



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.

**CERTIFIED COPY**

REPORTED BY:  
CHARLES GOLDING,  
Certified Shorthand Reporter

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IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

2

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. Aylon. 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

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

3

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

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

4

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

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

5

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

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

6

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

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

7

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



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

8

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.

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

9

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 DEMAIIO: 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

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

10

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.

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

11

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

12

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

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

13

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

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

14

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

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

15

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



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

16

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

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

17

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

18

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,

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

19

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

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

20

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

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

21

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

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

22

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

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

23

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



IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

24

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

25

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

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

26

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

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

27

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,

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

28

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

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

29

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

30

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

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

31

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



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

32

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

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

33

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

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

34

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.

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

35

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

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

36

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

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

37

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

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

38

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

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

39

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



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

40

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

41

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

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

42

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

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

43

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

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

44

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

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

45

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..

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

46

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

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

47

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



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

48

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

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

49

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

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

50

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

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

51

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

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

52

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

53

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

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

54

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

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

55

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



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

56

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

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

57

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

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

58

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

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

59

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

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

60

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

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

61

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.

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

62

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

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

63

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



IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

64

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.

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

65

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

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

66

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

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

67

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

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

68

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.

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

69

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

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

70

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.

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

71

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



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

72

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

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

73

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

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

74

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

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

75

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

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

76

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

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

77

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

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

78

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.

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

79

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



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

80

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

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

81

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

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

82

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

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

83

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

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

84

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

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

85

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.

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

86

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

87

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



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

88

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

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

89

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

90

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

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

91

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

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

92

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

93

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

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

94

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

95

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.



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

96

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

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

97

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

98

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

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

99

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

100

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.

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

101

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

102

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

103

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



IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

104

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

105

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

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

106

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

107

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

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

108

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

109

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

110

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

111

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.



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

112

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?

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

113

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

114

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

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

115

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 desk and speak with the chief  
clerk. Your amendments are not here at the desk.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

116

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

117

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

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

118

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

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

119

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



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

120

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

121

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

122

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

123

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,

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

124

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

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

125

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

126

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

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

127

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



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

128

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.

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

129

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

130

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

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

131

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

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

132

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.

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

133

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

134

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

135

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



IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

136

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

137

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.

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

138

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

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

139

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

140

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

141

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

142

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

143

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



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

144

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

145

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

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

146

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

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

147

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

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

148

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

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

149

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

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

150

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,

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

151

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



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

152

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

153

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. ACAAs 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

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

154

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

155

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

156

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

157

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

158

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

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

159

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



IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

160

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

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

161

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

162

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

163

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

164

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

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

165

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

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

166

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

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

167

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,



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

168

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

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

169

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

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

170

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

171

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

172

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

173

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

174

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

175

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.



IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

176

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

177

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

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

178

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

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

179

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

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

180

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

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

181

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

182

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

183

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



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

184

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,

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

185

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

186

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

187

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

188

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.

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

189

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.

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

190

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

191

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



IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

192

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

193

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

194

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

195

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

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

196

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,

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

197

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.

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

198

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. )  
15  
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IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION  
Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

199

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO )

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

This the 30th day of October 2025.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles Golding", is written over a horizontal line.

Charles Golding, CVR



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

<b>\$</b>	20,21,22,23, 24,25	165:4	<b>1603</b> 4:4	<b>1981</b> 196:2
<b>\$1</b> 17:19 90:11 137:12	<b>1</b> <b>1</b>	<b>12</b> 123:22 <b>12,000</b> 18:8	<b>17</b> 173:22 187:21	<b>1982</b> 29:10 <b>1990</b> 196:2
<b>\$1.25</b> 107:12	42:24 <b>1.4</b>	<b>120</b> 5:19,21 132:21	<b>17%</b> 173:17	<b>1994</b> 196:6
<b>\$10</b> 126:25	55:24 <b>10</b>	<b>121</b> 5:21 132:21	<b>1776</b> 4:16	<b>1998</b> 23:5
<b>\$200</b> 134:25 137:10,11 138:20	17:3 47:6 53:14 55:19 57:11 58:17 68:8 134:9 161:8 163:18	<b>125,000</b> 144:19 <b>126</b> 5:19	<b>17th</b> 4:5,13 188:24 <b>18</b> 7:25 56:14 157:5 193:17	<b>1pm</b> 198:8,13
<b>\$23</b> 123:24	<b>10,000</b> 110:3	<b>131</b> 113:9,19,25	<b>18%</b> 163:20 173:21	<b>2</b> 6:15
<b>\$230</b> 90:25	<b>100</b> 42:18 92:3 114:10 163:14 183:17	<b>14</b> 184:5 193:17	<b>19</b> 10:6 12:3,17 23:13 29:10 115:15 118:5 119:23 121:8 182:7	<b>2/3</b> 48:19 <b>20</b> 11:10 86:6 109:9 156:8, 9 169:5 187:15
<b>\$235</b> 85:13	<b>100%</b> 163:21	<b>141</b> 76:4	<b>1920</b> 193:12	<b>20%</b> 92:8
<b>\$250</b> 57:13,16 126:25 127:3 145:2, 5 146:4	<b>104</b> 194:13	<b>1441</b> 102:1 136:12	<b>1930</b> 154:16	<b>200</b> 58:18 102:24 114:10
<b>\$30</b> 99:25	<b>105</b> 8:12	<b>145</b> 112:24 190:9,10	<b>1934</b> 195:18	<b>2002</b> 23:11
<b>\$500,000</b> 134:22	<b>10th</b> 194:13	<b>15</b> 3:2,3,4 12:21 30:3 36:22 56:18 57:12	<b>1952</b> 94:16	<b>2003</b> 197:4
<b>\$584</b> 137:24	<b>11</b> 36:22,25 51:15	<b>141</b> 8:7	<b>1953</b> 193:16	<b>2006</b> 23:18
<b>\$80</b> 50:10	<b>118A</b> 188:17	<b>16</b> 59:8	<b>196</b> 85:21	<b>2008</b> 95:6
<b>\$900</b> 38:24 42:12	<b>119</b> 76:16	<b>16,000</b> 86:2		
<b>0</b>	<b>11th</b>			
<b>0</b> 190:16,19,				

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

<b>2010</b> 16:25 17:5, 10 44:25 45:15 46:6 91:1 126:7 128:17 159:19	157:22 185:14	<b>25th</b> 198:8,12	<b>30</b> 3:18 29:12 30:5,20 35:10 44:7 47:20 53:25 57:7 59:24 62:22,23 74:9 88:1 100:11 128:9 131:5, 22 134:9 151:1 162:22 166:21 175:11 189:18 190:2	<b>4</b>  <b>4</b> 91:25 155:22  <b>40</b> 121:1 135:1, 16 156:25 189:18  <b>40%</b> 173:11,12, 13  <b>400</b> 141:11 189:22  <b>422</b> 4:5  <b>43547</b> 189:20  <b>44</b> 194:3  <b>440</b> 190:20  <b>446096-</b> <b>17626</b> 189:17  <b>4474-804895-</b> <b>04506</b> 189:16  <b>45.5</b> 188:11  <b>4534-564664-</b> <b>70486</b> 189:19  <b>48</b> 115:15  <b>482</b> 8:7
<b>2011</b> 185:5	<b>2028</b> 100:1 134:9	<b>26</b> 158:15		
<b>2012</b> 24:5	<b>2030</b> 16:15 55:20 56:10 68:24 136:24 157:20	<b>262</b> 189:18		
<b>2014</b> 110:6	<b>21</b> 6:15,20,25 12:6 45:23 128:13 134:21,23 174:9 189:15	<b>280</b> 6:14 11:18 112:24 113:6,12 115:19 116:8 118:10 119:25 121:10,17 122:6,25 125:14 137:8 139:12 140:15 146:7		
<b>2015</b> 24:19				
<b>2017</b> 24:21	<b>212th</b> 154:20		<b>30%</b> 173:15	
<b>2020</b> 18:20 27:19 55:23 56:1, 13 95:14	<b>21st</b> 191:19		<b>3043-</b> 189:18	
<b>2021</b> 126:1	<b>22,000</b> 42:20	<b>283</b> 189:18	<b>32,000</b> 85:22	
<b>2022</b> 136:24	<b>22nd</b> 198:6	<b>2978</b> 24:6	<b>32nd</b> 70:22	
<b>2024</b> 55:23 56:14	<b>23</b> 144:15	<b>2E</b> 6:25	<b>33</b> 170:6	
<b>2025</b> 17:2 41:11 52:25 106:4 121:20 144:15 155:22 187:21 188:24 197:8	<b>233</b> 189:18	<b>2G</b> 6:20	<b>3403-743894-</b> <b>46440</b> 189:16	
	<b>24</b> 169:6 196:3	<b>3</b>  39:1 42:16 118:7 123:19	<b>36</b> 57:14 98:24 127:4,7 128:11 150:18,23, 25	
<b>2026</b> 14:25 25:21, 25 77:18	<b>24%</b> 163:17,18	<b>3,800</b> 85:21	<b>392</b> 190:20	
	<b>249</b> 4:16	<b>3.5</b> 185:22		
	<b>250</b> 32:6			
	<b>255</b> 188:24			

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

<b>49</b> 190:18 <b>4935-125135-</b> 189:19 <b>4th</b> 121:19 148:11 181:11	189:20 <b>55</b> 118:5 119:23 <b>56%</b> 139:5 <b>57</b> 11:10 109:9 156:8,9 183:24	<b>63</b> 156:16 <b>64%</b> 103:24 138:23 <b>65%</b> 87:14 <b>6716-867317-</b> <b>64792</b> 189:17	123:16 <b>74</b> 86:18 184:6 <b>76%</b> 163:16 <b>76.7</b> 184:2 <b>76.7%</b> 158:10	75:8,9 77:9 80:9,20 81:10 83:12 86:18 89:25 90:21 103:15 104:1 108:21 113:20 121:24 180:10
<b>5</b> 184:6 <b>50</b> 186:1 196:13 <b>500,000</b> 69:8 70:8 176:8,13 <b>5075-</b> 189:16 <b>50s</b> 53:8 <b>510</b> 190:21 <b>52</b> 182:7 <b>523,000</b> 56:15 <b>53</b> 121:8 154:16 <b>54</b> 54:7 156:5 157:5 187:12,14, 15 <b>5486-256306-</b> <b>70697</b>	<b>58</b> 7:25 10:6 12:4,17 <b>583623-</b> <b>95415</b> 189:19 <b>598</b> 190:21	<b>68</b> 189:18 <b>68,000</b> 170:16 <b>69</b> 10:7 <b>69%</b> 138:25 <b>69,000</b> 170:7 <b>69B</b> 8:22 <b>6:30</b> 198:14	<b>77</b> 190:9 <b>77.2</b> 189:4 <b>777</b> 189:20 <b>78%</b> 87:22 <b>786</b> 189:7 <b>7th</b> 188:24	<b>8018</b> 41:4 <b>805</b> 189:20 <b>81</b> 189:18 <b>825</b> 189:20 <b>825,000</b> 133:8 <b>841</b> 189:20 <b>847</b> 189:17
	<b>6</b> 106:17 197:7 <b>60</b> 3:17 183:24 <b>604</b> 6:19,24 157:6,9,25 <b>60s</b> 53:8 <b>61%</b> 86:6 <b>62</b> 189:18 <b>621</b> 190:19 <b>627</b> 189:21	<b>7</b> <b>7%</b> 173:24 <b>700</b> 92:8 <b>72</b> 126:13 127:12 176:13 <b>733</b> 190:23 <b>735,000</b>	<b>8</b> 6:19 8:23 10:18 11:17 13:8,17 14:8,9,12,16 15:5,8 16:15,18 20:2 21:19, 20 26:9,14 29:2 30:25 32:13,25 36:8 37:19 40:8 41:19 44:10 48:18 53:24 63:6 64:16 67:21	<b>85</b> 110:3 <b>854</b> 189:17 <b>856</b> 190:22 <b>857</b> 189:17 <b>858</b> 190:23 <b>859</b> 189:18

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

<b>9</b>	<b>AB786</b> 189:3	<b>AC88</b> 41:6	<b>acai</b> 90:18	<b>accuracy</b> 122:16
<b>90</b> 197:8	<b>abandon</b> 21:24	<b>AC8A</b> 37:13	<b>accept</b> 27:18 166:22	<b>accused</b> 149:15
<b>90%</b> 138:24 139:8 149:8	<b>Abbott</b> 34:11 64:15	<b>ACA</b> 6:18 8:23 10:18 11:16, 17 12:21 13:8,17 14:8,9,16 15:5,8 16:15,18 20:2 21:19, 20 23:13 26:9,14 29:2,7 30:25 32:13,25 36:8 37:19 39:10 40:8 41:19 44:10 48:18 53:24 63:6 64:16 67:21 75:7,9 77:9 80:9,20 81:10 83:12 86:18 89:25 90:21 103:15 104:1 108:21 113:20 119:3 121:24 161:7 180:10	<b>accepted</b> 181:18	<b>acknowledge d</b> 68:10
<b>92%</b> 87:17	<b>abdicated</b> 88:22		<b>access</b> 77:22 78:6, 14 79:3 92:4 98:22 122:25	<b>act</b> 15:6 17:25 20:1 24:7 30:25 31:4 40:8,9 49:17 82:22 86:11 88:22 89:9 90:14 124:20 157:23 176:23 192:14
<b>96%</b> 87:15,24	<b>abide</b> 173:1		<b>accessibility</b> 193:21	
<b>97</b> 189:18 190:2,24	<b>ability</b> 43:7,13,20 61:25 62:2,6 100:14 105:12 128:14 131:3		<b>accessible</b> 122:10	
<b>97%</b> 87:23			<b>accessing</b> 69:22	
<b>98</b> 189:21	<b>abortion</b> 43:24		<b>accident</b> 191:18	<b>acting</b> 106:12
<b>98%</b> 139:6	<b>absence</b> 2:3 161:1,19 162:23		<b>accolade</b> 14:13	<b>action</b> 6:22 28:6 44:9 62:5 68:7,21 76:6 77:14 155:20 188:23 189:2,8 196:5
<b>99</b> 190:25	<b>absences</b> 188:6		<b>accolades</b> 157:10	
<b>9am</b> 187:22	<b>absent</b> 2:5		<b>accomplish ments</b> 196:24	
<b>A</b>	<b>absolutely</b> 43:25 44:8 76:8		<b>accountabilit y</b> 103:1 165:7, 25 166:23	<b>actions</b> 17:23 25:16 28:5 44:5 59:11 60:22 142:7 163:11
<b>Aarons</b> 77:6,7			<b>accountable</b> 79:11,14 107:3,6,10, 11,14,17,19, 24,25 139:3 161:1,4,20 163:1,2 177:3	<b>actively</b> 47:9 177:14
<b>AB</b> 6:19 102:1 136:24 157:6,25 189:7	<b>absurd</b> 86:22	<b>aca8</b> 76:20 77:4 85:8 118:16 120:4 126:10		<b>activists</b> 194:10
<b>AB604</b> 15:10 156:14 183:12 187:7	<b>abuse</b> 165:25			
	<b>abusive</b> 163:13			
	<b>AC8</b> 41:21 62:24 158:2	<b>ACAA</b> 153:23		

