[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

[AUDIO GAP]

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right. I'd like to call this meeting back to order, Senate Governmental Affairs. Do we need to call the roll again? Probably so. Let's call the roll again.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Milligan.

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Allain. Senator Foil.

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Tarver. Senator Womack. Senator Reese.

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Harris and Senator Price.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. That is five and a [PH 00:03:02] quarter.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right. Thank you very much. All right. Members, we have two HCRs left on our schedule, and then we will move to confirmations. So, I appreciate of the patience of

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1 those of you all who are here for that.
2 Representative Wright on HCR 51, whenever you're
3 ready.
4 SENATOR RON WRIGHT: Hello. Okay. Thanks. Thank
5 you very much. Appreciate the patience, opportunity
6 to present this resolution. This may be familiar to a
7 few of you. It's a resolution that we had passed last
8 spring in the House and, of course, one time it came
9 to the Senate. Essentially, what it is, is it calls
10 for a convention of states to amend the US
11 Constitution to establish limitations on terms for
12 members of Congress. I'm happy to answer any
13 questions about it. I don't know if you want me to
14 elaborate. I know you're kind of wanting to move
15 forward, but happy to talk about anything.
16 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: How about we'll throw
17 it open to the group and see if there are any
18 questions. It is something that I think we have
19 considered and we have done in the past, and so
20 members are perhaps familiar with what this is. Any
21 questions from the group? Senator Reese?
22 SENATOR MIKE REESE: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman
23 and Representative Wright. I think, you know, as we
24 contemplated this last year and I'm trying to recall
25 some of the debate and argument at the time, you

know, I've certainly subscribed to the idea that term limits would be healthy at the federal level. I think the reservation in the past that we've had related to this, this HCR, really dealt more with could you just that narrowly define the interaction with the US Constitution and could an attempt like this ultimately, open it up to other revisions within the Constitution that we would not be in support of and put at jeopardy of that issue.

[00:05:07]

And so, I think at the end of the day, that was really more of the conversation. I don't know that I ever got really completely comfortable that U.S. law could allow us to that narrowly define our interaction with the US Constitution under this mechanism. Can you address that?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yeah, sure. Thank you, sir. In all of my research, I have not seen anything that suggests that you could have a runaway convention without us being able to sort of pull the plug from our participation, let's say. I'm working with US Term Limits and I know they're a great repository of history and some of the law on it. So, at the pleasure of the committee, appreciate their representative coming up at some point, but one of

the things that was very interesting to me and talking with the group, just sort of the timing of it, right? I mean, this is a long process, you have to get a number of other states and move forward, and so one of the things that, you know, I really support is the idea that - the idea is actually to push Congress to eventually acts. So, back in the 1920s, there was a number of conventional stage resolutions passed by other states and what ends up happening is when you start getting critical mass, you know, maybe 20, 25, Congress usually ends up taking up the issue and addressing the issue itself. So, you know, right now - and that happened with direct election of senators. So that's a historical fact. We have passed other resolutions for Convention of States, really the term limits, but it's tied with a balanced budget amendment. And I think, you know, a lot of people think that's a tougher ask that the balanced budget amended, but that would be the two there. I know and I think Madam Chair would know a little better because she was in the - she was in a term when it happened, but we passed some resolutions to kind of deal with our representatives and being able to recall them and name them, and things like that. So, there's a lot of control over it. I don't think I

1 don't see this becoming like the first constitutional
2 convention where we take up a huge body of it. So,
3 I'm comfortable with it, and I appreciate the, you
4 know, what you're saying about it. I think it's a
5 legitimate question, but I've never seen something
6 that tells me that's a concern. Okay. Thank you,
7 Madam Chairwoman.
8 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, senator.
9 And to your point earlier just to maybe restate it
10 again, I think in the past you talked about the
11 direct election of senators. I think also with the
12 presidential term limits, that was another effort
13 that began with the states through resolutions
14 similar to this, and I think when Congress sees it,
15 the writings on the wall and there's a lot of support
16 around the country, then they choose to take action
17 on their own because that way they get to kind of
18 control the process and put their fingerprint on it.
19 And so, I would suspect personally that that the same
20 thing would happen with this. When enough States pass
21 resolutions and demonstrate that they're willing to
22 go to a Convention of States, I would imagine that
23 Congress would take action themselves to define,
24 grandfather in, all of the - whatever things they
25 might consider for term limits for themselves would

be my guess. I personally don't think we'll ever get to a convention, but I think that the states demonstrating their interest in that would certainly send a strong message to Washington. So, Senator Price.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman and Representative Wright. You know, my position on term limits. So, it may get out of [PH 00:08:38] committee. So, we'll see this fight on the floor.

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes sir. I understand. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, Senator Price. I remember last year you commented that you like your congressman. Well, he already bailed on you. I'm kidding. But why, I like our new congressman as well.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: I'll just sit and say he's going to be this afternoon. You may only change.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: No. I'm very proud of him and as a member, a former member of this body, so looking forward to working with him.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right. Any other questions or comments from the committee? I've got a

number of cards here that I can read in, present will provide information, Ken Clark from US Term Limits, [PH 00:09:23] Tilly Medina from the Medina Group, present, and support does not wish to speak. Les Chamblee, US Term Limits present in support, [PH 00:09:33] Kyle Rucker US Term Limits, present in support. Tray Hill US Term Limits, present in support, Ryan Roberts, the Pelican Institute present and in support, not wishing to speak. All right. What's the pleasure of the committee? Senator Milligan moves favorable on HCR 51. Any objection? Senator Price objects. Madam Secretary, if you would please call the vote? A yes vote is in favor of reporting the HCR, a vote no of course is not.

[00:10:08]

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Milligan.

