 had four sons together. Zona's eldest son, Ed
16 Roberts, contracted polio in 1953 when he was
17 only 14 years old. Ed spent 18 months in the
18 hospital, and when he was finally able to come
19 home, he did so as a quadriplegic. This spurred
20 Zona's transformation into a tireless advocate
21 for for inclusion and accessibility. Battling
22 educational, medical, and societal bureaucracies
23 and prejudice. She was steadfast in her fight
24 for Ed to have the rights and opportunities that
25 he deserved, starting with his right to go to
school. She worked alongside Ed to establish

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1 support for individuals with disabilities, both
2 at the University of California and in the
3 broader East Bay community. At the age of 44,
4 Zona enrolled at UC Berkeley, where she received
5 her bachelor's degree and her teaching
6 credential. During that time, her Berkeley home,
7 known as the Greenhouse, became a gathering place
8 not just for disabled students, but also for
9 teachers, doctors, riders and visitors studying
10 the growing community of disability activists.
11 Through those gatherings, she created one of the
12 earliest models of independent living. Zona
13 passed away on January 10th at the age of 104.
14 She was preceded by her beloved sons, Ed, Ron,
15 and Randy. She is survived by her son Mark, her
16 grandchildren and great grandchildren. She also
17 leaves behind an endless number of friends who
18 will miss her dearly. We can all learn from
19 Zona's unwavering belief in human dignity and the
20 tenacity with which she advocated not only for
21 her son, but for every disabled person to realize
22 their potential. Zona's contributions will
23 continue to resonate in the fight for equity and
24 dignity for every individual. Her legacy will
25 live on in communities and across this nation.
Zona's son Mark, and many of her friends and

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1 family are with us here today in the gallery to
2 celebrate her amazing and purposeful life. I
3 respectfully ask that the assembly join me in
4 adjourning in her memory today.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assembly member
6 Wicks. Members, let us observe a moment of
7 silence to honor the life of this historic
8 Californian, Zona Roberts. Assembly member
9 Sharpe Collins, you are recognized for your
10 adjournment in memory.

11 MEMBER SHARPE COLLINS: Thank you, Mr.
12 Speaker. Today I rise to remember a man whose
13 name became synonymous with leadership,
14 dedication, and service to the city of La Mesa,
15 located in San Diego, the Honorable Arthur Art
16 Madrid. Art's story is one of perseverance,
17 service, and deep commitment to community. Born
18 in New Mexico in 1934, Art came to La Mesa as a
19 teenager, quickly developing the strong sense of
20 civic pride that would define his life's work.
21 He served his country in the United States Marine
22 Corps and later worked for Pacific Belle, a man
23 who knew both the discipline of service and the
24 value of hard work. Art's political journey
25 began with his work for the then San Diego mayor,
Pete Wilson. But it was in La Mesa that his

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1 public service truly flourished. Elected to city
2 council in 1981 and then as mayor in 1990, Art
3 would lead the city for 24 years, a remarkable
4 run marked by his vision, tenacity, and results.
5 He never shied away from bold action, even when
6 it brought national headlines, as in 1994, when
7 he took on a controversial stand against
8 prostitution within our community. His
9 leadership was recognized far and wide. The
10 American Society of Public Administrators named
11 him San Diego County's outstanding elected
12 official, and the San Diego Magazine listed him
13 Amongst the top 50 people to watch as they knew
14 about his millennial approach beyond our city
15 limits, Art shaped regional and statewide policy
16 as chair of the San Diego association of
17 Governments, president of the San Diego Division
18 of the League of California Cities, and President
19 of the California Council of Governments. He
20 believed deeply in collaboration and that cities
21 and communities were stronger when they worked
22 together. His courage as a public servant was
23 matched only by his resilience and as a person.
24 For all of his public accomplishments, Art's
25 greatest devotion was to his family. He and his
beloved wife, Sally, shared decades together,

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1 raising four children. Life dealt them
2 heartbreaking losses with the passing of their
3 son to cancer and later Sally's own passing in
4 2003. Yet even in grief, Art continued to serve,
5 guided by a belief in giving back to the
6 community that he truly loved. Art Madrid passed
7 away peacefully at his La mesa home on June 6,
8 2025, at the age of 90. And I can tell you, all
9 the way up until that time, he was still
10 advocating and fighting for his community.
11 Today, we remember not only a mayor, but a
12 neighbor, a veteran, a husband, a father, and a
13 friend. His life reminds us that true public
14 service is not measured just in years served or
15 titles held, but in the lasting differences made
16 in people's lives. So we honor his memory by
17 continuing the work that he has so passionately
18 believed in and building a community that is
19 safe, strong and united. So, although today I am
20 standing here saying goodbye, just know that we
21 will also say thank you. And I'll continue to
22 say thank you to Art for everything that he has
23 done. So thank you, Mayor Madrid, for your
24 leadership, your courage, and your heart. And
25 your city will never, ever forget you. Thank
you.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Dr. Sharp Collins.
2 Members, please bring the names to the desk to be
3 printed in the Journal. All requests to adjourn
4 in memory will be deemed read and printed in the
5 Journal. Moving on to announcements session
6 schedules as follows. Friday, August 22nd.
7 There's no floor session, no check in session.
8 Monday, August 25th floor session at 1pm seeing
9 and hearing no further business, I'm ready to
10 entertain a motion to adjourn. Madam Majority
11 leader moves and Mr. Patterson seconds that this
12 House stands adjourned till Monday, August 25th,
13 at 1pm Quorum calls lifted and we are adjourned.
14 (Off the record 6:30 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

4 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO)

5

6 I hereby certify that the foregoing
7 transcript was reported as stated in the caption, and
8 the questions and answers thereto were reduced to
9 typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing
10 pages represent a true, complete, and correct
11 transcript of the evidence given upon said deposition,
12 and I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel
13 to the parties in the case; am not in the employ of
14 counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in a way
15 interested in the result of said case.

16 This the 30th day of October 2025.

17 
18

19 Charles Golding, CVR

20

21

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5 146:4	163:21	102:1	115:15	187:15
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