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

<b>actor</b> 109:24	<b>adjournment</b> 188:13 191:4,7 193:6 195:10	15:21 19:14	25:13	<b>agents</b> 38:15 63:17 69:14
<b>acts</b> 27:16		<b>adopt</b> 8:23 24:2 159:24 171:18	<b>affecting</b> 56:9	
<b>adage</b> 101:2	<b>adjournment</b> <b>'s</b> 190:25	<b>adopted</b> 78:1 83:2 103:13 109:10 188:3 189:24 190:17	<b>affects</b> 16:2 34:14 81:22	<b>ages</b> 52:16
<b>add</b> 60:9	<b>administratio</b> <b>n</b> 29:23 41:13, 17 44:2 83:13 90:8 154:20	<b>adoption</b> 10:20	<b>afford</b> 53:18 93:10 99:19,21 133:9 135:19 137:4 142:23 144:19 145:25	<b>agree</b> 25:10 28:6 67:12 68:11, 14,25 69:2 75:10,16 85:11 88:16 102:18 131:23 134:7 136:18 142:4
<b>added</b> 4:4	<b>administratio</b> <b>ns</b> 174:25	<b>advance</b> 113:24	<b>affordability</b> 91:13 134:1 152:8	<b>agreed</b> 88:2
<b>Addis</b> 2:7 188:7,10	<b>Administrato</b> <b>rs</b> 196:10	<b>advanced</b> 45:10 106:21	<b>affordable</b> 99:5 155:4	<b>Agriacuri</b> 157:9
<b>addition</b> 16:18 109:21	<b>admire</b> 21:7 61:23	<b>advantage</b> 47:1 64:17 97:22 117:9	<b>afraid</b> 39:14,15 63:21 82:2,3 185:11	<b>Agua</b> 162:10
<b>additional</b> 56:13 134:14	<b>admission</b> 73:16 98:7 101:12,20, 21	<b>advice</b> 18:1	<b>African</b> 53:15	<b>Aguiar</b> 2:7 156:16
<b>address</b> 37:7 72:16 73:4 133:25 135:9 149:10 169:8,9 182:10	<b>admit</b> 20:23 151:24 161:24	<b>advocate</b> 193:20	<b>afternoon</b> 121:16	<b>Aguiaracuri</b> 157:7
<b>addressing</b> 98:18 99:2	<b>admitted</b> 61:22 98:2,3 101:15 168:6	<b>advocated</b> 194:20	<b>Agar</b> 187:23	<b>ahead</b> 33:5
<b>adhere</b> 48:12	<b>admission</b> 73:16 98:7 101:12,20, 21	<b>advocates</b> 42:9 60:11	<b>age</b> 3:19 29:10 56:14 194:3, 13 197:8	<b>Ahrens</b> 2:7 80:6
<b>adjourn</b> 191:14 192:25 193:8 198:3, 10	<b>admitting</b> 47:1	<b>advocating</b> 24:18 197:10	<b>agencies</b> 42:8 127:6	<b>air</b> 31:17 167:24,25 176:21
<b>adjourned</b> 198:12,13	<b>admonish</b> 6:3 169:11	<b>affect</b> 86:18 135:1	<b>agenda</b> 87:4 131:24	<b>airdrop</b> 69:17
<b>adjourning</b> 195:4	<b>admonished</b>	<b>affected</b>		<b>aisle</b> 16:24 17:23 61:21 66:4

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

89:3,6,10,12 101:7,23 125:24 139:20 140:5,25 141:3 150:1 171:2 178:10	125:11,22 192:24 <b>alongside</b> 91:16 193:25 <b>alternative</b> 78:5,18 <b>Alturas</b> 141:13 <b>alumni</b> 109:23 <b>Alvarez</b> 2:8 <b>amazing</b> 112:2 195:2 <b>ambition</b> 99:7 <b>amended</b> 10:9,19 11:16 32:25 169:7,15 <b>amending</b> 74:10 <b>amendment</b> 12:7 14:12 16:20 23:12 25:25 48:20 59:17 113:7, 17 115:1,20, 22,23 118:8, 14,19 119:5, 6 120:3,12 121:22 168:25 173:5 <b>amendments</b> 8:23 10:8,10 113:3,6,13 114:13	115:5,16,25 116:2,3,4,6, 7,8,12,23 117:14,20 118:6,10 119:12,24, 25 120:17, 23,25 121:8 130:25 156:19 157:8 187:16 188:2 189:21,22, 24 <b>America</b> 4:21 5:5 32:1 39:16 52:10,23 53:2,12 64:25 68:16, 20 70:5,12, 25 79:1,14 81:23 82:9 105:10 171:16 <b>America's</b> 78:5 94:19 <b>American</b> 15:7 18:21 34:15 53:15 63:16,21 68:2 94:17, 21 147:4 160:5 162:16 196:10 <b>Americans</b> 15:4 41:18 67:25 77:14 78:15 79:1 80:2 185:17	<b>amicus</b> 24:19,21 <b>amnesia</b> 149:8 <b>ample</b> 114:1 <b>analysis</b> 134:5,11 <b>ancestors</b> 179:9 <b>Angeles</b> 47:18 50:9 72:17 <b>Anneliese</b> 192:13 <b>announceme nts</b> 198:5 <b>annually</b> 42:25 <b>anonymous</b> 166:18 <b>answering</b> 168:11 <b>answers</b> 87:14 93:21 135:5 142:6 164:11 167:22 <b>anyone's</b> 13:3 81:8 <b>Anza</b> 92:17 <b>apologize</b> 191:10 <b>Apparel</b> 110:14	<b>apparently</b> 45:17 172:24 <b>appeal</b> 7:15,18 178:5 <b>appeals</b> 62:12 <b>appeared</b> 165:4 <b>appears</b> 57:16 <b>applause</b> 163:10 <b>applied</b> 126:25 <b>appreciated</b> 75:4 <b>approach</b> 67:10 68:25 114:4 115:25 196:14 <b>appropriatio n</b> 121:12 <b>approval</b> 158:7 <b>approve</b> 128:18 158:2,3 <b>approved</b> 10:8 14:6 15:9 49:5 86:5 116:21 184:5 <b>approves</b> 9:16
--	---	--	--	---

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

<b>approving</b> 48:21 120:8 125:4	5:14 127:6	30:22,23	21:15 22:18	156:2,23,24
<b>April</b> 144:15	<b>arrests</b> 123:22	32:13 37:14, 15 42:5 47:2	26:11 29:3,4 36:5 40:25	157:9 159:7, 11 163:6,7,8
<b>Arabidian</b> 2:15	<b>arrive</b> 65:9	48:15,16 59:16 71:1	41:1 44:11, 12 48:6,7,9	167:6 169:18
<b>Arambula</b> 2:8 94:7,9 97:6	<b>arsenic</b> 44:16	72:4 74:20, 21,22 77:6	51:9 54:9,10 57:22,25	170:23 172:4,5,11
<b>architect</b> 26:7	<b>Art</b> 195:15,18 196:2,15 197:4,6,22	85:25 86:13, 18,19 97:6	60:4 63:3 65:1,2 67:22	175:24,25 176:1,2,6, 10,11,15,16
<b>archives</b> 179:7	<b>Art's</b> 195:16,24 196:24	100:23 108:6,16 110:23	77:5 80:6, 21,22 83:8,9	180:6 183:2 186:7 193:5
<b>areas</b> 86:14 95:22 174:13	<b>Arthur</b> 195:15	112:21 113:13	84:22,23 85:3,4 88:13	<b>assigning</b> 15:12 16:9
<b>arguably</b> 143:4	<b>Article</b> 6:15,20,24 45:23 128:13 174:9	116:1,9 118:10,11 119:9	89:23,24 90:19,22	<b>assistance</b> 18:25 50:18 107:13 123:16 139:25
<b>argue</b> 17:25 37:9	<b>arts</b> 191:20	120:25 125:7,8 132:6,9,10, 11,25	94:7 100:24, 25 102:15	<b>Assistant</b> 7:25 156:11
<b>argument</b> 67:1 136:10	<b>asa</b> 30:21	148:14 156:15,16, 19,20 157:8	104:2 105:23 108:19	<b>association</b> 196:16
<b>arguments</b> 16:23 60:8 66:17 92:20	<b>ashamed</b> 179:3	164:16 167:23 168:12,18, 25 172:18	110:25 111:25 112:25	<b>assure</b> 32:4 68:3 183:19
<b>Arise</b> 140:19	<b>asks</b> 150:14	176:5,12 177:20 178:5,6	113:14 115:2,6,16, 20 116:2,5	<b>athletes</b> 109:21
<b>Arizona's</b> 24:20	<b>assembly</b> 2:2,3,25 4:25 6:24 8:11,12,22 10:7,11,18, 22 11:13,22 12:11,18,24 13:11 14:12, 14 19:16 23:5,17,24	180:11,20, 22 184:10 187:20,22 188:7,11,17, 18 189:4 190:7 191:6 192:25 193:1 195:3, 5,8	119:14,25 120:20 121:14 128:24 133:16,22 137:5 138:10,11 139:13,14 140:16	<b>Atlantic</b> 69:13 <b>atrocitiy</b> 179:5
<b>armed</b> 89:7		<b>Assemblyme mber</b> 11:1 20:3	144:5,6 146:8,9 148:13 151:13 153:4,6 154:5,7	<b>attack</b> 18:1 97:11 <b>attacked</b> 39:23 136:8 <b>attacks</b> 43:15 79:18
<b>arms</b> 2:4 82:25				
<b>Arnold</b> 22:12				
<b>arrest</b>				



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

<b>attempt</b> 23:14 73:19 103:22	83:1 100:22 125:4 154:16	154:3 157:2	129:5,20 130:16 133:6	<b>balance</b> 25:13 58:25
<b>attempting</b> 14:22	<b>authoritarian ism</b> 80:4 100:16 108:9 131:17	<b>ayes</b> 10:6 11:10 12:3,17 109:9 115:15 118:5 119:23 121:8 156:9 157:5 182:7 187:14	138:25 142:17 160:7 177:16 180:2 181:21 182:15 186:1 188:7, 25 191:22, 23 192:17 197:5	<b>balanced</b> 26:1 87:6 96:23
<b>attempts</b> 72:7 147:6	<b>authority</b> 45:24			<b>balances</b> 58:14 88:19
<b>attention</b> 117:15 125:21 191:2	<b>authors</b> 74:6 154:4 166:23	<b>B</b>		<b>ball</b> 150:17
<b>attest</b> 122:11	<b>authorship</b> 164:21	<b>babies</b> 148:19	<b>backers</b> 126:19	<b>ballot</b> 38:12 45:2 48:6 84:17 89:19 109:2 122:25 126:5
<b>attorney</b> 134:15 167:12,15	<b>autocrats</b> 61:4,8,18 62:7	<b>baby</b> 135:12	<b>background</b> 23:3	127:18,22 128:20 150:8 155:24,25
<b>August</b> 198:6,8,12	<b>average</b> 133:7	<b>bachelor's</b> 194:5	<b>backroom</b> 93:21 117:1	<b>ballots</b> 28:4 64:5
<b>aunts</b> 192:19	<b>Avery</b> 191:14,15, 17,19,24 192:2,10,15, 25 193:3	<b>back</b> 3:4,7 10:10 16:16 27:8 33:3 35:2,25 39:25 43:19, 25 50:11,15 52:21 61:25 62:18 64:2 65:8 66:19 67:17 70:3, 21,25 73:16, 17,20 79:20 80:17 81:10 83:5 84:19 90:2 93:25 95:6 96:11 105:12 120:10 123:21 125:3 126:11 128:5,7,8	<b>backs</b> 146:3	<b>Ballroom</b> 105:5
<b>auspices</b> 131:21	<b>Avery's</b> 192:6,16,22, 24		<b>backyard</b> 179:9	<b>Baloney</b> 127:10
<b>author</b> 8:7 15:25 41:5 83:12 88:6,9 89:25 115:23 168:17,24, 25 169:8 171:23 190:2	<b>Avila</b> 83:9 84:22		<b>bad</b> 71:10 88:17 95:25 99:10 143:17 150:20 151:8,11 170:4,14 179:1	<b>banking</b> 189:3
<b>authored</b> 49:17,21 121:17 149:18	<b>Avilon</b> 2:8		<b>Bader</b> 28:22	<b>banks</b> 93:4
<b>authoring</b> 99:8	<b>avoid</b> 102:25		<b>baffled</b> 81:14	<b>Banta</b> 41:1,2 44:8, 12 109:17, 19 110:25 111:1
<b>authoritarian</b> 49:2 71:18	<b>aye</b> 10:2 11:6,24 77:4 118:1 119:19 140:15		<b>bag</b> 50:3 145:6	<b>bar</b> 110:15 161:6
			<b>Baines</b> 2:9	<b>Barack</b> 130:17



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

<b>barbershop</b> 69:14,15	112:5 140:13	197:5	<b>benefiting</b> 120:11 147:11 185:18	129:25 130:4,18
<b>barred</b> 46:16 47:6	<b>bearer</b> 97:3	<b>believed</b> 22:14 23:10 71:15 86:16 112:18 196:20 197:18	<b>benefits</b> 32:9 83:16 178:20	<b>big</b> 38:23 42:10 77:20 78:3, 10 95:25 100:17 104:22 125:25 175:12
<b>base</b> 25:6 129:18, 24	<b>Beast</b> 110:2,14,15, 16	<b>believing</b> 96:13	<b>Bennett</b> 2:9 60:5,6 62:25	<b>biggest</b> 50:13 144:17
<b>based</b> 97:17 127:19 132:21 136:15 158:16 180:18,20 182:13 186:11	<b>beautiful</b> 3:22 41:4 59:12 95:25 100:17 111:2	<b>Belle</b> 195:22	<b>bereavement</b> 188:6	<b>bill</b> 6:14,18,19, 24 10:9 11:16 23:25 33:1 38:24 40:9 42:10 84:25 95:25 100:15,17 104:22 113:12 116:8 118:10,25 119:25 121:9,10,17, 18 130:24 133:21,24, 25 134:3,17, 25 135:14, 23 136:6,13, 14,17,24 151:3 153:14 156:17 157:9 161:13 164:18 167:1 168:17 171:22 172:17
<b>basic</b> 43:24 93:8 164:6	<b>beck</b> 175:25	<b>Bellflower</b> 70:11	<b>Berkeley</b> 109:22 111:9 194:4, 6	
<b>basically</b> 43:18	<b>beet</b> 92:6	<b>belong</b> 28:20 141:9 152:21	<b>Berman</b> 2:9 10:18 14:14,15 15:14,15 16:6,7 19:19 20:3 139:14, 16,18 140:16 172:12,13, 18	
<b>basis</b> 46:25	<b>began</b> 94:14 195:25	<b>belongs</b> 84:17 131:19 166:16	<b>Bernardino</b> 93:10 162:5 180:9	
<b>basking</b> 19:4	<b>begin</b> 5:4 57:2 58:21 59:1 164:10	<b>beloved</b> 192:17 194:14 196:25	<b>Berner</b> 2:10 80:7,8, 21	
<b>battle</b> 34:16	<b>beginning</b> 75:5 87:25	<b>Ben</b> 89:18	<b>bestowed</b> 71:25	
<b>Battling</b> 193:21	<b>begins</b> 51:19	<b>Ben's</b> 110:14	<b>bicameral</b> 23:21	
<b>Bauer</b> 2:9	<b>behalf</b> 14:16 32:10 41:3 83:5 111:2 167:14 170:5 176:7, 12	<b>bend</b> 36:12 40:22 102:6	<b>bickering</b> 28:8	
<b>Bay</b> 194:3	<b>behavior</b> 21:1	<b>bending</b> 105:8 149:16	<b>Biden</b>	
<b>beaches</b> 70:23	<b>belief</b> 22:15 194:19	<b>benefit</b> 20:24 77:19 78:8 147:12, 14 165:14		
<b>beacon</b> 4:18,21				
<b>bear</b>				

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

182:12	<b>bit</b>	<b>blush</b>	<b>boldly</b>	<b>bow</b>
184:19	20:8 60:9	17:16	29:1	39:21 81:9
188:25	129:13	<b>bluster</b>	<b>bones</b>	175:25
189:21,22	149:8	101:11	179:6	<b>bowl</b>
190:19,20, 21,22,23	<b>bites</b>	<b>Blythe</b>	<b>Bonta</b>	110:4,6 111:4
<b>billion</b>	88:24	91:24 92:3, 12	2:10 110:25	<b>box</b>
17:19 38:24	<b>black</b>	<b>Boar</b>	<b>Book</b>	84:17 89:19
42:12 50:10, 23 90:12	40:3 49:7 53:13	32:14	75:18	<b>bragging</b>
99:25	<b>blah</b>	<b>board</b>	<b>borders</b>	18:5
107:12	20:20	2:25 68:5	141:14	<b>branches</b>
123:21,24	<b>Blake</b>	<b>boards</b>	<b>Bore</b>	59:10
125:15	135:2	49:22	30:23,24	<b>brand</b>
126:25	<b>blank</b>	<b>Bob</b>	<b>born</b>	176:23
127:2 134:9	134:3,15 135:24	3:20 4:1	22:1 37:21 94:15 111:5 192:5	<b>brazenly</b>
137:12	<b>blatant</b>	<b>Bob's</b>	193:11 195:17	98:2
<b>billionaires</b>	97:10 136:21 177:7	3:17	<b>bodies</b>	<b>break</b>
105:19	<b>blessed</b>	23:21	23:21	36:13 40:23 85:1 102:6 109:15
123:19	29:20	<b>body</b>	<b>borrow</b>	<b>breaking</b>
<b>billions</b>	<b>blissing</b>	6:13 7:7 13:10 14:7 16:1 20:10 45:16 48:12, 22 57:2 72:7,17 73:13 74:14 91:6,11,18, 21 97:25 119:7 132:16 142:7 163:24 179:11 180:5	132:17	146:3
17:24 78:4	65:12	<b>both</b>	<b>bother</b>	<b>breaks</b>
123:15,24	<b>blind</b>	6:13 7:7 13:10 14:7 16:1 20:10 45:16 48:12, 22 57:2 72:7,17 73:13 74:14 91:6,11,18, 21 97:25 119:7 132:16 142:7 163:24 179:11 180:5	147:25 162:15	42:13 123:18 191:22
137:20	<b>block</b>	119:7 132:16 142:7 163:24 179:11 180:5	<b>bothered</b>	<b>breakup</b>
140:10	62:5,6	119:7 132:16 142:7 163:24 179:11 180:5	162:9	158:15
<b>bills</b>	<b>blocks</b>	<b>bold</b>	<b>bothers</b>	<b>breath</b>
6:20 7:6	73:5	52:3,4,5 53:20 97:9 142:16 196:5	130:14	27:13
14:10 99:3, 6,8 111:10	<b>bloods</b>	<b>blow</b>	<b>bottom</b>	<b>Breyer</b>
131:4	179:6	175:1	83:23 103:25	24:25
133:10	<b>blow</b>	<b>blue</b>	<b>Bottoms</b>	<b>Brian</b>
151:8	175:1	55:20,21	111:18	2:10
186:21	<b>blunt</b>	<b>blunt</b>	<b>Boulevard</b>	<b>bribery</b>
187:2 188:1 189:15,23	153:16	153:16	69:13	45:6
<b>Biondi</b>			<b>boundaries</b>	<b>Bridge</b>
51:3			15:9 16:13 114:2	141:10
<b>bipartisan</b>				
25:9 174:24				
<b>birthdays</b>				
128:23				