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil.

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese.

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Price.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. That is three yays and one nay.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right. So, we will report HCR 51 favorable.

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you.

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Members, appreciate it.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: And for the record, members, I failed to enter into the record. You have emails in opposition on HCR 51. I'm going to read those briefly. The name is Judy [PH 00:10:48] Keller, sent in some information, Sue Long, Trudy Stamps, Joanne Martin, and they've attached some reading material as well. Beverly Manning and Mickey White. Okay. All right. The last HCR on our schedule is HCR 90, which is by Speaker Shake Schneider. I will try to handle that today. This is the product of a working group of three senators and three House members that were appointed by the speaker and the chairman to develop a joint rule by which the House and the Senate would guide our redistricting efforts. And so, it's listed as a concurrent resolution. This would be again, a joint rule. It is virtually the same as what we did 10 years ago in terms of kind of the guiding principles. I'll hit on a few of those and then, of course, we have folks if you have questions that can answer those things more

1 specifically. The first thing of course is it's got
2 to be in compliance with the equal protection clause
3 of the 14th Amendment and the 15th Amendment to the
4 US Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting Rights
5 Act of 1965 as amended and all other federal and
6 state laws. Each district shall be composed of
7 contiguous geography. And you all understand what
8 that means. To the extent practical, each district
9 within a plan shall contain whole election precincts.
10 In the event that a voting district must be divided,
11 it shall be divided into a few districts as
12 practical. So, we want to honor the precincts
13 boundaries to the extent that were able to. All
14 redistricting plan shall respect the establish
15 boundaries of parishes municipalities and other
16 political subdivisions and natural geography to the
17 extent practical. However, this criterion is
18 subordinate to and shall not be used to undermine the
19 maintenance of communities of interest within the
20 same district to the extent practical. The most
21 recent PL 94-171 data released by the Census Bureau
22 as validated through the data verification program of
23 the House and the Senate shall be the population data
24 used to establish and for evaluation of proposed
25 redistricting plans. Each redistricting plan

1 submitted by the public shall be submitted
2 electronically in a comma delimited block equivalency
3 file. And on that note too, I'll mention, you all
4 probably read where our Communications Department
5 launched a website for redistricting on the - it's
6 part of the legislative website where all of the that
7 kind of data will be posted and made available to the
8 public. In addition, redistricting plans for the
9 House, the Senate, the Public Service Commission and
10 BESE shall meet the following criteria, single-member
11 districts, districts that are substantially equal in
12 population. Therefore, under no circumstances shall
13 any plan be considered if the plan has an absolute
14 deviation of population, which exceeds plus or minus
15 5% of the ideal district population. You have to have
16 a whole plan which is assigns all of the geography of
17 a state due to consideration given to traditional
18 district assignments to the extent practical.
19 [00:15:02]
20 In addition, redistricting plans for congress,
21 shall meet the following criteria, single-member
22 districts. Each district shall have a population as
23 nearly equal to the ideal district population as
24 practical, the whole plan which assigns all of the
25 geography of the state. Redistricting plans for the

Supreme Court shall be a whole plan which is signs all of the geography of the state. We do not require single-member districts or districts that are substantially equal in population, and we do not require consideration of traditional district alignments. So, that's what's - I know that's kind of a lot of detail but that is, again, the product of the working group, representation from the legislature to establish a joint rule by which we will do our redistricting. Any questions on that from the group? We've got folks here, of course they can answer questions. Mr. Glenn Koepp is available from the Senate, formally the Senate Secretary and someone that's done a considerable amount of redistricting in his day. And we also have one person here in the audience present, who would like to speak and I'll invite you now, Peter Robins-Brown from the Louisiana Progress Action.

PETER ROBINS-BROWN: Thank you, everybody. Sorry about my confusion earlier going back and forth on those. This one, I did actually prepare to talk about. Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action. I'll be really brief. I'm here today as somebody who has had the opportunity to go around the state either physically or virtually over the last year to talk to

1 people about redistricting. This wasn't because I was
2 like advertising myself as a redistricting expert of
3 some sort. It was just my name got around and people
4 found me which I think speaks to the fact that this
5 is an issue that the people of the state are very,
6 you know, taking very seriously, they understand the
7 importance. And I think that that understanding has
8 grown dramatically over the past decade, as more
9 technological tools have become available for people
10 to, you know, really kind of dig down and understand
11 how redistricting actually works. But in general, I
12 think that's the problem I've encountered and the
13 reason that people have reached out to me is that
14 redistricting is something of like a black box issue
15 if you're just a citizen. You know, it's important,
16 you know that you might have, you know, certain ideas
17 in a very general sense about what you want, or don't
18 want, but understanding how the sausage is made is
19 really hard to dig into. And again, that's why I
20 think people have just kind of found me to kind of go
21 and try and explain how that works, and you know what
22 we can do, one of the things we always talk about was
23 a redistricting transparency website, which we
24 actually brought a resolution a couple times on
25 weren't able to get it through. So, I was really

excited when the legislature, you know, took it upon themselves to put that together. I think that's a really great tool.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: It was always our intent to do that.

PETER ROBINS-BROWN: Yeah, yeah. And I think you know because of the previously there, you know is the House version and a Senate version. And the House version was pretty good. Senate version, I think left a little something to be desired and so it's great to see that those have been—

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, we did a reboot. Yeah.