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

<b>bright</b> 4:21	<b>brute</b> 60:21	<b>bureaucracie</b> <b>s</b> 193:22	<b>bystander</b> 82:18 106:10	25 53:17,21 55:21,23,25 56:2,8,9,10, 16 57:1,4, 18,19 60:2 64:14,24 66:1,6,13, 17,18,22 67:4,8 68:12,13,15 69:5 70:17, 22 72:4 73:9,21 74:5 76:24 79:15, 21 82:17,25 83:14 84:13, 18,19 86:25 87:9 89:14, 22 92:23,25 94:25 96:17 97:17 102:5, 8,12 103:7 105:11 106:10 107:3,11 108:2,3 109:3 110:19,22 111:15 112:21 114:7,22 116:13 117:10,12, 15 121:20, 23 124:12 125:2 126:23 137:13,16 140:10,20 142:17 144:14 146:2 147:8 148:8 151:22,24
<b>bring</b> 2:5 13:8,17 54:13 70:7 76:8 99:5 111:9,19 129:23 136:12 178:19 179:1,4,10 198:2	<b>Bryan</b> 48:16,17 51:9	<b>buried</b> 135:21	<b>bystanders</b> 81:4	
<b>bringing</b> 153:17 179:24	<b>BS</b> 137:4	<b>Burke</b> 9:18	<b>C</b>	
<b>brings</b> 179:22	<b>Bubio</b> 2:20	<b>burn</b> 34:13 64:15 107:18 147:19	<b>Cahan</b> 2:9	
<b>brink</b> 91:24	<b>budget</b> 57:15 77:21 78:2,3,9,11 126:22 127:1	<b>burning</b> 75:14 76:12	<b>cal</b> 98:25 123:19	
<b>broader</b> 194:3	<b>build</b> 20:10 112:13	<b>Bush</b> 129:14 130:17	<b>Calderon</b> 2:10	
<b>broken</b> 145:25 151:25 165:15	<b>building</b> 21:10 73:6 74:17 130:23 143:14 145:18 148:24 150:15 197:18	<b>business</b> 4:7 5:11,13 51:8 56:19 109:15,23 110:13,20 112:22 134:2,20 187:19 189:12,14 198:9	<b>calendar</b> 8:6,10,11,15 9:6,16 190:12,13, 17	
<b>brother</b> 192:12,18	<b>built</b> 30:4 88:18 163:25	<b>businesses</b> 17:21 57:18 72:13 81:18 122:5 132:4, 5 133:12 135:22 148:1	<b>calfresh</b> 123:17	
<b>brothers</b> 145:23	<b>bullied</b> 82:17	<b>buy</b> 99:21 112:11	<b>Caliente</b> 162:10	
<b>brought</b> 104:15,17 179:14,19 191:16 196:6	<b>bullies</b> 81:4	<b>buying</b> 63:9	<b>California</b> 6:11 8:14 16:11,14 17:3,21,24 19:6,23,24 22:10,23 23:5 27:1,4, 9 28:16,25 29:8,18,21 30:1,19,20 33:3 38:22 39:12,18,24, 25 40:4,13, 23 45:9 47:20,25 50:24 51:7, 25 52:4,11,	
<b>Brownsville</b> 94:15	<b>bully</b> 27:16 28:12 106:8	<b>bypassed</b> 174:13		
<b>brutal</b> 83:17	<b>bunch</b> 46:22			

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

152:7	<b>Californians</b>	9:1,5 19:12	<b>camps</b>	104:21
154:23,25	15:5 21:25	40:17,18	192:1	105:16
155:20,21	25:18,20,24	52:14 77:15	<b>Canada</b>	107:16
157:15	26:5 37:10	90:20,21	50:8	126:25
158:12	39:1 41:23,	128:6	<b>cancel</b>	128:16
159:1,5,17	24 42:16,24	156:22	64:4	140:2
160:10	43:8 44:3	160:12	<b>cancer</b>	144:20
163:6	48:25 50:1	161:21,23	22:13 42:22	147:20
166:19,25	62:4 68:16,	162:18	137:25	148:1
167:2 170:1	19 70:19	164:9 179:8	149:2 197:3	152:16,24
173:10,13,	77:13,23	189:12	<b>candidate</b>	154:22
17 177:11,	78:14 79:17,	190:12	7:2	155:9
16 178:19,	22 80:2,9,18	191:1	<b>capable</b>	185:22
23 179:13,	81:9 85:23	<b>called</b>	46:10	<b>career</b>
19,21 184:7	86:7 88:1,25	18:7 22:13	<b>capital</b>	71:14 110:2,
185:22	89:2,15,17,	94:12,24	106:18	11
191:20	21 91:1,4,8,	130:7 170:7	<b>capitol</b>	<b>careful</b>
193:13	20 93:16	179:17	70:8 76:17	19:18
194:2	97:20 98:22,	<b>calling</b>	111:4	<b>caretaker</b>
196:18,19	25 99:15	30:8 49:21	<b>caps</b>	4:14 111:22
<b>California's</b>	100:6,11	<b>calls</b>	147:1	<b>caretakers</b>
28:6 48:25	103:24	16:18 53:5	<b>car</b>	4:15
56:14 62:2	107:15	59:14 80:15	191:18	<b>Carillo</b>
69:25 80:3	108:7	121:18	<b>card</b>	2:11
83:22	116:20	198:13	65:14	<b>Carolina</b>
103:18	123:16,20	<b>camera</b>	<b>care</b>	50:5
135:15	124:11	46:21	18:25 27:22	<b>carpet</b>
137:19	133:5 135:2,	<b>camp</b>	31:5,16	44:1 51:18
144:17	4,25 140:1,2	191:23,24,	38:23 39:7	147:3
147:19,21	141:25	25 192:4,20,	42:8,14,21,	<b>carries</b>
176:22	143:16,18,	23	23 43:7,8,	10:7 11:11
178:13	24 144:3	<b>campaign</b>	23,24 45:14	<b>Carrillo</b>
<b>Californian</b>	145:20	78:19	47:19 50:18	36:5,7 37:14
41:7 43:13	158:10	125:13,16	57:14 69:22	<b>carve</b>
108:10	160:7	126:18	77:22,25	39:20
109:13	163:18	163:4,5	78:10,14,16,	<b>carved</b>
133:9	165:20	164:12	21,24 79:3	26:25
162:24	166:8 176:8,	<b>campaigns</b>	90:12 91:13	165:11
164:23	13 184:2	47:9	92:4,5	
195:8	185:8,17	<b>Campo</b>		
<b>Californian's</b>	187:6	162:14		
137:3 154:1	<b>call</b>			
	2:6 8:3,19			

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

<b>carving</b> 27:25 45:7 145:4	<b>celebrate</b> 195:2	98:9 106:4 107:9	<b>changing</b> 52:22 61:6 62:1 65:25	192:9
<b>cascade</b> 25:2	<b>Celeste</b> 2:19	150:25 153:24 158:22	<b>character</b> 19:13	<b>Chen</b> 2:11 4:24,25 5:2
<b>case</b> 34:14 118:20	<b>census</b> 16:15 63:25 157:20	187:21 188:19	<b>charge</b> 72:21 150:4	<b>chess</b> 36:16
<b>cash</b> 120:14	<b>center</b> 43:3 170:9	<b>chambers</b> 19:3 72:3 179:5	<b>charts</b> 17:15	<b>Chiavo</b> 2:21
<b>Castillo</b> 2:11 116:3, 5,9,10,11 117:18 118:2	<b>centered</b> 75:24	<b>champion</b> 111:5,23 193:9	<b>chatted</b> 3:23	<b>Chicken</b> 57:5
<b>cathedral</b> 75:19	<b>centers</b> 155:13	<b>championed</b> 22:14	<b>cheaper</b> 38:19	<b>chief</b> 115:25 121:9
<b>caucus</b> 2:25 3:2 51:2 148:22 149:21	<b>cerebral</b> 93:23	<b>chance</b> 17:4,11 18:14 36:18, 20 76:19 79:12 82:11 83:4 90:5 120:11 185:6,9	<b>cheat</b> 27:17 36:16 40:21 63:10 177:17	<b>child</b> 27:22 40:2 144:20
<b>caused</b> 51:14 109:25	<b>Cervantes</b> 112:25 121:11,18	<b>chances</b> 125:18	<b>cheated</b> 27:12	<b>childcare</b> 93:11 145:7, 12
<b>causing</b> 148:25	<b>chair</b> 7:18,19,25 10:9 42:5 49:16 137:7 139:17 167:8 169:14 196:16	<b>change</b> 28:22,23 36:14 38:8 50:16 65:16, 22,24 120:13 127:17 138:19 174:25 180:9	<b>check</b> 19:8,21 58:25 88:23 198:7	<b>children</b> 38:15 39:3 42:15 66:15 73:3 104:20, 25 105:15 107:13 146:3 148:25 149:1 185:20 191:25 192:1,4,5,9 197:1
<b>cautionary</b> 166:20	<b>challenge</b> 114:1 122:19 153:20	<b>changers</b> 25:6	<b>checked</b> 162:17	<b>choice</b> 31:10 39:12, 17 79:17 80:19 81:9 82:3,10,23 105:17 157:23
<b>CD</b> 4:8	<b>challenges</b> 133:5 185:3, 5,6	<b>changed</b> 82:21 112:18 154:17 163:22	<b>checks</b> 58:14 88:19 134:3,15 135:2,24	
<b>cease</b> 7:8	<b>chamber</b> 2:5 3:9 40:7 76:4 82:15 85:15 86:2		<b>cheek</b> 35:9,19 61:24,25 73:15 129:3	
<b>ceased</b> 108:15 109:5 156:3 187:9			<b>cheer</b> 192:8	
<b>cede</b> 62:23			<b>cheerful</b> 192:6	
			<b>cheering</b>	

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

<b>choose</b> 6:2 14:18 28:10 80:10, 11 89:18,20 102:25 103:9,10 141:22 144:2 175:13	<b>citizen</b> 30:2 46:8 54:19 94:21  <b>citizen's</b> 126:1  <b>citizens</b> 16:17 22:1 27:9 32:20 44:21,22 45:12 46:10, 11,14,25 47:2,5,10 63:16,21 67:19 82:11, 15,24 83:5 86:8 87:10 97:14 103:7, 11 114:1,9 116:13,22 126:4,7,11, 17 127:24, 25 128:4 136:25 157:17 158:16 161:2,5 163:25 166:4,14	17:12 27:22 93:7 142:2  <b>claimed</b> 27:20 100:14  <b>clamoring</b> 104:8  <b>clap</b> 19:9  <b>clarification</b> 184:13,21  <b>class</b> 17:18 144:18 145:20  <b>class's</b> 44:25  <b>classrooms</b> 145:11  <b>clause</b> 127:16  <b>clear</b> 14:17 27:7 28:7 31:2 34:4 37:3 48:21 80:14 83:25 84:8 87:25 91:19, 22 100:9 101:11 103:1 116:14 133:5 145:25 176:18,20  <b>clerk</b> 2:5,7 7:19, 24 8:10,14 10:5 11:4,9, 23 12:3,12,	16 14:11 109:5,8 113:10,12 115:9,14,25 116:6,8 117:25 118:4,8,9 119:17,22, 24 121:2,7, 10 156:3,25 157:4,8 181:25 182:6 187:9, 13 189:15 190:4,12,15, 17  <b>clerk's</b> 23:24  <b>client</b> 167:15  <b>climate</b> 123:25  <b>cling</b> 26:20 27:13 106:16  <b>clinics</b> 42:19 78:8 185:21  <b>clock</b> 186:1  <b>close</b> 7:24 9:18 10:5 11:9 12:3,16 42:20 66:4 72:12 76:22 109:8 115:14 117:1 118:4 119:22 121:7 154:7	156:7 157:4 182:6 183:6 187:14 190:16  <b>closed</b> 46:22 72:12 126:13 140:23 150:21 151:5 165:24  <b>closer</b> 62:6,8,9,14  <b>closes</b> 120:12  <b>closest</b> 139:4  <b>closet</b> 154:13  <b>closing</b> 135:21 185:21  <b>closure</b> 91:25  <b>clothes</b> 169:9  <b>Clovis</b> 17:8  <b>clutching</b> 88:25  <b>Coach</b> 112:3  <b>cogent</b> 60:8  <b>coincidence</b> <b>s</b> 71:16  <b>collaboration</b>
<b>choosing</b> 91:6 93:11 105:13,14				
<b>chose</b> 28:16 72:12 103:8 192:10				
<b>chosen</b> 27:1,3 86:25				
<b>chum</b> 125:21				
<b>church</b> 69:24				
<b>churches</b> 38:16 132:3				
<b>cinematic</b> 191:20				
<b>circumstanc</b> <b>es</b> 59:7 151:18 152:5,9	<b>city</b> 3:15 69:13 86:25 165:11,14 183:17 195:14 196:1,3,14 197:25			
<b>circus</b> 19:10 46:5				
<b>cited</b> 24:25 25:11	<b>civic</b> 195:20			
<b>cities</b> 158:15 162:4 164:7 183:24 196:18,20	<b>civil</b> 53:9  <b>claim</b>			



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

196:20	150:25	<b>combat</b>	127:25	148:5
<b>colleague</b>	154:3	100:15	128:1,2,3	164:12,16,
17:22 20:15	158:21,22	<b>combine</b>	136:20,25	17,20
28:4 47:18	159:1	192:3	151:25	167:10
48:12 53:4	164:15	<b>comfortable</b>	157:18	168:13,18,
61:21 67:11	167:20	159:25	158:9,25	19,25 169:5,
72:16 75:3	168:19	<b>commenced</b>	161:6	14,16
102:18	169:21	24:18	163:25	171:25
121:25	170:13	<b>comment</b>	164:24	172:1
137:10	171:2 178:9	97:25	166:1,5,14	177:25
148:20	183:8 187:1,	<b>comments</b>	183:22	180:20
150:1	6 191:13	13:2 22:5	184:4 185:3,	182:12
153:10,12	<b>collect</b>	60:9,10 71:6	4	189:4
162:5	126:4	75:4 85:22,	<b>commission'</b>	<b>committees</b>
168:14	<b>collected</b>	25 86:3	<b>s</b>	100:19
178:11	126:18	135:5	114:3,23	188:2
183:9	<b>collective</b>	161:13	158:17	<b>common</b>
<b>colleague's</b>	25:23 42:4	172:17	183:25	23:22 86:25
153:14	<b>college</b>	184:13,14,	<b>commission</b>	133:13
180:18	50:19	16	<b>ers</b>	<b>communicat</b>
<b>colleagues</b>	129:14	<b>commission</b>	46:16	<b>e</b>
15:13 16:6,	133:10	12:7 16:17	116:25	116:25
10,24 17:7,8	<b>Collins</b>	19:25 22:1,	184:5	<b>communism</b>
26:15 38:10	2:21 188:12	3,14 23:14,	<b>commission</b>	129:23
47:24 48:18	195:9,11	16 24:3,21	<b>s</b>	<b>communist</b>
51:13 65:5,7	198:1	26:7 30:2	24:9 49:22	129:22
66:3,22 75:7	<b>collusion</b>	32:20 45:13	55:11	<b>communities</b>
77:23 79:20	161:22	46:9,14,25	101:25	17:17 22:6
80:1 88:16,	<b>colon</b>	47:5 68:7,21	<b>commitment</b>	26:21 27:15
25 89:3,6,	149:2	69:6 70:18	31:1 195:17	28:1 30:12
10,12 90:23	<b>colonization</b>	84:7 85:20	<b>commits</b>	37:25 40:6
92:24,25	179:16	86:5 87:10,	33:3	45:7 56:21
94:3 98:1	<b>color</b>	13,15,16,18	<b>committee</b>	68:17 70:1
103:3	39:22 63:17	91:2 95:8,12	10:8 11:18	78:25 83:17
104:12	124:3	96:14,21	34:1,2 42:5,	84:5 86:20,
106:5 107:9	<b>Colorado</b>	97:15	7 44:21	23 90:10,15
109:20	34:21	103:12	49:16 54:20	92:16 93:6
123:7	<b>Coloza</b>	114:9	74:6 97:23	95:25 96:25
134:17	2:10	116:14,22,	98:1 100:25	98:6,21
135:13		24 117:6	134:24	99:13
139:19,24		126:11	146:13,14	107:18,19
140:4,15,24				
144:8				

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

114:11,18, 19 122:5 124:2 140:20 141:7 142:23 143:2 145:15,21 155:2 158:13 162:3 164:9 165:12 166:9 170:15 183:25 185:25 194:25 196:21	158:18 184:1 <b>compactness</b> 86:12 174:8, 12 <b>companion</b> 153:25 <b>Compare</b> 85:23 <b>compared</b> 124:10 183:24 <b>comparison</b> 123:10 <b>compassion</b> 38:7,20 <b>compassionate</b> 191:16 <b>competing</b> 165:2 <b>competitive</b> 47:11,14 159:18 192:8 <b>complain</b> 28:18 50:12 140:5 <b>complaint</b> 17:22 <b>complete</b> 90:24 <b>completely</b> 88:21 101:10 <b>complex</b> 114:16	<b>compliance</b> 86:10 113:24 <b>complicity</b> 81:19 <b>compliment</b> 61:21 <b>compromise</b> 25:7 49:10 <b>con</b> 69:10,11 <b>CONATE</b> 190:22 <b>conceded</b> 32:25 <b>concept</b> 23:16,19,20 25:22 <b>concern</b> 123:6 143:11 <b>concerned</b> 55:10 81:25 <b>concerns</b> 69:4 75:9 87:25 99:23 139:5,6,7,8 <b>concluded</b> 3:14 <b>concluding</b> 3:25 <b>concurred</b> 187:16 <b>concurrence</b> 156:18 157:7 189:25 190:5	<b>Concurrence</b> <b>s</b> 169:6 <b>Concurrent</b> 8:12 190:24, 25 <b>condemned</b> 89:3,6,11,13 <b>condition</b> 33:1,3 118:25 119:2 173:6 <b>conditions</b> 191:25 192:6 <b>condolences</b> 192:22 <b>conduct</b> 5:12 122:9 123:9 <b>conducted</b> 140:23 <b>conducting</b> 123:2 <b>conference</b> 89:8 <b>confidence</b> 122:22 165:9 <b>confident</b> 67:16 <b>confused</b> 9:17 <b>confuses</b> 62:12 <b>Congress</b> 16:18 24:5, 16 25:21	26:2 41:21 43:14,25 44:2 53:15, 16 55:17 67:6 77:20 78:2 79:13 80:16 81:16 88:21 95:25 98:12 104:13 121:21 124:15,24 151:20 174:20 183:15 <b>congression al</b> 14:23 15:2,9 16:16 25:1 26:22 27:12 33:7,19 41:9 47:23 56:2 57:21 77:17 79:6,8,25 86:5,20 97:12 106:22 113:8,18 122:1 125:5 126:15 158:1,11 160:21 161:25 162:2,20 164:12 165:16 170:8 173:15 <b>Congressma n</b> 54:22,23
<b>community</b> 23:4 29:17 30:5,7 40:4 57:14 67:25 68:18 69:10, 19 70:4,9,24 83:18 86:24 87:22 96:6 97:20 110:12,20 141:20 144:22 170:6,9,11, 16 176:23 177:19 191:22 192:23 194:3,10 195:17 196:8 197:6, 10,18 <b>community's</b> 78:7 <b>compact</b> 86:14				



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

<b>congressmen</b> 142:15 174:23	58:21 61:5, 13	<b>constitutional</b> 12:7 14:12 16:19 23:12 25:25 48:20 58:24 59:4, 16,25 113:25 121:22 127:13 130:25 158:12 174:8 183:25	34:19 43:14 63:3 65:21 68:21,23 69:5 70:17, 25 72:15 77:3 157:16 160:11 182:25 184:22,23 186:22 187:5,18 192:7 194:23 197:21	<b>controlled</b> 20:23 <b>controls</b> 25:21 62:3 97:18 <b>controversial</b> 85:12 196:7 <b>convenient</b> 49:25 100:10 <b>conversation</b> 46:17 178:14 191:5 <b>conversations</b> 113:2 191:6 <b>conviction</b> 65:6 <b>coordinating</b> 84:9 <b>copy</b> 48:13 <b>corazon</b> 69:11 <b>Cork</b> 26:11,13 29:3 <b>corner</b> 78:17 <b>corps</b> 91:14 171:6, 12 195:22 <b>corpus</b> 76:5 <b>correct</b> 9:16 103:19
<b>connecting</b> 57:2	<b>consolidated</b> 61:19	<b>constitutes</b> 16,25	160:11	<b>continued</b> 110:7
<b>connection</b> 141:9	<b>conspiracy</b> 161:22	<b>constitutions</b> 183:21	112:22	<b>continues</b> 6:4 77:10
<b>Connolly</b> 2:11	<b>constant</b> 92:17	<b>construction</b> 63:1	197:4	192:15
<b>conscience</b> 40:17	<b>constantly</b> 111:16	<b>consult</b> 162:16	<b>continuing</b> 56:7 197:17	<b>contracted</b> 193:16
<b>consciousness</b> 22:25	<b>constituencies</b> 160:23	<b>consultant</b> 171:16	<b>contracted</b> 193:16	<b>contrast</b> 114:3
<b>consent</b> 8:6,9,11,15, 22 9:6,15, 21,24 10:17 11:2,3 14:6 142:2 156:15,22 188:10,17, 23 189:6 190:12,13, 17,18	<b>constituency</b> 20:11 21:11	<b>consultants</b> 46:23	<b>contribute</b> 185:24	<b>contributes</b> 130:19
	<b>constituents</b> 18:25 23:9 36:19 37:6 43:11 69:9 77:25 105:14 143:18 160:10	<b>consulted</b> 75:18	<b>contribution</b> 194:22	<b>control</b> 73:8 79:12 102:5 104:13,14 143:15
<b>consequential</b> 22:23 67:20	<b>constitution</b> 6:12,15 7:8, 17 12:10 16:20 29:8, 21 33:25 34:3 45:18, 21 46:3 52:22 53:1 58:11 64:3 79:15 81:19 108:21,23, 25 109:4 128:13,16 131:20 174:9	<b>contacted</b> 62:19		
<b>conservative</b> 143:5 149:22		<b>contained</b> 15:10		
<b>consideration</b> 49:18 58:10 143:9		<b>contentious</b> 146:12		
<b>considered</b> 21:2		<b>contests</b> 122:17		
<b>consolidate</b>		<b>contiguous</b> 184:1		
		<b>continue</b> 4:20 16:6 19:20 26:2		

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

<b>corrupt</b> 44:15	<b>countering</b> 119:1	122:10,11 135:10,12 136:16 141:9,14,17, 19 174:6 183:17	160:21 170:21 175:1	<b>criteria</b> 165:2
<b>corruption</b> 45:5 107:25	<b>counties</b> 49:23 114:20 123:1,5 141:11 162:4	<b>County's</b> 196:11	<b>created</b> 21:25 32:19 46:7,14 47:10 64:3 71:19 97:2, 16 116:13 120:5 136:25 166:5,13 194:11	<b>critical</b> 62:17 135:10
<b>cost</b> 17:13,24 98:19 99:2 104:25 105:1,3,4,5 123:2,23 124:10 125:15 126:25 133:7 134:10 136:7 137:9 138:17,20 140:5,12 144:17 185:7	<b>counting</b> 61:9,12 126:25	<b>couple</b> 17:6	<b>creating</b> 4:17 143:12	<b>criticize</b> 98:9
<b>costly</b> 125:20	<b>countless</b> 43:3	<b>courage</b> 40:8,18 52:2,8 106:6 150:21 151:6,9 196:22 197:24	<b>creator</b> 71:23	<b>critics</b> 27:6
<b>costs</b> 17:12 123:6, 9	<b>countries</b> 19:4 52:18	<b>courageous</b> 52:5 54:7	<b>credential</b> 194:6	<b>crocodile</b> 104:19
<b>council</b> 196:2,19	<b>country</b> 16:22 26:18 29:10,12,13 30:14 31:3, 14,18,25 36:9,11 37:12 38:6, 21 44:4 49:1 50:4 53:6, 10,11 61:3 62:8 66:6 69:25 76:14 79:18 80:5 84:12 94:13 102:6,8,13 108:5 147:2 154:17 177:14 184:25 185:11,18 195:21	<b>Court</b> 24:23,24 53:3	<b>credibility</b> 21:22 98:14	<b>cronies</b> 17:16
<b>counsel</b> 183:19		<b>courts</b> 24:18 98:12 148:3	<b>credit</b> 60:23	<b>cross</b> 62:16
<b>counselor</b> 191:24		<b>cover</b> 99:17 114:17	<b>cries</b> 104:5	<b>crucial</b> 43:5
<b>count</b> 38:2		<b>coverage</b> 39:1 42:17 107:16 123:19	<b>criminally</b> 51:4	<b>cruel</b> 147:24
<b>counted</b> 52:9,13 53:17,20,22 64:2 66:16	<b>counts</b> 90:5 96:24	<b>cram</b> 160:13	<b>criminals</b> 127:7 155:13	<b>cruelty</b> 38:19
<b>counter</b> 60:14 62:15	<b>county</b> 47:7 92:6,8 93:10	<b>crazy</b> 150:22	<b>crises</b> 91:10	<b>crumble</b> 51:7
		<b>create</b> 23:1,13 26:2 41:18 63:12	<b>crisis</b> 17:25 64:12 85:18 91:14 92:6 98:19 126:22 152:9	<b>cry</b> 27:6 34:16 36:23
				<b>crystal</b> 14:17 150:17
				<b>culminated</b> 32:18
				<b>culture</b> 178:25
				<b>curious</b> 13:19
				<b>current</b> 10:13 22:3

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

29:23	<b>dance</b>	154:11,20,	31:17 39:6	133:11
<b>Curry</b>	157:14	21,25 166:8	<b>deaths</b>	135:22
2:7 156:16	<b>dangerous</b>	169:11	154:19	<b>decade</b>
187:23	106:25	177:3 188:6	<b>debatable</b>	6:18 14:23
<b>cut</b>	<b>daotsu</b>	<b>day's</b>	115:7	106:21
81:17 124:1	4:22	187:20,25	117:23	121:25
165:17	<b>dared</b>	<b>daycare</b>	119:16	157:22
<b>cuts</b>	52:21	155:4	156:25	166:10
42:14 43:5	<b>darkness</b>	<b>days</b>	<b>debate</b>	187:2
78:3,18,20	142:12,13	30:4,5 36:10	5:23,24	<b>decades</b>
100:5,17	<b>darn</b>	85:24 97:23	22:22 23:3	3:19 23:1
105:19	128:6	99:4,7	48:24 58:7,8	42:23 61:16
107:17	<b>data</b>	113:9,19,25	108:15	80:17 95:18,
147:19,20	133:2	131:4,5	109:4	19 165:12
149:12	<b>dates</b>	134:21	118:20	196:25
<b>cutting</b>	133:2	154:16	132:23,24	<b>deceit</b>
83:16	<b>daughters</b>	184:5,6	140:8	62:10
123:17	19:1	<b>DC</b>	147:10	169:17
185:19,21	<b>Davies</b>	187:1	153:5,12	<b>decide</b>
<b>cycle</b>	2:11 85:4,6	<b>DCCC</b>	154:6,9	27:3 38:2
59:2 130:13	88:13	127:23	156:3	44:24 48:2
<b>D</b>	138:11,13	<b>deadline</b>	172:21	54:20 66:25
<b>D.C.</b>	139:14	113:25	178:20	67:4,5,6,7,8
19:22 33:16	176:6,11	<b>deadlines</b>	180:1 183:1,	84:19 90:16
36:10 78:1,	<b>day</b>	23:25	2,5,8	96:25 108:4
16 89:5	3:20 8:11	<b>deafening</b>	186:20,21	122:3 125:3
141:2	9:6 29:25	50:17	187:9	127:9
<b>dad</b>	31:25 59:9,	<b>dealing</b>	<b>debates</b>	158:20
22:21 23:3	20,22 72:15	14:8	144:9 178:9	160:6 175:3
24:11 31:13	73:18 91:20	<b>deals</b>	179:14	185:7
<b>dad's</b>	93:5,14	93:21 117:1	<b>debating</b>	<b>decided</b>
24:1 25:1,11	94:19 96:18	<b>dealt</b>	5:20 92:10	16:25 41:15
<b>daily</b>	100:4	197:1	133:25	44:25 45:25
62:12	107:25	<b>dear</b>	134:3,25	76:16 91:1
109:15	120:14	3:16 62:18	172:17	128:4 160:6
112:23	142:12	<b>dearly</b>	<b>debauchery</b>	164:7
187:19	143:14	194:18	168:22	<b>decides</b>
189:13,14	144:3,22	<b>death</b>	<b>debilitating</b>	36:21
	148:5,18,23		100:13	<b>deciding</b>
	150:12		<b>debt</b>	99:18
			50:20	

IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION

Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025

<b>decimated</b> 17:20 78:16	<b>dedication</b> 122:17 195:14	<b>defining</b> 51:25 52:9	22:2 98:11 122:20	4,7,17 92:23,25 95:19 97:4 104:19 105:20,21 106:14,15 108:12 113:25 124:8 125:1 129:11,16, 21,25 130:1, 8,15 131:9, 10,13,21 138:8 140:6, 12 155:15 159:9,16,23 161:23 165:6 166:20 177:18
<b>decimating</b> 43:7	<b>deemed</b> 188:2,3 189:23,24 198:4	<b>defunded</b> 147:23	<b>demand</b> 15:1 18:8	<b>Democrat</b> 15:12 16:10 17:8 68:1 70:13 74:8 89:22 116:17 164:15 168:19
<b>decision</b> 28:21 48:22 67:3,15,20 81:12 102:13 113:20 121:24 128:19 192:11	<b>deep</b> 66:9 195:17	<b>degree</b> 194:5	<b>demanding</b> 79:5 104:10 186:25	<b>democratic</b> 2:25 33:15, 20 38:10 55:18 59:25 60:11,22,25 66:20 72:10 158:7 164:12 171:16 187:1
<b>decisions</b> 140:25	<b>defeat</b> 61:14	<b>Delano</b> 94:25	<b>demands</b> 19:22	<b>Democrats</b> 35:21 40:18 54:7 55:19 68:10 72:21, 25 73:7,22
<b>decisive</b> 77:14	<b>defend</b> 79:17 80:3 84:14 90:13 97:4 104:18 106:13 126:23 140:12	<b>delay</b> 115:4 119:11	<b>democracy</b> 14:19 17:13, 25 18:2,23 25:14,22 26:17 28:9, 13,15,19 29:8 31:1, 19,25 32:5, 6,9 35:25 36:9 37:21 39:8,15,23 40:5,11,13, 21,22 43:15 44:17,18 45:4 51:6 52:6,7 54:3, 21,25 55:8, 10,11 57:6, 8,17 58:9,15 59:14,20,22, 23 60:1 61:5,17,18 63:22 66:12, 25 67:18 68:3 70:15 72:2 73:9, 19,23 74:9, 12 76:12,15 77:1,3 80:24 82:11,25 83:21 84:13 88:18 89:18, 21,23 90:1,	
<b>deck</b> 157:21	<b>defended</b> 71:13	<b>delegation</b> 173:15,21	<b>deliberately</b> 137:19 143:4	
<b>Declaration</b> 71:22	<b>defend</b> 79:17 80:3 84:14 90:13 97:4 104:18 106:13 126:23 140:12	<b>delightful</b> 4:10	<b>deliver</b> 122:15	
<b>declare</b> 24:23	<b>defender</b> 111:22	<b>delivered</b> 114:4	<b>Demai</b> 2:12 6:7,8 7:9,12,13,21 9:19,21,23 10:2 11:1,2, 7,23,24 12:4,9,14 47:2,3 48:8, 9 115:17,18, 20,24 125:8, 10,12 128:21,22 159:7,10,11 161:9,15,18 163:6,7 180:7,8,10	
<b>declared</b> 71:21	<b>defending</b> 77:12 79:16 84:9 90:1,4 131:9 142:18	<b>demand</b>		
<b>declaring</b> 121:12 157:10	<b>deferred</b> 188:1			
<b>decorous</b> 5:24 132:24 172:20	<b>deficit</b> 99:25 127:2 134:8			
<b>decorum</b> 2:24 16:1 19:16 85:14 153:11	<b>define</b> 20:17 195:20			
<b>dedicated</b> 84:2 110:9, 11 122:13				