PETER ROBINS-BROWN: Yeah. That's why it's great to see that that's been reconsidered and you know put together and in one place where we can just kind of direct people, "Hey, if you want to learn something." I mean, I think even as legislators if somebody comes up to you at the supermarket says, "I'm interested in this." You don't have time to, you know, while you're shopping to explain redistricting to him. You can kind of say, "Hey, go check this out and then call my office and we'll talk." Anyway, so having, you know, talked all these different groups, and I think I've been in all of you all districts except for Senator

1 Reese to speak to some group, you know, again, at
2 some point about this, was that I think there were
3 two main concerns that I heard. I mean, there's
4 always like, "Why is my House here," but not, you
5 know - so, but in terms of like bigger ideas, there
6 were two main concerns that I heard. One was
7 something I kind of already spoke to this idea of
8 just not understanding the process. And so, on that
9 front, I would just urge you all to really, you know,
10 do as much as you can to educate your constituents
11 about it. I think that there's just something that,
12 like, especially when it comes from a legislator who
13 is involved in the process that can really, you know,
14 give people a lot of confidence in the process and in
15 the ultimate outcome. The second thing that I heard
16 the most was the idea of competitiveness. So, we have
17 all these different ideas that we talked about, some
18 of them are, you know, in statute, and in these rules
19 and I think this is a really great - I meant to start
20 out by saying I think this is a really great that the
21 legislature is, you know, laying out these rules,
22 starting this process. Again, in terms of giving
23 people confidence in both the process and the outcome
24 to say, "Hey, you know, we want to let you all know,
25 this is what we're doing, this is what we're trying

to do and what we're trying to accomplish." So, I really applaud this effort in particular, but going back to that concern around competitiveness. That was just the thing that people bring up by far more than any other issue. I think there's this concern, you know, if you live in a district where, you know, you might like your representative and/or senator, but if you're in a very be safe district, there's just this feeling that my vote is kind of wasted, you know, in a sense or you know, because my - this person I like is in such a safe district, they don't need to be maybe as responsive as I would like them to be.

[00:20:01]

So, that was one. And then on the other side, if you're in a district which is a very safe seat with somebody you don't like, you feel like they're not responsive to you or that they don't have to be responsive to you if you disagree with them because there's such a big skew in some of these really, really safe districts. So, I just kind of want to lift that up as having gone around and talked to a lot of different people. These were kind of the concerns that I've heard from people and I want to just kind of put that on the table as this goes to the process and again applaud you all for bringing

this forward and just doing this now. Happy to take any questions.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, thank you. I appreciate that. And I will just add to the education piece one of the next steps for this committee and our counterparts in the house after we do get the data that we've been waiting for which we expect to be sometime in September now. We will take the data on the road and do a road show around the state where we're having public hearings with elected officials and members of the public to show them the data and to get their input on these exact issues so that we respect the desires and the interest of those folks in those individual communities and through that process, of course, we'll have an opportunity to educate the public about the process and how will it work and how they can participate. And it's our intent for this to be a very transparent process. The website is the first step. The road show will be another step. And those of you that have been through this process before, you know that these plans are all legislative instruments. It will be a bill and multiple bills that will go through the process that any other bill goes through where we have committee hearings and public participation and floor votes to

be able to advance legislation to the governor's desk. And so, it only comes around once every 10 years so there are many members of the legislature that have not done this before, certainly members of the public that perhaps haven't been involved in it before. So, we know we have a lot of learning to do and a lot of education to do along the way. So, we appreciate your involvement and look forward to continuing to have you involved in this process as we go forward.

PETER ROBINS-BROWN: Yeah, thank you for the time.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. The board is clear, members. We have input, public comment via email from Michael Pernick, the NAACP, and forwarded some information that you have from the LDF. You'll see some groups, Fair Districts, that have sent letters with a lot of specific suggestions and ideas and points, so some in support, some not, et cetera. All right, I don't think I have any other cards or emails. The board is clear. What's the pleasure of the committee?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: In favor.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Senator Milligan moves favorable on HCR 90. Any objections? All right,

1 seeing none. We'll report HCR 90 favorable. All
2 right, members, I think that concludes our
3 legislation for the day. Let's shift into the other
4 important business before our committee and that is
5 the business of confirmations. So, you should have a
6 folder here from JW with the confirmation
7 information. All right. All right, members,
8 originally on the agenda, and I'll say this for the
9 benefit of the public as well, we had the Louisiana
10 Workforce Commission, the Department of
11 Transportation and Development, and the Department of
12 Ag and Forestry on our schedule today to confirm.
13 Given the time, I told them that we would not be
14 interviewing them today or at all through this
15 process. So, as you know we confirmed many, many
16 folks. Some of them we asked to interview and some we
17 don't. And so, I made the executive decision to give
18 the Workforce Commission, Department of
19 Transportation and Ag an opportunity to go through
20 the process without being interviewed. So, what we
21 will do now is we will focus on the LSU Board of
22 Supervisors followed by Gaming Control and the Board
23 of Supervisors from Southern University. All right,
24 so if I could, I would like to call to the table.
25 We'll take the first three folks here. We have five

members of the LSU Board of Supervisors to visit with. Let me speak first with Laurie Aronson. Am I saying it correctly?

[00:25:00]

Randy Morris and Patrick Morrow, Sr. If you all would come forward, J.W. will swear you in before you get seated.

J.W. WILEY: Okay, raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you're about to give will be the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

PATRICK MORROW, SR.: I do.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Hi! Welcome!

LAURIE ARONSON: Thank you.

RANDY MORRIS: Thank you.

PATRICK MORROW, SR.: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you all for being here. We appreciate it very much.

PATRICK MORROW, SR.: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right, why not let's start. If I could please Ms. Aronson.

LAURIE ARONSON: Aronson, yes.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Aronson. All right, if you would introduce yourself officially for the

1 record and tell us a little bit about your
2 background.
3 LAURIE ARONSON: I'm Laurie Lipsey Aronson. I'm
4 originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Grew up here.
5 Have lived here my whole life other than going to
6 Emory University in Atlanta, and I operate and manage
7 -- I'm the president and CEO of both of our family
8 businesses, Lipsey's, which is a wholesale firearms
9 business and Haspel which is a men's clothing
10 business.
11 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Terrific! That
12 explains why you're so well dressed today.
13 LAURIE ARONSON: Thank you.
14 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right, super. And
15 let's see, we've also got at the table then Mr.
16 Morris.
17 RANDY MORRIS: Yeah. Yeah, Randy Morris. I live
18 in Monroe, Louisiana. I own a rural hospital and
19 nursing home in Oak Grove, Louisiana.
20 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: I actually know where
21 that is.
22 RANDY MORRIS: Yeah, great. Come back and visit
23 with us. I've been there since 1984. We provide the
24 primary care for the geographical area of Lake
25 Providence and Oak Grove as far as primary care

1 pediatrics, family practice, internal med, nursing
2 home, dialysis, ER, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.
3 I am also the chairman of the board of the Rural
4 Hospital Coalition which is made up of 50 rural
5 hospitals throughout the state and thank you all and
6 many of you I know, some of you I don't, but the
7 legislature has always been very helpful with our
8 rural hospitals in providing access to care
9 throughout citizens in our rural area and we greatly
10 appreciate that. And I've been nominated to be on the
11 board, I think, 10 months ago. So, here I am.
12 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, thank you for
13 your service so far. All right, and we also have Mr.
14 Morrow, Patrick Morrow, Sr. Welcome!
15 PATRICK MORROW, SR.: Thank you. Good afternoon.
16 My name is Pat Morrow. I'm from Opelousas and I'm an
17 attorney in charge of an eight-person law firm. I
18 also own a nursing home and I have been on the board
19 10 months and it has really been a pleasure although
20 it's been a lot of work and it's a learning
21 experience, I will say. Thank you.
22 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: I can only imagine.
23 Now, let me begin first -- we'll have a question from
24 Senator Foil.
25

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. I've met all of you at one time or another, but I knew Ms. Aronson the best. She and I actually went to high school. She's a little bit younger than I am, but nevertheless you all have a very big challenge ahead. I'm a proud graduate of LSU and I feel like there's been some really tough times have been going through lately and I hope and counting on you all to get the ship right it back and it's a big task so I'm looking forward to working with you and Laurie specifically. I know you personally. I know you'll do a great job. I knew in high school you're a leader there and then you've been in the business world taking over your dad's company and really appreciate your willingness to serve. Thank you, Madam Chair.

LAURIE ARONSON: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, senator. So, maybe let me just start the ball rolling here and sort of state if you've watched any of the hearing issue, now I'm going to bring this up, is the issue of the Title IX, compliance issues that have become very public for LSU. I do believe there are issues that are of a concern throughout our state and of course in all the other states, but LSU is on the front line of this issue and in charge I think by

leading, by example, in changing the culture within our university system. And so, I guess you all have realized I've only been there. All of you have just been there 10 months, is that correct? So, you're all—

LAURIE ARONSON: I've been there two months.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Okay, two months. So, we've got two weeks. Very experienced 10-monthers and a newbie, two-month.

[00:30:04]

And so, I recognize that these are difficult questions. But again, you guys have the ability, the privilege of leading from here today forward without being burdened with any of the decisions that have been made in the past or lack thereof perhaps. So, tell me. What are your thoughts about, again, going forward on Title IX issues and ensuring that the universities that are part of the system that you'll be overseeing that they were working to change the culture on how those issues are addressed? I'll start with you if you like.

LAURIE ARONSON: Sure, if you don't mind. What I've learned in these short two months in the research I've done and in sitting in the one meeting that occurred when I started. The most important

1 thing to know is that Title IX not only has a
2 designated office and it's fully staffed, but they
3 have a timeline that they're working through and
4 what's nice is that there's actually a process to be
5 followed now. Whereas, I think, before, any missteps
6 were not intentional but perhaps a lack of knowledge
7 on what to do or when to do or in a certain time
8 frame, but now that's been made very clear and any
9 employee of LSU or anyone who has knowledge of any
10 incidents has a very specific process and a timeline
11 in order to report it.
12 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: And I do agree that
13 there were some conflicting, I think, instructions
14 from leadership in terms of how that was to be
15 handled. And so, certainly having clear expectations
16 as a big part of that. Give the others a chance to
17 comment on that.
18 RANDY MORRIS: First of all, I want you to know
19 that I'm married. I have two daughters, three
20 granddaughters. I have two female partners in my
21 business. I'm partners with a young lady with our
22 Rural Hospital Coalition as we've worked together for
23 15 years. So, my core being is I've got to do what
24 I'm told by these young ladies, each people that I
25 live with. That being said, I've taken on the

1 personal responsibility that I want to serve as a
2 board member in dealing with the policies of Title IX
3 as though it's affecting my family, okay? It's
4 personal, okay? And I think in the past it has not
5 been to the forefront that it needs to be. It is in
6 the forefront and according to the board members that
7 you're going to today is high priority with us to
8 make sure we get that right. And it's not just women,
9 it's the men too.
10 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: That's right.
11 RANDY MORRIS: And its faculty, its employees,
12 whether it's the custodial people or people cutting
13 the grass in the athletic or if it's in the athletic
14 department, it's everybody associated with LSU not
15 only on the main campus, but all our campuses. And I
16 think we as board members have started already taking
17 steps to bring that to a forefront with our Husch
18 Blackwell report. We've asked for consultants to help
19 us. We're looking at it on a monthly basis and what
20 progress has been made, and other things outside that
21 report that come up that we need to adjust and make
22 better. So, it is on our forefront and we're going to
23 get it right.
24 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right, thank you.
25 Mr. Morrow?