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

86:14 87:14, 22 89:22 95:6 102:19 138:22 139:5 147:7 149:9,20 150:15 157:15 173:12,16, 22	<b>desecration</b> 79:25 <b>desert</b> 86:24 <b>deserve</b> 15:5 50:2 135:4,25 136:1 139:11 143:18 144:3 160:23 166:8,10 <b>deserved</b> 114:22 193:25 <b>deserves</b> 111:22 117:7 <b>designated</b> 25:5 <b>designed</b> 106:21 142:21 157:22 177:7 <b>desire</b> 7:22,23 8:16,17 10:1,4,5 11:5,8,9,25 12:13,15,16 109:6,7,8 115:10,13, 14 117:25 118:3,4 119:18,21, 22 121:3,6 156:4,6,7 157:1,4 182:2,5,6	187:10,11, 13 190:13, 14,15 <b>desk</b> 10:11 22:19 112:25 113:6 115:20,23, 25 189:13 198:2 <b>desks</b> 113:1 <b>desperate</b> 145:15 <b>desperately</b> 61:4 145:15 146:17 <b>despotism</b> 131:17 <b>destroy</b> 29:7 44:19 <b>details</b> 165:2 <b>detention</b> 155:12 <b>detentions</b> 123:23 <b>determinatio n</b> 72:6 <b>determine</b> 34:23 47:12 <b>detrimental</b> 149:1 <b>deus</b> 115:25 <b>devaluing</b> 25:7	<b>devastating</b> 24:1 41:25 185:16 <b>developing</b> 195:19 <b>devoid</b> 101:10 <b>devotion</b> 196:25 <b>Di</b> 44:12,14 <b>diced</b> 143:12 <b>dictated</b> 40:14 <b>dictator</b> 39:20 72:25 88:20,23 147:4 154:17 <b>dictators</b> 71:18 83:2 <b>dictatorship</b> 31:13 <b>died</b> 23:15 24:11 31:16 68:2 <b>Diego</b> 28:5 195:15, 25 196:11, 12,16,17 <b>dies</b> 163:10 <b>difference</b> 54:1,2 126:1 <b>differences</b> 46:7 197:15	<b>differently</b> 170:12 <b>difficult</b> 66:1 154:11 <b>dignity</b> 40:1 94:23 95:2 124:3 194:19,24 <b>diligence</b> 134:22,24 135:3 <b>dilute</b> 47:16 160:22 165:18 <b>dime</b> 124:13 <b>dimensions</b> 25:15 <b>dinner</b> 95:14 <b>direct</b> 6:11 41:19 60:10 77:11 98:4 161:12 <b>directed</b> 13:2 93:2 <b>direction</b> 108:5 <b>directly</b> 76:25 104:9 168:7 <b>disabilities</b> 124:2 147:22 155:5 194:1 <b>disability</b> 193:10
--	---	--	--	--

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

194:10	<b>disenfranchi</b>	<b>district</b>	184:1	<b>dollar</b>
<b>disabled</b>	<b>se</b>	15:2,9	<b>diverse</b>	98:17,18
194:8,21	25:17 49:4	16:13,16	90:9	127:2
<b>disadvantag</b>	<b>disenfranchi</b>	17:16 26:19	<b>diversity</b>	135:18
<b>e</b>	<b>sed</b>	30:7,11 43:2	69:25	<b>dollars</b>
36:25	82:24	63:15 86:18,	<b>divestment</b>	17:24 50:15,
<b>disadvantag</b>	<b>disenfranchi</b>	19 87:6,7,11	78:9	20,23,24
<b>ed</b>	<b>ses</b>	88:4 91:3,	<b>divide</b>	78:4,10 93:2
84:4	99:14	20,23 93:13	27:15 38:17,	99:12
<b>disagree</b>	<b>disgusting</b>	102:2	22 141:6	104:24
36:23 126:2	69:24	116:15,25	143:6,10,13	107:12
153:3,18	<b>dishonest</b>	125:5 141:2,	<b>divided</b>	123:9,15,21,
<b>disagreeable</b>	48:5	6,10,22	164:8	24 125:15
153:18	<b>dismantle</b>	142:15,25	<b>divides</b>	126:21,23
<b>disagreed</b>	83:21	143:1,4,7,12	86:20	134:12
153:14	131:13	151:1	<b>divine</b>	135:1,6
<b>disappointin</b>	<b>disparity</b>	158:11	71:17,25	136:3
<b>g</b>	173:17	160:21	72:5	137:21
20:9	<b>dispense</b>	175:9	<b>division</b>	140:11
<b>disappointm</b>	8:24 14:9	176:13	87:20	<b>Dolores</b>
<b>ent</b>	<b>dispensed</b>	184:3	196:17	95:1
90:25	10:25	191:23	<b>Dixon</b>	<b>domestic</b>
<b>disaster</b>	187:25	<b>districts</b>	2:12 54:10,	83:20
50:13 83:14	190:11	6:25 14:23	11 57:23	<b>dominate</b>
107:17	<b>disregarding</b>	24:15 27:25	176:11,12,	40:19,20
142:19	128:17	33:8,19	16	<b>dominated</b>
147:18	<b>disrupting</b>	34:25 39:20	<b>doctor</b>	62:8
<b>discipline</b>	5:12,13	41:18 42:3	139:17	<b>Donald</b>
195:23	<b>dissent</b>	47:10,11,24	<b>doctors</b>	19:7,21
<b>discriminatin</b>	38:18	49:23 79:7	194:9	31:20 63:7
<b>g</b>	<b>distant</b>	86:6,14,20	<b>documentari</b>	67:4 77:15,
7:1	174:14	97:12,21	<b>es</b>	19,25 78:12
<b>discussion</b>	<b>distract</b>	120:7 122:1	192:4	79:9,18
58:6	152:5	126:15	<b>documents</b>	106:14
<b>discussions</b>	<b>distracted</b>	139:1 140:3	73:25	107:2 108:4,
144:11	21:5 152:24	158:1,18	<b>dog</b>	11 130:12
<b>disease</b>	<b>distractions</b>	159:18	112:5	137:11,18
192:2	136:1	161:25		148:12
		162:2,20		160:2,3
		165:16		177:15
		170:8		
		174:10,17		
		177:14		



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

<b>donor</b> 192:11	16 91:3 126:14	167:21,24 168:4,21	<b>dysfunction</b> 22:11	<b>economy</b> 124:6
<b>donors</b> 78:19	128:14 168:2,7	171:9,13,15, 17 176:3,13	<b>E</b>	<b>Ed</b> 193:15,17, 24,25 194:14
<b>Doo</b> 177:1	<b>drawing</b> 16:16 22:3 28:25 46:20	180:19 182:12	<b>ear</b> 117:5	<b>edge</b> 106:23
<b>door</b> 117:1	49:19 83:23 86:5 97:12	<b>drilling</b> 62:25	<b>earlier</b> 13:1 14:25 16:4 45:11 95:3 108:18 118:15 129:2 132:21 147:9 161:2	<b>editorial</b> 54:25
<b>doors</b> 42:20 46:22 126:13 135:21 140:24 150:21 151:6 165:24	103:6 116:15 128:15 166:8 168:15,23 175:9 177:6 178:13	<b>drive</b> 142:13,14		<b>educate</b> 162:25
<b>doorstep</b> 104:17	<b>drawn</b> 6:25 24:15 34:25 45:22 46:22 117:8 139:1 157:16 162:2 165:24 174:10,11 176:22 179:22,23 183:13 184:3	<b>driven</b> 54:19 56:18, 19 114:4	<b>earliest</b> 194:12	<b>education</b> 56:20 73:3 134:1 137:12,24
<b>Doug</b> 174:21		<b>drop</b> 19:7 51:12 69:16 148:20	<b>early</b> 31:16	<b>educational</b> 193:22
<b>dozens</b> 164:25		<b>dropping</b> 71:7 148:22	<b>earned</b> 110:4 136:2 137:21	<b>effect</b> 118:18 121:13 157:11 158:3
<b>draft</b> 181:20		<b>drove</b> 112:16	<b>earnestly</b> 18:10	<b>effective</b> 153:4
<b>drafted</b> 10:12 169:16		<b>drowning</b> 133:11	<b>earning</b> 144:19	<b>effectively</b> 73:2,4
<b>drag</b> 114:6	<b>draws</b> 87:11	<b>due</b> 83:17 107:23 134:22,24 135:3 155:13	<b>earthquake</b> 109:25	<b>effects</b> 41:25
<b>drain</b> 100:3	<b>dream</b> 4:15,17,18, 20 79:25	<b>duly</b> 130:15 140:7	<b>easiest</b> 102:10 186:24	<b>effectuate</b> 23:9
<b>dramatic</b> 26:15	<b>drew</b> 22:5 46:25 93:22 160:16,18, 24,25 162:23 164:6 165:8 166:2	<b>duty</b> 83:3	<b>East</b> 194:3	<b>effort</b> 14:23 23:17 24:2 60:14 122:21 161:23
<b>draw</b> 24:7 38:1 39:13 44:23 46:11,19 54:20 86:9,		<b>dying</b> 82:8 99:1 100:8	<b>economic</b> 123:11 <b>economies</b> 17:20	<b>efforts</b> 26:19 73:18

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

80:3 139:25 140:1 141:6 183:18 <b>EI</b> 2:12 63:3,5 65:1 <b>elapse</b> 88:7 <b>eldest</b> 193:15 <b>elect</b> 21:3 34:24 <b>elected</b> 18:18,24 23:4,8 30:18,19 33:21 81:6 116:25 117:9 121:23 129:21,25 130:1,13,15, 17,18 135:25 140:7 171:7, 8 196:1,11 <b>election</b> 6:16 14:24, 25 15:6 17:14 18:16 29:13 30:4, 15 47:7,13 57:13 59:2,6 79:10 87:11 98:16,23 104:25 105:1,3,4 106:19 107:6 121:11,19, 20 122:7,10,	20 123:3,8, 10 124:10, 14 125:15, 20,25 126:6 127:14,16, 17 129:15, 25 130:25 134:4,11 135:7 137:9 138:17,19, 22 155:22 157:22 160:12 161:8 164:16 178:1 185:9 <b>elections</b> 18:7,19 27:19 28:20 49:16 77:18 79:25 80:25 82:12 122:8, 11,12,16 130:12 131:2 146:13 158:24 159:18 160:3,4 164:17,20 167:9 168:13,18, 25 169:5,16 180:20 182:12 185:14 186:25 <b>electorate</b> 24:2 95:17 <b>eligible</b> 16:25 155:23	<b>eliminate</b> 123:24 <b>eliminates</b> 26:3 <b>Ellis</b> 2:12 176:2,6 <b>embarrass</b> 147:1 <b>embarrassed</b> 52:14 <b>embodied</b> 111:23 <b>embodying</b> 111:14 <b>emerge</b> 58:20 <b>emergency</b> 19:24 31:3 38:13 42:1 78:25 84:11, 12,13 91:25 92:4 <b>Emeryville</b> 41:5 110:15 <b>emotion</b> 170:3,20 <b>emotional</b> 54:12 170:4, 14 <b>emotions</b> 169:23,24 170:2 <b>empathy</b> 147:25 <b>empower</b> 41:23 44:19 <b>empowering</b> 19:25 110:9	<b>enabling</b> 147:16 <b>enacted</b> 56:17 <b>encourage</b> 32:22 48:11 77:4 132:14 140:15 174:11,12 <b>end</b> 24:4 29:25 34:8,22 51:21 59:9, 20,22 73:18 94:3 103:13 144:3 154:25 159:17 164:10 166:7 175:15 <b>ended</b> 116:21 <b>ending</b> 43:17 <b>endless</b> 194:17 <b>endowed</b> 71:23 <b>ends</b> 159:25 160:1 163:4 <b>enduring</b> 28:22 <b>enemies</b> 35:12 51:22 <b>enemy</b> 35:12	<b>energetically</b> 192:9 <b>enforcement</b> 15:12 16:10 127:6 <b>engage</b> 21:1,12 <b>English</b> 137:14 <b>engulfed</b> 22:22 <b>enhance</b> 20:22 <b>enjoy</b> 84:5 <b>enjoyed</b> 3:24 <b>enlisted</b> 31:17 <b>enrolled</b> 194:4 <b>enslaved</b> 64:1 <b>ensure</b> 33:20 42:11 43:12 58:15 59:5 64:1 70:8 84:4 97:16 108:4 114:14,24 122:25 123:1 154:1 185:8 <b>ensures</b> 25:25 <b>ensuring</b> 23:8 37:10 114:12
---	---	---	--	--



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

<b>entertain</b> 198:10	193:25	118:9	<b>expanding</b> 98:21	161:13
<b>entertainment</b> 110:20	<b>established</b> 4:3 99:11	133:16 140:4 153:6 159:10 161:9 178:1 180:22,25 181:12 186:4,14 189:25	<b>expect</b> 152:18	<b>extort</b> 140:10
<b>entire</b> 37:25 71:14 72:22 73:1 75:14 81:22 82:23 98:2 114:17 169:12	<b>esteemed</b> 75:10	<b>executive</b> 28:3 43:17 58:22 130:5, 6 132:2,8	<b>expense</b> 135:16	<b>extorted</b> 17:20
<b>entitled</b> 104:11 124:20,23	<b>Ethan</b> 192:12,19	<b>executives</b> 36:3	<b>expensive</b> 78:25 142:1	<b>extra</b> 15:2
<b>entrenched</b> 73:22	<b>Euphoria</b> 111:20	<b>exercising</b> 45:17	<b>experience</b> 151:18	<b>extract</b> 17:19
<b>Epstein</b> 89:11	<b>event</b> 94:20	<b>exert</b> 79:5	<b>experiences</b> 192:12	<b>extraction</b> 90:11
<b>equality</b> 86:10	<b>everyday</b> 86:8	<b>exerted</b> 72:9	<b>experts</b> 176:22 183:16	<b>extraordinary</b> 122:21
<b>equity</b> 194:23	<b>evidence</b> 34:25	<b>exhausted</b> 91:5	<b>explain</b> 7:13 64:7 82:20	<b>extreme</b> 25:4
<b>era</b> 3:22	<b>evil</b> 35:8,15	<b>exhaustive</b> 114:24	<b>explanation</b> 15:23 165:25	<b>extremist</b> 78:12,15
<b>erased</b> 37:25	<b>evils</b> 25:10	<b>exigency</b> 25:15	<b>explanations</b> 165:1	<b>extremists</b> 148:3
<b>erode</b> 73:19 74:20	<b>eviscerating</b> 128:1	<b>exigent</b> 31:12	<b>exploit</b> 178:22	<b>eye</b> 35:6,7 137:8 153:19
<b>erodes</b> 21:22	<b>evolution</b> 71:11	<b>exist</b> 26:5	<b>exploited</b> 153:15	<b>eyes</b> 7:25 31:21, 22 66:4 156:8 187:15
<b>escape</b> 3:21	<b>exact</b> 134:19 135:12 136:25	<b>existential</b> 25:15	<b>express</b> 18:14 30:25 152:25	<hr/> <b>F</b>
<b>essential</b> 61:2 114:13 154:2	<b>examples</b> 170:18	<b>exists</b> 18:24 105:11	<b>expressly</b> 6:21	<b>face</b> 76:6 99:10
<b>establish</b> 24:8,13	<b>excessive</b> 25:3	<b>expand</b> 145:14	<b>extend</b> 192:21	<b>faced</b> 25:14 91:11 133:5
	<b>exchange</b> 171:5		<b>extensive</b> 114:11	<b>faces</b> 92:2 134:8
	<b>excludes</b> 63:25		<b>external</b>	
	<b>Excuse</b> 3:3 15:14			