PATRICK MORROW, SR.: Yes, ma'am. I think Husch Blackwell opened the eyes of everybody in the LSU system. It showed that there was really no reporting to one particular group or civil rights or Title IX [PH 00:33:59] coordinator. And I think LSU has taken positive steps, dedicated a million dollars to the new department. We've moved the department itself out of the office of the president, the chancellor, which was a great move. I think people at LSU now understand what the reporting is and how it is accomplished that everybody is on an affirmative obligation. And if you don't adhere to that obligation, then they are dire circumstances which include being fired. So, I think LSU is moving in the right direction. We have an MOU that we've added into with the police department. Just recently, we learned that there was an alleged rapist who was at LSU, UL, and I think at Louisiana Tech and somebody dropped the ball in not reporting.

[00:35:13]

And so, we're learning through our errors. I think people are entitled to due process, but at the end of the day if you do something that is wrong, then you need to pay. Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, thank you. I
2 appreciate that. I'm going to dive into another issue
3 with you, Mr. Morrow, if I can for just a minute
4 because you did send us some information and asked us
5 to distribute it to the committee. And so, we've done
6 that and giving them an opportunity to read it. I
7 want to give you a chance to kind of respond and help
8 clarify a few things, but in the background research
9 that our staff does on all of you, there were a few
10 ethics issues that they came up. And so, I was just
11 going to ask if you would kind of address those and
12 help us understand those.
13 PATRICK MORROW, SR.: Sure, yup. Back in late
14 2011, I had been represented representing Opelousas
15 General Hospital in several class actions. I was
16 invited to join the board of trustees at Opelousas
17 General. Before doing so, I consulted with the
18 attorney for the board and after discussion, we
19 decided that we would seek a Board of Governmental
20 Ethics opinion as to whether or not I could represent
21 the Opelousas General in various class actions and
22 sit on the board. Pursuant to our request, the board
23 asked for several documents. We sent it to them. And
24 in March of 2012, we had a hearing. In April 5, 2012,
25 the Board of Ethics issued an opinion in a class

1 action. It's different from an individual lawsuit.
2 Class action is where the court appoints one or a few
3 class representatives to represent the entire class.
4 The court appoints the attorneys to represent the
5 class. The individuals who are represented, Opelousas
6 General, did not have any say-so. The entire class
7 action is controlled by the judge, the progress
8 setting out a case management, all order, et cetera,
9 and the trial itself. And if there's a settlement,
10 then it's up to the court to decide whether or not
11 that is fair. And if so, then the court will set the
12 attorney fees. So, the individual that we would
13 represent normally has no control or no say-so. And
14 I'd like to read what the Board of Governmental
15 Ethics said in its April 5, 2000 opinion. The Board
16 of Governmental Ethics concluded that the Code of
17 Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Patrick Morrow
18 from serving as a member of the St. Landry Parish
19 Hospital Service District No. 2 or the Opelousas
20 General Trust Authority DBA Opelousas General
21 Hospital while his law firm, Morrow, Morrow, Ryan &
22 Bassett had an ongoing representation of many
23 hospital including Opelousas General Hospital in
24 several class action lawsuits. The Board of Ethics
25 further stated since the St. Landry Parish Hospital

1 Service District No. 2 are the Opelousas General
2 Hospital Trust Authority DBA Opelousas General
3 Hospital does not have the authority to direct the
4 litigation or affect the representation by Mr. Morrow
5 or his law firm in these class actions. There is no
6 transaction in which Mr. Morrow is any way interested
7 under the supervision or jurisdiction of his board.
8 And finally, the board concluded that Mr. Morrow
9 would not be prohibited from providing compensated
10 services to Morrow, Morrow, Ryan & Bassett while he
11 represents hospitals including the St. Landry Parish
12 Hospital Service District No. 2 and Opelousas General
13 Hospital Trust Authority DBA Opelousas General
14 Hospital.
15 [00:40:17]
16 Based on the opinion, the Ethics' opinion in
17 2012, my firm continued to represent Opelousas
18 General in class actions. In 2016, a class action
19 lawsuit was filed against Blue Cross Blue Shield of
20 Louisiana. It's an antitrust lawsuit on behalf of
21 every healthcare provider in Louisiana. Blue Cross
22 took us to federal court on jurisdictional issues,
23 spent two and a half years. In 2019, we had a class
24 certification hearing and Blue Cross brought up the
25 fact that I had a conflict of interest. After the

1 trial, the trial judge considered the opinion of the
2 Board of Ethics and concluded that I did not have a
3 conflict of interest. The defendants were not happy
4 with the opinion. So, they appealed to the Third
5 Circuit Court of Appeals in Lake Charles to determine
6 whether or not I had a conflict of interest. After
7 oral arguments in the Third Circuit, the Third
8 Circuit ruled that I did not have a conflict of
9 interest. Not being satisfied with the two lower
10 court decisions, the defendant applied for RIT or an
11 appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court. The Louisiana
12 Supreme Court upheld the two lower courts saying that
13 I had no conflict of interest. At some point, I'm
14 notified that there is an anonymous complaint filed
15 against me with the Louisiana Board of Governmental
16 Ethics. It's interesting to note that the complaint
17 file with the Board of Ethics is the exact same
18 complaint that was filed against me in the trial
19 court and appeal to the Third Circuit, and appeal to
20 the Louisiana Supreme Court. We have filed
21 appropriate motions to have the matter dismissed and
22 that's where we stand and it's -- I don't know what
23 else I could have done. I went through the procedure.
24 The trial court, the court of appeals, and the
25

supreme court agreed. So, I don't know what else I could have done.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Okay. So, Ethics now, they haven't issued an opinion or a ruling on this most recent anonymous complaint?