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

<b>facilities</b> 42:8 43:4	<b>failure</b> 24:1	<b>fall</b> 44:22	192:17,20, 22 195:1 196:25	139:23 140:13
<b>facing</b> 91:11	<b>failures</b> 107:6	<b>falling</b> 57:5	<b>family's</b> 4:14 83:15 94:14 145:8	<b>favor</b> 75:7 80:16 139:1 151:9
<b>fact</b> 42:25 45:18, 21 47:14 56:13 99:11 101:11 102:20 103:2 133:13 152:23 164:5 175:10 184:2 185:3	<b>fair</b> 16:21 26:4 27:19 29:13 30:15 34:7 48:7 49:17 59:6 80:25 82:12 86:9 95:24 96:3 114:4,25 122:9 127:14 158:25 159:18 160:4 166:11,15 173:24 174:6 177:19 185:9	<b>false</b> 61:14 62:10, 12 <b>falsely</b> 27:20 <b>fam</b> 110:8 111:13 <b>families</b> 27:25 37:24 38:19,20,22 39:4 42:16 57:19 63:14, 18,19 83:19 92:17 93:9, 25 98:25 99:18 100:7 107:14 122:5 123:13,15 124:6 135:19 137:19 144:18,23 145:3 146:2, 6 155:3,6,12 185:24,25	<b>famous</b> 142:11 <b>Farias</b> 83:9,11 84:23 <b>farmers</b> 185:20 <b>farming</b> 170:11 <b>farms</b> 142:19 <b>fascism</b> 80:4 <b>fashion</b> 65:25 126:14 174:25 <b>fast</b> 124:20 <b>father</b> 22:25 26:7 32:10,17 35:14,18 54:18 65:11 94:15,21 95:3,15 197:12 <b>father's</b> 79:25 <b>fathers</b> 19:1 60:23 <b>faux</b>	<b>favor</b> 75:7 80:16 139:1 151:9 <b>favor</b> 87:15,16,17 175:5 <b>favoring</b> 6:25 <b>favorite</b> 150:12 <b>favorites</b> 142:10 <b>favors</b> 175:9 <b>fear</b> 38:18 39:9 63:12 96:15 148:11 <b>fearing</b> 31:8 <b>federal</b> 29:23 41:13 47:7 50:11 62:3 63:17 64:9 77:21 78:3,9,10,11 81:16 86:11 90:8 96:21 99:12 137:25 140:25 149:13 150:4 169:24 183:20 <b>Federalist</b> 58:11,16 59:8
<b>factor</b> 134:14	<b>Fairchild</b> 43:3			
<b>facts</b> 99:23 101:4, 5 133:2 177:25	<b>fairly</b> 106:25 117:8 143:3			
<b>factually</b> 168:16 182:13,22	<b>fairness</b> 22:2 25:24 27:5,23 28:16 30:14 64:17 97:16 98:6,11 104:16 120:9 166:4	<b>family</b> 4:6,7 29:11, 16 32:7 40:3 94:22 108:1 110:8 111:13 148:19 170:10 185:20 191:10		
<b>Fadiaz</b> 2:8				
<b>fail</b> 58:23 59:10, 11				
<b>failed</b> 23:18 79:14 98:24 111:11 124:12				
<b>failing</b> 57:6	<b>faith</b> 96:16,25 143:17 165:6			
<b>fails</b> 12:4,18 59:13 182:8				

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

<b>feeding</b> 20:13	49:10	179:20	<b>financial</b> 134:25 136:4	<b>flag</b> 4:25 5:4 82:14
<b>feeds</b> 185:20	<b>fight</b> 14:18,20 27:10 28:12 31:23 32:18 35:25 36:20 39:25 40:19, 20 47:25 50:2 61:24, 25 66:19 67:17 73:16, 17,24 77:2 80:11 81:10 83:4 89:20, 23 90:2,6,15 96:1 102:19, 20,22 104:15 105:12 122:3 124:25 125:3 129:5 140:25 142:18,25 155:15,17, 18 157:24 174:18 187:5 193:23 194:23	<b>fighters</b> 142:16	<b>find</b> 13:22 18:8 57:13 75:20 93:4 112:13 137:10 138:7 153:17,22 155:3	<b>flames</b> 92:24 125:17
<b>feel</b> 30:8 31:6 66:12 91:21 144:10 145:22 146:15,17 152:14,15 169:25	<b>fighting</b> 31:11 33:10, 12,14,23 34:12 47:23 50:25 56:3 79:20 93:3 95:2 105:21 124:8 131:10 154:21 160:8 173:8	<b>file</b> 6:9,10 7:7 10:10,19 12:8,11,22 13:8 17:2 109:15 112:23,24 156:17 157:6 187:19 188:25 189:13,14 190:2,3,8,10	<b>fine</b> 73:20 147:7	<b>flat</b> 36:16
<b>feeling</b> 3:18 31:7 172:2		<b>files</b> 89:12	<b>finest</b> 77:1	<b>flawed</b> 74:12,13
<b>feels</b> 65:15		<b>filled</b> 161:2	<b>fingers</b> 76:11	<b>flaws</b> 73:14
<b>felt</b> 3:21 94:11 126:6		<b>filling</b> 92:18 93:12	<b>finish</b> 88:8 138:15 149:4 181:1	<b>fleeing</b> 55:20
<b>fend</b> 25:6		<b>film</b> 191:20 192:3	<b>fire</b> 33:10,12,14, 24 34:12,13 50:5,25 73:17,24 89:14 90:15, 16 173:8,25	<b>flies</b> 99:10
<b>Festival</b> 3:25 4:9		<b>final</b> 16:12 60:3 88:9 105:24 121:24 134:10 192:14	<b>firms</b> 72:1	<b>flip</b> 106:22
<b>fever</b> 31:15		<b>finally</b> 6:23 111:25 128:9 193:18	<b>firsthand</b> 41:24	<b>flood</b> 107:19
<b>field</b> 25:25 26:1 64:14 96:23 110:8 111:6, 11		<b>Finance</b> 99:25 134:6 189:4	<b>fiscal</b> 134:19	<b>flooding</b> 50:7
<b>fields</b> 38:16			<b>fix</b> 55:5 91:17 94:4	<b>floor</b> 5:20 13:8,17 17:7 19:13 23:12 37:4 40:16,24 45:19 49:20 51:15,16,23 52:1 54:4 68:5 72:9 75:22 91:9 94:11 103:4 113:2 144:9 149:11 151:17 154:10 172:16 175:22 178:1
<b>fierce</b> 111:9			<b>fixed</b> 170:19	
<b>fiercely</b> 48:25				
<b>fifths</b>				

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

179:25	<b>food</b>	<b>forfeit</b>	<b>found</b>	132:21
186:11	18:25 50:18	6:5	4:8 58:16	<b>freedoms</b>
191:5,6	83:15 93:3,4	<b>forget</b>	112:16	77:13
192:25	99:5 104:25	64:18 68:20	<b>foundation</b>	<b>freely</b>
198:7,8	105:16	98:14	110:9	50:4
<b>Flora</b>	107:13,21	197:25	111:14	<b>fresh</b>
2:12 156:20,	123:15	<b>forgot</b>	112:13	4:11 185:19
21 157:2	139:25	41:11	166:12	<b>Fresno</b>
169:18,20	145:1 148:2	<b>forgotten</b>	<b>founded</b>	101:24
170:23	155:7	91:21,22	28:14	112:7
187:24	185:19	140:21	<b>founders</b>	165:16
<b>Florida</b>	<b>foods</b>	145:22	58:12 71:20,	<b>Friday</b>
14:25 38:5	148:25	<b>form</b>	25	198:6
39:21 40:3	<b>fooled</b>	24:20 71:19	<b>founding</b>	<b>fridge</b>
41:16 50:6	64:12	165:23	34:16 60:22	93:12
56:24 77:16	<b>football</b>	<b>fortunate</b>	73:25 79:25	<b>friend</b>
79:4 98:9	111:5	148:17,18	110:8	3:16 101:23,
146:22	<b>forbid</b>	<b>forward</b>	<b>fraction</b>	24,25
177:13	79:13	24:12 34:8,	92:15	192:13
<b>flourished</b>	<b>force</b>	10,12 65:24	<b>fractious</b>	193:14
196:1	27:10 31:17	82:25 92:14	58:20 59:2	197:13
<b>flowery</b>	39:11 60:21	103:8	<b>fragments</b>	<b>friends</b>
131:8	69:15 158:4	118:17	165:15	51:23 61:7
<b>flown</b>	<b>forced</b>	119:3	<b>Frankenstein</b>	62:18 101:7
19:3	27:11 42:20	153:22	141:21	102:23
<b>focused</b>	48:2 50:21	170:22	<b>Franklin</b>	107:21
41:9 101:21	92:3 134:18	173:4,6,18	89:18	108:1
191:24	<b>forcing</b>	179:11,25	<b>Freaky</b>	125:24
192:1	81:8	<b>fostering</b>	111:18	126:16
<b>focusing</b>	<b>forebears</b>	112:8	<b>free</b>	192:20,22
92:10	34:16	<b>fought</b>	27:19 73:11	194:17,25
<b>follow</b>	<b>foreign</b>	31:13,14	80:25 82:12	<b>front</b>
5:18 22:10	19:4	32:2,3,7	98:15	133:21
29:21 30:18	<b>forest</b>	47:21 53:7	126:24	<b>frowned</b>
132:15	92:19	54:23 91:16	<b>freedom</b>	74:3
134:17	<b>forever</b>	93:25	5:22 29:11	<b>froze</b>
172:20	103:17	165:12	30:13 32:7	137:11
<b>Fong</b>	154:18	<b>foul</b>	80:25 82:11	<b>frustrated</b>
2:12 89:24,		36:23	108:7	30:9
25 90:19				

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

<b>frustrates</b> 176:24	<b>funds</b> 89:13 137:12,17, 24	32:14,16 36:4,5 108:16,17, 19,25 109:1 113:2,4,5,9, 13,14,16 115:2,12 118:7,11,12, 13 119:9,20 128:24,25 132:6,7,10 172:5,6,11, 19,22,25 175:25 176:1 177:21 178:2 182:8, 9,11,21,24 183:3,4	57:8,24 85:16 88:8 115:4,7 117:20,23 119:11,15 120:22,25 138:2,6 156:12,19, 24 157:2,13 166:21 167:6 176:4, 7 180:13,16 181:5,10,14, 19 183:7 184:24 186:6,9,17, 23 188:16, 22 189:7 190:1 193:7	<b>gavel</b> 3:4  <b>Gavin</b> 33:23,25 34:10 44:15 52:2 67:5 73:12 125:13,20 139:21  <b>General</b> 76:4 134:16  <b>generation</b> 4:6,13 32:8 53:12,25 99:22 112:9  <b>generations</b> 26:18 54:3 170:10
<b>fueled</b> 123:13	<b>funny</b> 128:23			
<b>fulfill</b> 15:4	<b>future</b> 26:17 31:22 32:3,11,12 39:13 41:8 92:2 97:1,3 99:24 124:7 126:16 137:23 144:18 146:4			
<b>fulfilled</b> 92:1				
<b>fulfills</b> 59:25				
<b>full</b> 30:25 73:7 122:22				
<b>fully</b> 64:2 98:23 127:4 128:11	<b>G</b>			
<b>fund</b> 85:13 98:24 100:4 127:4, 8 145:13	<b>Gabriel</b> 2:13 65:2,4 67:22 110:18	<b>gallery</b> 3:9 5:10 192:21 195:1	<b>gas</b> 93:10,12 99:17	<b>generosity</b> 192:15
<b>fundamental</b> 25:22 34:14 60:19 73:10, 25 114:25 167:21 169:12	<b>gain</b> 27:25 93:1 98:8 100:7 101:12 165:16 178:23 179:11,15, 18	<b>Galvan</b> 35:24	<b>gases</b> 71:10,19	<b>genocide</b> 179:6
<b>fundamentall y</b> 24:16 66:20 76:14 95:20 96:13	<b>gaining</b> 36:13	<b>game</b> 36:15 61:6 63:10 65:14 143:19	<b>gaslight</b> 136:21	<b>gentleman</b> 19:12 172:14,15
<b>funding</b> 42:12 43:5 78:4 81:17 91:25 123:25 128:11 140:25 141:3	<b>Gallagher</b> 2:13 8:25 9:3,4,11,14, 15,19 10:22, 24,25 11:12, 13,15,22 12:2 13:11, 12 14:4 19:11,17	<b>games</b> 142:5	<b>gaslighting</b> 163:24	<b>gentlemen</b> 68:17 69:7
		<b>gamesmans hip</b> 135:16	<b>Gate</b> 141:10	<b>geodic</b> 86:11
		<b>Garcia</b> 2:13 7:25 8:2,18,21 10:3,16,22 11:12 22:17 26:10 45:25 55:3 56:12	<b>gathered</b> 44:25	<b>geographic</b> 86:12,22 174:11
			<b>gathering</b> 194:7	<b>geographical</b> 174:12
			<b>gatherings</b> 194:11	<b>geography</b> 86:11 141:8
			<b>gave</b> 4:11 13:1 45:12 86:7 191:23	<b>George</b> 129:14

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

130:16	<b>Gill</b>	<b>global</b>	<b>govern</b>	187:18
<b>Georgia</b>	24:22	60:17	100:14	188:3
18:8,19	<b>gin</b>	<b>glow</b>	<b>governance</b>	<b>governor's</b>
26:22	129:18,23	19:5	22:8 143:10, 15	172:9
<b>germane</b>	<b>ginning</b>	<b>goal</b>	<b>government</b>	<b>governors</b>
184:19	130:19	29:25 73:21 101:17	33:14 59:10 62:4 71:20, 25 73:8 74:25 75:1, 25 76:1 79:25 83:1 86:7 93:17 97:18 124:9 141:23 143:24 150:4 166:13 169:24	41:17 52:3
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Ginsburg</b>	<b>goals</b>		<b>grab</b>
154:15	24:25 28:22	7:5 23:6		27:6,7 84:9 90:3 106:11 108:11 124:19 128:4 146:5
<b>gerrymander</b>	<b>Gion</b>	<b>God</b>		<b>grabs</b>
33:9 173:7	3:24	5:7 71:12 129:16,21		15:7 84:1
<b>gerrymander ed</b>	<b>give</b>	<b>God's</b>		<b>Gracias</b>
33:19 74:4 161:20 171:25	7:10 19:6 32:8 36:19 50:4 55:22 64:16 76:19 77:8 78:18 82:2,20 83:3 94:23 108:9 113:25 125:2 127:4 128:7,19 131:3 146:3 159:23 182:16 185:6 191:1	93:5		70:25
<b>gerrymander ing</b>		<b>gold</b>		<b>graduates</b>
20:23 21:13 22:13 24:23 25:3,10 33:4 45:3,4,9 49:11 81:20 85:11 88:17 92:11 98:3, 10 99:12 101:22 102:25 103:5,14 116:20 136:14 139:1 146:23 147:10 165:20,23 177:7 187:2		45:12 97:13 166:1	<b>governments</b>	133:10
	<b>giving</b>	<b>golden</b>	60:20 71:18 150:3 162:16,19 196:17,19	<b>graduation</b>
	26:25 48:22 63:13 67:19 75:22 79:17 81:9 104:25 110:18 114:22 120:11 126:24 131:19 138:25 191:22 197:5	68:11 141:10		192:2
<b>gerrymandin g</b>		<b>Gonzalez</b>	<b>governor</b>	<b>grain</b>
82:5		2:14 37:15, 17 40:25 90:22,24 94:7 176:16, 18 177:20, 23 183:9	7:3 14:25 22:12 33:9 34:11 51:25 72:8 76:17 89:8 91:2,18 96:20 103:15 105:2 116:17 118:25 125:13 131:25 141:16 150:6,14,22 151:11 153:15,25 175:17	129:9
<b>Gibson</b>	<b>glaring</b>	<b>good</b>		<b>grandchildre n</b>
2:13 51:9,11 54:9	177:4	15:19 22:7 35:16 58:7 63:5 66:25 75:18 112:20 121:15 143:9,14 148:19 169:25 170:1,21		54:5 80:17 194:16
		<b>goodbye</b>		<b>Grande</b>
		197:20		162:12
				<b>grandkids</b>
				31:22 32:11, 12
				<b>grandpa</b>
				71:9
				<b>grandparent s</b>
				170:13
				<b>granted</b>
				71:24 191:3



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

<b>grants</b> 137:25	144:20 145:6	<b>guests</b> 3:8 4:24 5:8 188:19	<b>handbook</b> 132:17	146:16,21 155:16 173:9
<b>gratitude</b> 4:23	<b>grocery</b> 99:17 107:25 123:14	<b>guided</b> 197:5	<b>handed</b> 165:4	<b>happily</b> 69:16
<b>grave</b> 31:19	<b>grossly</b> 135:3	<b>guidelines</b> 158:14 183:25	<b>handedly</b> 109:25	<b>Harbidian</b> 100:25 101:1 102:15 133:18,19, 23 159:11, 13
<b>graves</b> 39:3	<b>groundbreak ing</b> 137:25	<b>guilty</b> 185:25	<b>handing</b> 53:1 147:16	
<b>Grayson</b> 190:3	<b>grounds</b> 34:3	<b>gut</b> 129:6	<b>hands</b> 55:8 59:24 126:8 139:9 167:24	<b>hard</b> 31:23 47:22 58:6 85:12 129:3,8 136:2 155:2 195:24
<b>great</b> 60:23 70:22, 23 71:2 72:18 94:13, 25 95:9 96:17 147:23 194:16	<b>group</b> 122:13 152:21 169:2 183:13	<b>guy</b> 18:7 160:9	<b>Haney</b> 2:14	
<b>greatest</b> 76:2 109:21 196:25	<b>grouped</b> 141:18	<b>guys</b> 34:6 173:8, 23 175:15 191:11	<b>hang</b> 106:9	
<b>green</b> 44:1 51:18	<b>groups</b> 183:16	<b>guys</b> 34:6 173:8, 23 175:15 191:11	<b>hangs</b> 75:24 76:3	<b>harder</b> 47:21 50:19 145:9
<b>Greenhouse</b> 194:7	<b>growing</b> 194:10	<b>H</b>	<b>happen</b> 49:13,14 55:5 58:9 94:6 117:3 142:3,4,5	<b>hardest</b> 48:5
<b>Greg</b> 34:11	<b>grown</b> 17:21	<b>habeas</b> 76:5	<b>happened</b> 52:17 69:18 71:10 101:16,17 130:12 146:16 152:25 167:11 168:22 180:3	<b>harm</b> 27:17 123:11
<b>grew</b> 141:23 163:12 193:12	<b>guarantee</b> 73:25	<b>Hadwick</b> 2:14 140:17, 18 144:6		<b>harming</b> 122:4
<b>grief</b> 197:4	<b>guardians</b> 59:14,15,18	<b>half</b> 17:1 29:18 36:22,24 140:13		<b>harms</b> 103:4 148:25
<b>grilling</b> 177:5	<b>Guatemalan</b> 63:20	<b>halftime</b> 36:20		<b>Hart</b> 2:15
<b>groceries</b> 93:11 135:20	<b>guess</b> 72:16 84:7 150:10	<b>halls</b> 92:20 130:9	<b>happening</b> 29:17 47:25 48:23 53:18 64:23 65:18 66:5 68:25 76:13 95:14 124:18	<b>hate</b> 35:11 142:6, 14 143:6
	<b>guest</b> 109:12,16, 18	<b>Hamilton</b> 59:9,11		<b>hates</b> 141:23
		<b>hand</b> 5:3 38:13 40:14		