PATRICK MORROW, SR.: No, ma'am. We have filed various motions to dismiss and we have a hearing back in February and they still have not ruled on it.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Okay. Okay. All right, any questions from the group on this issue in particular or for any of our other folks that are here today? We appreciate your willingness to serve on the LSU board and many of us, it's our alma mater. We're very proud of that university. We want to continue to see it succeed. And so, thank you for being willing to step up and serve. We appreciate that.

PATRICK MORROW, SR.: Go Tigers!

RANDY MORRIS: Thank you. Go Tigers!

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Tigers! Go Tigers! Yes, sir. Mr. Price?

EDWARD PRICE: I just want to comment. I have a niece who graduated from Emory University.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: You did. There you go. Go Eagles! All right, we have two other members here

from the LSU Board of Supervisors, Mr. Collis Temple, Jr. and Richard Zuschlag. If you all would come up and let us swear you in.

J.W. WILEY: Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you're about to give will be the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

RICHARD ZUSCHLAG: Yes, sir.

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: I do.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Welcome, gentlemen!

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: Thank you. I'm glad to be here.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

[00:45:00]

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Let's start with you, please, Mr. Temple. If you'll introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your background.

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: My name is Collis Benton Temple, Jr. I was born in Magnolia, Mississippi, grew up in Kentwood. When I say grew up, I left Kentwood at 17 and came to Baton Rouge to go to school and play basketball for LSU. Graduated in 1974 from LSU. Took the LSAT, the GRE, Graduate Record Exam, and took the MCAT and decided to go to grad school first.

I entered into grad school. In the meantime, I got accepted in a law school. Flunked out of law school while I was going to grad school state and grad school finished, and begin my business and have been working and engaged with LSU in Baton Rouge for 51 years now. I operate some residential treatment facilities for individuals out of developmentally disabled, moderately to mild mentally retarded, mentally ill folk and a variety of children that range from foster kids to juvenile delinquents. I've been providing services for about 43 or 44 years in that area. Also involved in some construction work and I've been a contractor since I was about eight years old in Kentwood. So, that's sort of my life history and I'm a big LSU basketball fan.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: I would imagine so. How is the team look this year?

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: I think we're moving in the right direction. We're recruiting some really good players. And so, I think that we'll be fine.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Every year is a new season, so we're all very hopeful.

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: That's correct.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Mr. Zuschlag, welcome!

RICHARD ZUSCHLAG: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Introduce yourself and give us a little bit about your background.

RICHARD ZUSCHLAG: Okay, with Mr. Temple, I've enjoyed getting to know him over the last several months. I'm Richard Zuschlag. I live in Lafayette. I was one of the cofounders of Acadian Ambulance 50 years ago this year in Lafayette. You might find this to be interesting that for the first two years I only had two ambulances and I drove one of them, and I was not a very good driver. I sometimes wonder how they get around with all the old maps because it's so much easier nowadays with GPS. I'm very proud of the way our company has been able to serve the state and the way we've grown over the last 50 years, and my biggest pride comes along with the fact that through legislation that [INDISCERNIBLE 00:47:52]. I was able to become a ESOP. My two partners sold out to a trust. So, now 80% of our company is owned by our employees and my family retains the other 20%. We serve about 75% of the State of Louisiana and we have approximately 4,800 employees in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi, and Tennessee. This body legislature for the last 50 years has been very supportive of our employee-owned company and I'm extremely grateful for the way of both the house and the senate through all

these years and the governors have worked to help our company grow and do the right thing for the state.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, it's a great success story and certainly both of you have been very successful in your chosen careers. And so, we appreciate your willingness to serve LSU.

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: So, let me maybe just clarify something with you first, Mr. Zuschlag. It's on your form. Just to make sure that you don't have any kind of conflict of interest. You talked about on your form, I think you all provide some services, some ambulance services for the LSU Athletic Department. Would you like to just sort of comment on that?

RICHARD ZUSCHLAG: Yes. We're a sole provider of service in East Baton Rouge Parish. And so, there's no one else for them to contract with. So, we contract with our normal rate structure and we had some private attorneys look over what we had going on and they didn't think there would be any reason for a conflict.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Okay. All right, and you have both served. Is this your first time to serve Mr. Zuschlag?

RICHARD ZUSCHLAG: Yes, I've been on for 10 months.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Ten months. Per the 10-month crew.

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: I've been on for eight months.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Eight months. All right. Well, you heard some of my comments earlier. Tell me where you are personally with the Title IX work that you all are addressing head-on and what can we expect from the LSU Board of Supervisors going forward? Mr. Temple?

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: Well, I think it's really a watershed opportunity for LSU and LSU has an opportunity to serve as a beacon of light across particularly and more specific than the Southeastern Conference by getting everything right.

[00:50:17]

When you have to bring things to light that are challenging and that are problematic, oftentimes it's an opportunity to move forward and I think that at this point with the new leadership coming into Louisiana State University and with the efforts that you guys put forth as it relates to children and women's issues, I think that it's a grand opportunity

for us to get everything right and we really appreciate the opportunity to be in that particular posture right now. There are a lot of social justice issues that can be put on the forefront and be dealt with and I think that it's a special time in Louisiana. It's particularly a special time at LSU. And I think that moving forward, we have a lot of things to gain and I think we can make everybody proud of where LSU is from this moment forward.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: I certainly agree with you and hope so.

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: Sure.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Mr. Zuschlag?

RICHARD ZUSCHLAG: Well, I think that there's been much said and done. I'm very proud of our chairman, Robert Dampf, and what he did immediately to appoint Mary Werner as our special chairman of our Title IX committee. And when we meet, that's the first subject that we talked about. They get a report where we're at and what's being done. I'm proud of the fact that they decided to hire a third party to come in the first part of next year to check out if we completed all the tasks that need to be done and that the rules are being followed by all the departments in the proper way. I think LSU, in my

mind, is like number one in sports in south. They got excellent academic program. We are concerned about the faculty, about the children going to school. My son graduated there in 2004. I'm very proud of that university. I have nine grandchildren, five of them are girls. I want to make sure this is a safe place when they come down here to go to college. So, we're very concerned about the culture and I think we all together have to work on changing the culture. But just as we found out last week, it's not a problem just with LSU. That's the one that's been publicized. It's across the state and I'm afraid in talking to other university leaders across the whole country. I'd like to see us come out as one of the better universities that handles Title IX the right way. If we can be good academically and we can be good in athletics, we can be good in the way we handle Title IX and protect our women and our men.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: I agree with you. It is a great opportunity to lead on this issue. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you both of you for your willingness to serve. Like I told the other group, I'm an LSU alumni and I think we need to right the ship. I've had some

1 serious concerns, but I'm excited about both of your
2 service. Collis, I've known you my whole adult life
3 and when the governor talked about your nomination, I
4 was very excited about it because I know what you've
5 done. You've been on the inside in LSU so you know
6 how things work there and you brought people together
7 and there's a lot of divisiveness in this world. And
8 so, I think you're the right man in that respect. And
9 also, my mom taught you English at LSU, so now you've
10 got a good education.
11 COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: Thanks right.
12 SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Thank you.
13 COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: That's right. I was going to
14 comment on that. The first class I took at LSU in the
15 summertime of 1970, my English teacher was not Ms.
16 Foil, but with another name, but it ended up being
17 your mom and I think I made A in that class. So, tell
18 her I said hello.
19 SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Thank you, Madam Chair.
20 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right. Thank you,
21 senator. All right, any other questions or comments
22 for these gentlemen? We appreciate you very much
23 being willing to serve and just to know that you have
24 a lot of support here, we want LSU to be the flagship
25 university and I think we are the flagship and we

have many, many opportunities to demonstrate that we are the best in every aspect.

COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: I want to say one other thing. Most people put the funding first. In our instance, we really need to look at making sure we have a great relationship with the leadership in our elected offices, particular in the senate and in the house. And even though we only probably receive about 13% to 14% of the funding that we have at LSU from the legislature, we want you to know that we are open to any suggestions, any recommendations, or any input that the legislature has and we really look forward to working with you so we can make everything a better place.

[00:55:00]

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, we appreciate that and we're not normally very shy bunch, so you can be sure that if we have any suggestions that you'll get to hear. And we wish your new president all the best as well. That's an important role. And so, I know that you all will partner with him and support him as we move forward.

RICHARD ZUSCHLAG: And I know that he'll be coming to town the first part of July, but when you get a chance to personally meet him, I think he's

1 going to be special for our community and for our
2 state. It seems that he is the real individual that
3 has a great ability to communicate and a great desire
4 to make sure things are done right at LSU. I think
5 you all be very happy with him.
6 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. I look
7 forward to that.
8 COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: Thank you.
9 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you both.
10 COLLIS TEMPLE, JR.: All right.
11 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right, if I could,
12 I'd like to -- I'm going to take this out of order. I
13 want to call the Southern University Board of
14 Supervisors to the table. So, that's Samuel Tolbert
15 and Edwin Shorty, Jr. If you all stand please and
16 we'll swear you in.
17 J.W. WILEY: Raise your right hand. Do you
18 solemnly swear that the testimony you're about to
19 give will be the whole truth and nothing but the
20 truth?
21 EDWIN SHORTY, JR: I do.
22 SAMUEL TOLBERT: I do.
23 [BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]
24 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right, welcome!
25 All right, Mr. Tolbert, Jr.

SAMUEL TOLBERT: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Am I saying that correctly?

SAMUEL TOLBERT: That's correct.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right, if you would just introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your background.

SAMUEL TOLBERT: Okay. My name is Samuel Tolbert. Grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana. I currently am the pastor of the Greater St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church. It is the church I grew up in. I've been the pastor now for 37 years. In addition to that, I serve as the leader of my denomination, the National Baptist Convention of America with about 4,000, churches around the country, about 3.5 million historically African-American Baptist in the country, and with members in other parts of the world. And I've been serving on the Southern University Board of Supervisors for this last term.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. And Mr. Shorty?

EDWIN SHORTY, JR: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. My name is Edwin Shorty, Jr. I am originally from the Lower Ninth Ward part of New Orleans. I'm glad Senator Tarver has left out because he always gives

me a lot of pushback about that area of New Orleans. I'm a 1999 graduate of Southern University at New Orleans, a 2002 graduate of Southern University Law Center. After my graduation from law school, I opened my own law practice where I've been practicing in the New Orleans area ever since. In 2012, I was also elected to serve as the constable in Algeria, so I represent the West Bank of New Orleans as the constable and it has been my lifelong dream to serve on this board. Senator Tarver's brother has the distinction of being on a signatory on both of my degrees which I just thought was amazing that I get the opportunity to serve with him and he's got such a fine place in my heart. So, Reverend Tolbert and I are definitely of the mindset of doing whatever we can to bring our institution to the next generation and help young folks get the education that HBCU's historical Black colleges and universities have provided around this country.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. What do you see is the biggest challenge facing the Southern University system right now?

SAMUEL TOLBERT: I think the biggest challenge that has been put to us by our president and some board members is to venture further into online

offerings with our curriculum because we are system, we will be able to reach more people and this day with technology. So, I think that's been one of our biggest challenges, but I think with the strategic plan we have and the plan to implement it, that we're going to overcome that challenge pretty soon throughout the system.