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

<b>Hawaii</b> 33:18	<b>hear</b> 16:23 42:7 62:25 87:2	<b>heart</b> 5:3 70:7 170:17	<b>helpful</b> 174:25	<b>hijacked</b> 81:24 108:8
<b>Hawari</b> 2:12 63:4,5 65:2	104:5,11,15 105:2,3 129:15	191:13,25 192:2,5,13 197:24	<b>helping</b> 93:3	<b>historic</b> 26:16 109:13 195:7
<b>HC8</b> 54:14	131:6,25 147:20	<b>heartbreakin g</b> 197:2	<b>helps</b> 99:15,17,18 114:24	<b>historical</b> 60:17 62:21
<b>He'll</b> 106:25	150:1 160:5 177:8	<b>hearts</b> 85:8	<b>heralded</b> 155:10	<b>historically</b> 84:4 90:14
<b>head</b> 53:25 62:25 141:4 145:8	<b>heard</b> 17:5,22 29:9 35:6,10 47:18 55:14 67:11 81:14 82:2 92:20 101:9,10 118:21 122:25 123:12 138:3 139:11 142:9 154:2, 25 155:25 165:13 175:22	<b>heat</b> 3:21 4:1	<b>hero</b> 177:16	<b>history</b> 28:15 40:5, 18 51:25 63:25 67:9 73:20,25 76:23 94:17 101:13 105:22 108:6 141:8 154:18 171:3 178:12,22 179:4,20 180:2
<b>headlines</b> 196:6		<b>heaven</b> 35:14 79:13	<b>heroes</b> 155:10	
<b>headwinds</b> 24:11		<b>heavenly</b> 35:18	<b>hey</b> 150:19	
<b>health</b> 18:25 31:5, 15 38:23 39:7 42:5,8, 23 43:7,24 47:19 50:17 57:14 69:22 77:21,25 78:5,6,7,10, 14,16,21,22, 23 79:3 90:12 91:13 92:5 104:21 105:16 107:16 124:3,7 126:25 139:22 140:2 145:14 147:20 155:9 185:22		<b>heavily</b> 30:11	<b>hidden</b> 177:2	
	<b>hearing</b> 3:25 8:10 34:1,2 85:25 101:8 129:13 138:16 139:23 153:5 154:6 169:5,6 178:8 183:2, 5 198:9	<b>heavy</b> 191:13	<b>hide</b> 52:24 163:14	
		<b>Heck</b> 144:22	<b>high</b> 17:13 53:25 69:9 111:8 140:12 185:10 193:14	<b>histrionics</b> 57:4
		<b>held</b> 22:4 50:22 79:11,13 85:21 101:25 107:5,10 114:9 122:8, 17,18 176:25 197:15	<b>higher</b> 71:15 78:22 90:7 123:13 137:23	<b>hit</b> 50:13 144:16
		<b>hell</b> 142:25 147:15	<b>highest</b> 93:17	<b>hits</b> 50:6,14 111:18
	<b>hearings</b> 95:13 97:24 98:1 135:4 158:17 164:25 183:23	<b>helped</b> 94:20	<b>highlight</b> 99:23 103:4	<b>hold</b> 18:17 24:17 38:1 39:13 58:15 59:1 107:3 137:9 138:18 156:22 160:25 161:3,20,21
<b>healthcare</b> 43:2,4 98:22			<b>highlights</b> 73:14	
			<b>highly</b> 74:1,4	



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

162:25	<b>Honorable</b>	<b>hour</b>	<b>human</b>	177:4
163:1	187:22	77:1 165:4	53:4,8 141:8	<b>hypocritical</b>
<b>holding</b>	195:15	<b>hours</b>	194:19	136:6,22
53:25 57:11	<b>honored</b>	126:13	<b>humanity</b>	
61:15 83:14	95:11	127:12	70:14	<b>I</b>
92:22	109:25	158:6 169:6	<b>humble</b>	<b>I77</b>
123:21	111:2	183:22	60:9	190:16,19,
137:23	<b>honoring</b>	<b>house</b>	<b>humbly</b>	20,21,22,23,
138:2,21	79:15	5:17 7:16	154:3	24,25
<b>Holocaust</b>	<b>hooked</b>	14:10,25	<b>hundreds</b>	<b>ice</b>
154:14	29:16	18:10 49:2,	22:4 78:4	38:15 52:16
<b>home</b>	<b>Hoover</b>	3,24 55:16	93:1 112:14	63:13 69:14
21:23 63:22	2:15 102:15,	64:16 75:14	134:12	70:3 107:20
93:25 94:24	17 104:2	76:12 88:20	135:6	
98:13 133:7	<b>hope</b>	92:22 96:8,	139:25	<b>icon</b>
134:23	4:19 60:8	20 99:21	<b>hungry</b>	94:13
144:16,25	62:20	104:14	102:22	111:23
148:18	112:17	106:23	107:13	<b>idea</b>
193:19	119:7 153:1	118:23,24	<b>Hunter</b>	93:20
194:6 197:7	<b>hoped</b>	124:16,21	101:15,18	150:20
<b>homelessne</b>	192:2	127:13	<b>Huntington</b>	<b>ideal</b>
<b>ss</b>	<b>horrible</b>	133:4,15	70:10	184:25
91:14	70:16	139:17	<b>hurricane</b>	<b>ideals</b>
<b>homes</b>	<b>horrific</b>	144:24	50:6	23:9 96:1,5,
63:19	122:4	160:9 173:2	<b>hurt</b>	8
147:19	<b>hospital</b>	182:19,25	81:17 124:5,	<b>ideas</b>
<b>hometown</b>	43:2 91:24	190:18	6 147:21	29:25 38:6
111:12	92:1 135:11	198:12	<b>hurts</b>	<b>ideologies</b>
<b>honest</b>	193:18	<b>housing</b>	82:9	164:24
128:19	<b>hospitality</b>	91:13 99:5	<b>husband</b>	<b>idly</b>
135:14	155:8	134:1	193:13	28:11 66:13,
177:4	<b>hospitals</b>	<b>HR</b>	197:12	14 72:11,18,
<b>honestly</b>	39:3 42:25	24:6	<b>hyperbolic</b>	24 73:1
85:8	43:1 78:7	<b>HR1</b>	101:10	<b>ignore</b>
<b>honor</b>	135:20	42:9	<b>hypocrisy</b>	66:5 85:10
30:13 54:22	185:21	<b>Huerta</b>	64:20	114:2
95:4 192:24	<b>hostage</b>	95:1	136:10	<b>ill</b>
193:3 195:7	50:23 83:15	<b>huge</b>	139:24	45:3
197:16		36:25		<b>illegal</b>
		163:19		

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

126:25	25:19	<b>improving</b>	<b>increase</b>	101:25
<b>illegally</b>	<b>Imperial</b>	98:20	147:6	102:1 114:3,
33:25	92:6 93:4,9	191:24	<b>incredible</b>	9 116:24
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>implemented</b>	<b>impugn</b>	92:12	127:24,25
33:17	100:18	5:25 16:5	<b>incredibly</b>	136:11,19
<b>Illness</b>	<b>implementin</b>	19:18 47:4	41:14	137:1
42:1	<b>g</b>	132:15	<b>incumbency</b>	149:19
<b>Imagine</b>	41:10	172:19	49:18	151:25
85:12 92:15	<b>implications</b>	<b>impugning</b>	<b>incumbent</b>	157:17
130:1	22:24 66:9	19:13	7:1 97:3	158:9,25
<b>immediately</b>	<b>importance</b>	<b>inaccurating</b>	<b>incumbents</b>	183:15,18,
7:7 12:6	90:1	121:11	139:2	22 185:2,4
50:10 120:6	<b>important</b>	<b>inactive</b>	<b>indecent</b>	187:3
121:13	31:25 59:19	190:3	6:1	193:11
157:11	62:15 65:7	<b>inalienable</b>	<b>indelibly</b>	194:12
<b>immigrant</b>	87:19,23,24,	71:24 72:6	22:25	<b>independentl</b>
30:12 38:18	25 123:4	73:11	<b>independenc</b>	<b>y</b>
40:3 68:18	153:11	<b>incarcerated</b>	<b>e</b>	24:15
69:10 70:1	171:11	92:13	54:19 71:22	<b>independent</b>
83:16 90:9	175:16	<b>include</b>	96:2 97:19	<b>s</b>
132:5 155:6	183:10	17:6 168:19	100:9	86:15 87:17,
185:23	<b>importantly</b>	<b>included</b>	103:19	24 138:24
<b>immigrants</b>	158:19	168:22	<b>independent</b>	139:8
63:25 69:24	173:25	184:16	12:6 16:21	<b>Indian</b>
126:25	<b>impose</b>	<b>includes</b>	19:25 21:24	179:13
<b>immigration</b>	47:13	123:1 148:2	23:2,10,13,	<b>Indiana</b>
39:7 63:11	<b>imposed</b>	183:14	16,20 24:3,	34:21 41:16
147:24	81:17	185:19	9,20 30:2	<b>indifference</b>
<b>immune</b>	<b>imposing</b>	<b>including</b>	32:20 34:7	25:3
66:7	83:18 158:5	101:9,24	39:16 46:8	<b>indignation</b>
<b>impact</b>	<b>impossibility</b>	110:14	49:21 54:17	76:10
42:11 110:7	25:8	150:3	55:14 68:1,7	<b>individual</b>
<b>impacted</b>	<b>impossible</b>	183:25	69:5 70:14,	72:23
3:16 22:25	6:12 107:1	192:18	18,19 71:21	194:24
<b>impacts</b>	<b>impressed</b>	<b>inclusion</b>	83:25 84:6	<b>individuals</b>
43:6 66:10	95:13	193:21	85:20 87:10,	72:25
149:1	<b>improve</b>	<b>incorrect</b>	12,15,16,17	149:22
<b>imperative</b>	101:19	168:16	91:2 95:5,8	194:1
		182:13	96:14,21	<b>indivisible</b>
			97:14	5:7

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

<b>indulge</b> 5:25	9:12 13:13 180:14 181:4,16	<b>insurance</b> 78:22,23 85:18 99:20 152:8	27:17 38:17 <b>intimidated</b> 106:7,11	<b>issue</b> 16:2 22:24 27:10 37:5, 8,9 68:1,2 70:14 75:17, 20 84:17 86:4 92:5 123:6 138:22 153:19,23 157:15 175:15 182:10 183:10
<b>industries</b> 155:8 174:4	<b>insane</b> 147:1	<b>integrity</b> 86:12,22 113:25 122:16 132:15 153:21	<b>intimidation</b> 62:10 63:23 89:9	
<b>industry</b> 8:14	<b>insanity</b> 134:25 136:4	<b>intention</b> 13:3	<b>intricate</b> 114:17	
<b>inevitable</b> 134:16	<b>insecurity</b> 93:3	<b>interest</b> 12:23 86:21, 23 120:8,16, 18 141:20 158:13 160:19,22, 25 164:9 183:25	<b>introduce</b> 109:25	
<b>influencers</b> 21:6	<b>inside</b> 62:25 175:5	<b>interested</b> 87:8	<b>introduced</b> 23:12 24:6 102:1	
<b>information</b> 7:10	<b>insiders</b> 166:17 175:4,14	<b>interesting</b> 171:20	<b>introduction</b> 109:17,18 187:25	<b>issues</b> 31:16 37:6 91:12 135:10 149:18 174:24
<b>informed</b> 167:14	<b>insistence</b> 43:18 103:15	<b>interests</b> 102:25 164:14 174:19 187:5	<b>investigate</b> 51:4	
<b>inherently</b> 71:25	<b>inspiration</b> 154:12	<b>interfering</b> 5:10	<b>investment</b> 17:14	<b>item</b> 8:3,9,25 10:11 112:24 190:2,8,10
<b>initial</b> 150:6,8	<b>institution</b> 21:6 95:5 96:10	<b>internal</b> 72:2	<b>invite</b> 70:12 165:25	
<b>initiative</b> 45:1 126:7, 18 161:2,6 162:25	<b>institutions</b> 17:18 23:7 36:16 122:6 140:10 179:7	<b>international</b> 21:23 67:25	<b>invited</b> 143:20	<b>items</b> 6:13 8:7 13:6,10 46:4 126:5 189:24 190:5,6,8, 10,18
<b>innocent</b> 154:19	<b>instructions</b> 13:1	<b>internationall y</b> 70:6	<b>involved</b> 47:8 110:13 161:21 175:8	
<b>inoculate</b> 18:16	<b>insult</b> 152:12 172:16	<b>intimidate</b>	<b>involves</b> 5:22 132:22	<b>J</b>
<b>input</b> 62:2 72:10 74:11 87:22 114:11,14 116:19 131:4 147:14 158:18 176:23	<b>insulting</b> 153:2		<b>Ironwood</b> 92:11	<b>Jackson</b> 2:15 57:25 58:2,4 60:4
<b>inputs</b> 30:5	<b>insults</b> 27:21 175:19		<b>irrelevant</b> 181:3	<b>jams</b> 175:19
<b>inquiry</b>			<b>Irwin</b> 2:15	<b>January</b> 106:17

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

194:13	17:9	179:2	148:22	<b>knew</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>Josh</b>		170:12	24:14
3:15	187:22	<b>K</b>	<b>kill</b>	154:10
<b>Jason</b>	<b>journal</b>	<b>Kagan</b>	40:21 151:5	164:3
192:19	55:1,15	24:25 25:12	<b>killing</b>	171:18,19
<b>Jeff</b>	180:18	<b>Kalra</b>	159:9	195:23
2:13 90:22	181:2,3	104:2,4	<b>kills</b>	196:13
112:3	187:20,25	<b>Kansas</b>	18:3	<b>knowing</b>
<b>Jefferson</b>	198:3,5	55:25	<b>kind</b>	138:21
141:24	<b>journey</b>	<b>Kara</b>	42:10 49:11,	161:19
<b>Jewish</b>	195:24	2:16 105:24	12 62:14	<b>Korean</b>
154:19	<b>Jr</b>	<b>keeping</b>	72:18	31:14
<b>Joanna</b>	28:24 51:19	98:20	116:20	<b>kp</b>
192:19	142:10	158:10	171:10	112:6
<b>job</b>	<b>judgment</b>	170:15	<b>kindly</b>	<b>Krell</b>
81:25	67:16 164:9	<b>Kern</b>	163:4	2:16
160:10,11	<b>judiciary</b>	43:1	<b>kindness</b>	<b>Kyoto</b>
166:6	11:18 58:23	<b>key</b>	4:22	3:15 4:1,9
<b>jobs</b>	<b>July</b>	23:25	<b>kinds</b>	<b>L</b>
92:8,10	187:21	167:11	13:21	<b>la</b>
144:23	188:23	<b>keys</b>	<b>king</b>	17:9 89:5
<b>Joe</b>	<b>June</b>	147:17	28:24 51:19	162:13
129:25	191:19	<b>kick</b>	105:13	195:14,18,
130:4,17	197:7	78:20	142:10	25 197:7
<b>join</b>	<b>jurisdictions</b>	<b>kidnap</b>	<b>kings</b>	<b>lack</b>
3:13 4:25	158:16	70:3	71:18	20:12,13
26:6 79:20	<b>justice</b>	<b>kidnapped</b>	105:10	45:5 55:11
80:2 110:18	4:18 5:7	69:21	192:10	164:21,22
136:5 195:3	24:25 25:11	<b>kidnapping</b>	<b>Kirk</b>	<b>Lackey</b>
<b>joined</b>	27:23 28:21	83:18	156:7	2:16 20:3,5
98:10	51:3 80:25	<b>kids</b>	<b>kiss</b>	21:15
149:11,17	82:12	31:21 32:11	148:19	151:13,15
192:16	<b>Justices</b>	65:11 69:23	<b>knee</b>	153:5
<b>joining</b>	24:25	107:13	105:8,9	<b>ladies</b>
73:22	<b>justification</b>	111:19	<b>knees</b>	53:7 68:16
<b>jointly</b>	21:1 22:9	137:16	19:7 71:7	69:6
121:17	<b>justify</b>	146:4	105:7	<b>Lago</b>
<b>Jose</b>	159:25	147:22	149:16	19:5