EDWIN SHORTY, JR.: I would echo with Reverend Tolbert said, but I also think one of our issues and I think an issue throughout higher education is to figure out what programs are the programs of the future and not to spend time and energy on those programs where it may have been popular to offer a degree in the past, but there really no jobs serving that area and finding out what areas whether be in technology or medicine, or whatever field, what is the thing that will provide folks in this area opportunities in the future and making sure that we can pinpoint those and provide solid education in those areas.

[01:00:11]

And I think our executive team has been doing a great job of sitting back and looking at the entire slate of degrees and saying, "Okay, maybe this isn't something that we need to focus on or we phase this

1 out", and maybe especially at Southern in Shreveport
2 when we're looking at technical degrees in which
3 areas, maybe it's airplane engineering kind of things
4 or saying, "Hey, look, these skills are what we're
5 going to need in the next 10 or 15 years as opposed
6 to something that was good 15 years ago. That's a
7 waste of money."
8 CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, I couldn't agree
9 more. I'm all about looking at what the job needs are
10 in our state and working backwards. And of course,
11 there's great value in education no matter what, but
12 as a mother, I certainly want my kids to get educated
13 in an area where they can get a job and provide for
14 their family. And so, I think we do have great
15 opportunities in our state. Many of those are STEM-
16 related jobs that I'm very passionate about those are
17 high-paying high-wage jobs, high demand. And so I
18 think that to the extent that we have folks that have
19 an interest in those areas and we can provide them
20 opportunities to get the skills and the training and
21 the education they need, they're going to come out
22 making a really good living. I agree with your idea
23 of not having to be all things to all people, but to
24 do the things that you choose to do, but do them
25 very, very well. I certainly support that and very

appreciative that both of you have chosen to serve and are willing to serve and I look forward to being able to support you in any way that I can.

EDWIN SHORTY JR.: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Senator Price.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Thank you, madam chairman. I too want to thank you all for your service. I've known both of you all for a long time and tremendous job that you all are doing. So, keep up the good work. Yeah. I know sometimes it gets tough, but you got to keep on fighting for the children. And I think the students there at Southern gains a lot from input from you all and what you're doing. So, thank you all for your service. And Mr. Shorty I see you got Troy Carter as your Senator, he's no longer a senator so.

EDWIN SHORTY JR.: Unfortunately, I don't have a senator at this particular time. My senator has gone on to DC. So I need that void filled.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: I'm sure you could call Senator Price anytime you need some help. Senator Harris.

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: I just want to also echo what Senator Price stated. Thank you all for your service. It's very commendable for what it is that

you all are doing and Mr. Shorty, it's great seeing you again. I think I was with you what? Saturday?

EDWIN SHORTY JR.: Yes, sir.

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: Saturday sometimes, so, again, it's great seeing you and Senator Price and myself, if you need some help I guess we'll step in the gap since you no longer have a senator.

EDWIN SHORTY JR.: Well I appreciate that gentleman and Madam Chairwoman, I don't know if you know, some of your senators have requested one thing that I couldn't provide them with, they wanted to switch out the Tarver that we have with the Tarver that you have. And I said, "We're doing pretty good with the Tarver that we have."

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: You didn't want to make that trade, huh?

EDWIN SHORTY JR.: No. You keep the Tarver that you have.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, it's a shame that our Tarver couldn't be here to participate in that discussion.

EDWIN SHORTY JR.: That's why I'm hitting him now.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: He's got ears all over the capital. I'm sure that will get back to him

before you get out of the building. All right. I don't see any other questions. We appreciate both of you for your willingness to serve. Thank you very much for being here today.

EDWIN SHORTY JR.: Thank you all.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Thank you. All right.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right. We have one last interview, members, and that's with our Gaming Control Board of Francesca Hamilton-Acker. If you would come forward, please. Apologize for the long meeting.

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: That's okay.

MALE 2: Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear the testimony you're about to give will be the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: I do.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Welcome. If you would, state your name for the record and tell us a little bit about your background.

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: Sure. Francesca Hamilton-Acker. I'm from Lafayette, Louisiana. I was born and raised there and have lived there with the exception of going to law school and a couple years after where I lived in Baton Rouge. I practice law. I'm an attorney.

[01:05:01]

Practiced public interest law. Have made it a career choice. So I've been practicing public interest law for the last 22 years.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: And is this your first time to work with the Gaming Control Board?

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: It is.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: So what makes you interested in that role?

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: Well, I mean, I have an interest for the gaming industry. I enjoy the game and unfortunately, that's something that I'm not able to do as a member. So that's the plus. But it's a great revenue source for the state. It has great benefits that bestow from it. And I feel like I can bring the experience that I have to all matters in terms of oversighting compliance that's provided by the board.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Well, it's an extremely important role for sure and my perception from the outside looking in is that this board has always done a very good job of regulating this industry and making sure that we do everything exactly just right. And so thank you for that.

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Any questions or comments? There's some advantages to being last.

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: Yes. I'm glad you cleared the room. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right. Well, listen, thank you very much. I don't see anything on the board and I know we're a few minutes late for the floor. So thank you for waiting today. Thank you for being here and thank you for being willing to serve in this very important role.

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: Well, I'm honored to serve. Thank you very much for the confidence and for the opportunity to serve.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: Thank you.

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN SHARON HEWITT: All right. Seeing no other business before the committee. Senator Foil moves to adjourn. Thank you.

FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER: Welcome.

[01:07:16]

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I, Anders Nelson, hereby certify that the document "F880188-louisiana-redistricting" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate transcription from English to English.

Anders Nelson
Project Manager

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