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

<b>laid</b> 115:16 118:6 119:24 121:9 160:1	<b>Latino</b> 37:25 40:2 49:6 132:4 145:21	10:1,14,16 11:6,12,25 12:1,13 13:15 14:2 22:17 26:10 32:14 35:24 36:3,5 45:25	198:11	88:24
<b>Lakewood</b> 70:11	<b>Laughing</b> 3:25	55:3 56:12 57:8,24 58:20,21 68:25 75:10 85:16 88:8	<b>leader's</b> 9:25 14:5 22:19 172:24	<b>leaves</b> 38:3 194:17
<b>Lamalfa</b> 174:21	<b>law</b> 5:9 15:12 16:9 36:13 101:3,5 127:5,17	103:18 105:13,15 110:19 112:13 113:2,4 115:2,3,4,11 117:18,20 118:1 119:10,11, 14,19 120:20,22, 24 138:2,6 149:21 156:12 157:1,7,12, 13 159:7 166:21 167:6 168:6 172:19 174:16 176:4,7 180:13,16 181:5,10,14, 19 182:4 183:6,7 184:9,23,24 186:5,6,9, 17,22,23 187:9,23 188:8,16,22 189:5,7,25 190:1 193:7	<b>leaders</b> 36:10 115:11 121:4 142:24	<b>leaving</b> 56:16 70:20 123:16 144:24
<b>Lancaster</b> 75:3	<b>lawfully</b> 106:12		<b>leadership</b> 92:12 122:23 135:25 146:25 164:15 168:3,4,5,7 183:14 195:13 196:9 197:24	<b>lecture</b> 151:9 169:12
<b>land</b> 178:24 179:22,23	<b>laws</b> 29:15 56:17 57:3 130:23, 25 154:23 183:20			<b>lectured</b> 66:23 74:7 150:24
<b>language</b> 5:23 6:2 74:16 123:1 131:9 132:23 165:21 168:12,25	<b>lawsuits</b> 77:11			<b>lecturing</b> 139:24
<b>LAO</b> 99:25	<b>lawyers</b> 46:17 101:2		<b>leading</b> 70:17 79:3 82:9 112:19 183:15	<b>led</b> 24:19,21 77:16 79:4 83:24 110:5 131:17
<b>large</b> 170:10	<b>lay</b> 117:20 120:22,25			<b>lee</b> 2:16
<b>larger</b> 55:25	<b>laying</b> 73:5		<b>leads</b> 37:19 99:14 160:13	<b>left</b> 29:10,12 30:14 39:4 55:25 56:22 78:25 100:3 141:25 148:21 150:5
<b>largest</b> 94:19	<b>lays</b> 157:25		<b>League</b> 196:18	
<b>lashes</b> 27:21	<b>lcms</b> 87:5		<b>learn</b> 38:16 194:18	<b>legacy</b> 54:5 103:18 194:24
<b>lasting</b> 110:7 197:15	<b>lead</b> 4:25 22:11 70:25 82:8 138:25 167:3 196:3		<b>learned</b> 94:22	<b>legal</b> 5:15 183:18
<b>lastly</b> 86:13			<b>learning</b> 137:15	<b>legend</b> 110:19
<b>late</b> 8:23 144:25	<b>leader</b> 7:25 8:18, 20,21,25		<b>leave</b> 54:6 63:19, 21 70:21	<b>legislation</b> 6:10 16:19

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

24:6,7,10	<b>lens</b>	<b>lies</b>	24:7 26:19	32:5 92:17
49:21 119:7	65:10	59:23 63:9	38:9 44:23	117:7 141:1
153:25	<b>lesson</b>	<b>life</b>	46:13,19	142:12
161:17	182:16	3:17 4:12	54:20 77:17	155:2
164:19	<b>lets</b>	31:15 39:5	91:3 93:22	194:25
184:15,17	39:12	41:20 51:19	116:15	<b>lived</b>
<b>legislative</b>	<b>letter</b>	52:7 72:22	117:1 126:8,	32:6 144:22
5:11,13	60:1 180:17	73:1 112:12	14 143:6	<b>lives</b>
58:23 79:5	181:2,3,8,9,	142:20	147:14	42:3 43:10
114:5 134:5	13,17,18,20	145:9 186:1	165:8,23	78:11 79:23
158:14	186:9,18	192:24	166:9	91:7 112:18
163:24	<b>letting</b>	193:3 195:2,	179:22	143:7
182:24	62:9 144:1	7 197:1,13	<b>Linwood</b>	154:19
183:14	<b>level</b>	<b>life's</b>	69:13 70:9	191:25
<b>legislator</b>	24:13 25:25	195:20	<b>list</b>	192:15
102:10	64:9 72:3	<b>lifeline</b>	124:4	197:16
160:20	96:23	91:25	<b>listed</b>	<b>living</b>
<b>legislator's</b>	100:12	<b>lifted</b>	196:12	26:15 70:16
158:8,11	149:13	198:13	<b>listen</b>	93:13 98:19
<b>legislators</b>	<b>leveling</b>	<b>lifting</b>	30:16 67:12,	99:3 144:17
36:2 47:8	64:14	190:11	13 75:6,7,8	193:11
72:23 76:16	<b>levels</b>	<b>light</b>	87:2,3	194:12
120:13	93:17	142:13	138:15	<b>loan</b>
162:1	<b>lever</b>	191:16	144:8	133:11
<b>legislature</b>	73:8	<b>lights</b>	<b>listened</b>	<b>local</b>
6:21 7:4	<b>leveraging</b>	145:1	23:8	17:20
45:23 52:11	99:24	<b>likes</b>	<b>listening</b>	158:16
55:6 59:17	<b>LGBT</b>	162:5	45:15 75:22	<b>locally</b>
67:6 87:13	68:18	<b>limit</b>	144:13	70:6
88:2 89:1,8,	<b>LGBTQ</b>	138:17	<b>lists</b>	<b>located</b>
16 91:3	53:9 123:25	<b>limited</b>	145:12	195:15
98:24	<b>liberty</b>	135:5	<b>lit</b>	<b>lock</b>
100:18,21	4:17 5:7	<b>limits</b>	64:13	82:25
120:13	79:16,23	135:17	<b>literally</b>	106:22
134:19	80:25 82:12	196:15	18:3 147:19	177:8
136:2	163:10	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>litigation</b>	<b>lockstep</b>
144:13	<b>lie</b>	28:20	134:16	134:7
167:25	136:21	<b>lines</b>	<b>live</b>	<b>Lodi</b>
168:1 175:7			4:22 30:19	170:7,17
<b>length</b>				
38:14				



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

<b>logical</b> 60:7	56:1	<b>loved</b> 71:12,13	183:5 184:9, 22 186:4	<b>majorities</b> 57:10
<b>lol</b> 72:25	<b>losses</b> 197:2	142:25	187:8 188:8	<b>majority</b> 7:25 8:18,
<b>long</b> 4:2 23:25 35:25 105:11 124:22,25 130:8 169:11 191:11	<b>lost</b> 23:25 29:16 55:23 56:5 61:17 78:12 98:14	155:9 164:1, 2 197:6	189:5,25 198:10	19,21 9:24, 25 10:1,14, 16 11:6,12, 24 12:1,13 13:14 14:2,5 22:17,19 26:10 33:16 41:9,14,21 43:25 45:25 55:3,9 56:3, 12 57:8,24 85:16 88:8 91:4 100:8 115:2,3,4,8, 11 117:18, 20,24 118:1 119:9,11,14, 16,18,19 120:20,22, 24 121:1,3 136:16 138:2,6 150:14 156:11 157:1,7,12, 13 159:6 163:1,19 166:21 167:6 168:6 172:24 174:15 176:4,7 180:13,16 181:5,10,14, 19,25 182:4 183:6,7 184:9,23,24 186:4,6,9, 17,22,23
<b>longer</b> 10:12 15:25 18:24 61:25 103:9 175:13	<b>lot</b> 7:10 20:19, 20 21:5,6 29:22 30:6, 12 45:11 52:3 54:11, 15 75:15 101:8 130:3 131:24 142:9 146:25 147:20 169:21,22, 24 171:10 174:23 177:24	<b>Lowenthal</b> 2:16 22:18, 20 54:23 187:22	<b>made</b> 9:9 13:7 14:3 25:25 37:2 50:19 60:8 83:25 87:20 95:17 111:17 123:2 149:11 156:23 164:8 173:15 184:15 197:15	
<b>looked</b> 4:2		<b>lower</b> 99:4,14		
<b>loophole</b> 120:12		<b>lumped</b> 169:3	<b>Madera</b> 135:10	
<b>Los</b> 47:18 50:9 72:16		<b>Luther</b> 28:24 51:18 142:9	<b>Madison</b> 58:17,19,25	
<b>lose</b> 21:25 42:17 49:15 55:19 56:6,10 62:16 65:16 77:25 79:12 105:16 107:1,15 142:24 143:22	<b>loud</b> 55:7 81:15 145:25	<b>lynch</b> 110:1,21,24 111:4,21,24 112:2	<b>Madrid</b> 195:16 197:6,23	
<b>losing</b> 47:21 56:8 62:6 106:15 123:17 163:25	<b>louder</b> 28:5	<b>Lynwood</b> 102:18	<b>Macedo</b> 2:16 167:7,8 180:11,23, 25 181:6,7 182:1,3 186:7	<b>MAGA</b> 78:12,15 79:24
<b>loss</b>	<b>lounge</b> 3:1	<b>M</b>	<b>Magazine</b> 196:12	
	<b>love</b> 22:21 31:18 32:1 35:11, 12 43:20,21 110:17 111:5,11,21 142:14 191:20 192:3	<b>madam</b> 8:19 10:13 22:20 26:13 88:12 115:3 117:18 119:9 120:20 157:11 159:6 167:8 169:20	<b>magically</b> 57:16	
			<b>mail</b> 28:4 64:4	
			<b>maintain</b> 96:13 158:13	
			<b>Maio</b> 44:12,14	

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

187:8 188:8, 16,22 189:5, 7,25 190:1 193:7 198:10	120:12 122:6 127:11,17	<b>manipulated</b> 97:22 117:8	74:4 81:20 83:25 84:18 85:24 86:9, 17 103:6 113:8,18,22, 23 114:17 116:18 117:7 120:5 125:5 126:14 128:14 139:7 143:10 144:12 145:4 147:17 157:16,22 158:4,6 159:14 160:13,16, 18,19,24,25 162:23 164:1,4,7 165:3,10,19 166:3,15,22 167:4,22,25 168:2,4,7, 12,15,21,23 169:15,16 170:25 171:9,13,15, 17,25 173:23 176:3,9,14, 20,25 177:6, 7,17 180:19 182:13 183:23 184:4,6	124:15 <b>marching</b> 131:18 <b>marginalized</b> 28:1 90:15 <b>Marin</b> 141:10,16, 18 174:6 <b>marine</b> 91:14 195:21 <b>Mark</b> 2:14 37:15 40:25 176:16 194:15,25 <b>marked</b> 196:4 <b>marry</b> 43:21,22 <b>Marshawn</b> 110:1,2,6, 11,21 111:3, 8,11,16,21, 24 112:2 <b>Marshawn's</b> 111:5 <b>Martin</b> 28:24 51:18 142:9 <b>mask</b> 177:1 <b>masked</b> 19:2 <b>masks</b> 52:17 107:22 <b>MASON</b>
<b>make</b> 13:9,16 17:15 29:15 44:4 52:23 54:1 60:2,13 67:14,20 76:18 78:13 79:7 91:7 92:24 94:6 96:2,12 99:4,20 100:5 102:12 103:16 106:25 110:7 113:20 116:23 118:20 121:24 125:18 127:1 129:17,19 140:25 144:25 145:9 150:13 152:14,15 153:3 155:24,25 169:17 182:21	<b>making</b> 13:6,15 31:6 53:21,22 54:2 55:17 75:14 81:12 88:25 90:4 105:17 116:24 121:12 139:7 154:24 155:6 177:18 192:4 <b>man</b> 53:23 71:12, 15 73:14 76:4 102:4 109:24 110:1 112:6, 12,17 149:16 175:21 195:12,22 <b>man's</b> 137:22 <b>management</b> 57:15 92:19 <b>mandate</b> 86:7 <b>Mander</b> 33:25 <b>mandering</b> 64:25 <b>manipulate</b> 26:19 126:8, 14	<b>Mankind</b> 74:13 <b>manner</b> 134:18 <b>Manual</b> 5:18 <b>manufacture</b> <b>d</b> 37:8 <b>map</b> 37:19,25 45:22 46:11, 20 49:19 74:2 76:25 106:21 124:21 128:15 142:21 158:2,8,11, 14 159:8,16, 24 161:7,20, 24,25 162:3, 7,10 163:16, 18 166:18 174:5,15 183:12,25 184:2 185:5 <b>maps</b> 6:23 7:5 15:11 16:9 22:3,5 27:4, 15 38:1 39:11 40:1, 10 46:19,21, 25 47:13 48:21 49:5, 17 70:19	<b>Mar</b> 19:5 <b>march</b> 31:12 82:25	



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

5:21	<b>Mcallen</b>	100:2	<b>Mellerek</b>	116:1,9,10,
<b>Mason's</b>	37:22	<b>mechanism</b>	191:15	11 118:10,
5:18	<b>Mckenna</b>	186:21	<b>member</b>	11,13 119:9
<b>mass</b>	2:17 8:13	<b>medi</b>	2:3 4:24,25	120:1,3,25
94:19	<b>Mckinner</b>	98:25	5:2,25 6:8	121:15
123:22	137:5,7	123:19	8:9,12 9:1,4,	125:7,8,10
<b>Massachuset</b>	138:11	<b>media</b>	21 10:18,22,	128:25
<b>ts</b>	<b>meaning</b>	62:11	24 11:13,15,	132:6,7,9,
33:18	72:1 174:3	109:10	22,23 12:11,	10,11,13,16,
<b>massive</b>	<b>meaningful</b>	148:25	18,20,24,25	25 133:1,17,
78:9 123:11	21:4	150:13	13:11,12	19,23,25
<b>match</b>	<b>means</b>	164:13	14:14,15	137:7
64:13	15:15 36:13	<b>Medicaid</b>	15:15,16,18	138:13
<b>matched</b>	46:18 63:15,	38:24 42:12	16:7 19:11,	139:16
196:23	18 82:22	81:17	16 20:5	140:18
<b>mats</b>	96:4 149:17	104:24	21:17 22:20	144:8
87:11	159:25	123:18	29:6 30:22,	146:11
<b>matter</b>	163:17,18,	147:20,21	24 32:16	147:9
6:17 20:18,	20	<b>medical</b>	36:7 37:14,	148:14,16
25 51:21,25	<b>meant</b>	42:17 43:3	15,17 41:2	151:3,15
74:18 76:20	137:12	193:22	44:8,14	153:8 154:8
87:2 100:10	<b>measure</b>	<b>medically</b>	47:2,3 48:9,	156:16,19,
114:16	10:13 11:11	191:25	10,15,16,17	20,21
117:16	16:2 26:6	<b>medicine</b>	51:1,11	159:13
133:13	36:19 39:11	99:19	52:11 54:11	161:18
143:7 150:4	74:7,13 84:7	<b>meet</b>	58:2 60:6	163:9 167:8
166:24	97:9 104:6	157:25	65:4 67:24	169:4,20
176:25	109:2,9,10	<b>meet all</b>	71:1,3	170:25
<b>matters</b>	115:21	183:19	74:21,22,24	171:7,12
22:16 39:10	118:24	<b>meeting</b>	77:6,7 80:8,	172:6,13,18,
48:1 132:8	119:3 120:8	3:2 4:10	23 83:11	22 176:5,12,
<b>Mayo</b>	127:22	106:5 130:9	84:25 85:6	18 177:20,
159:15	156:5,9,10	<b>meetings</b>	88:15 89:25	21,23 178:5,
<b>mayor</b>	183:1	22:4 46:15	90:24 94:9	6,7 179:17
195:25	187:12,16	85:21	97:6,8	180:8,9,11,
196:2	<b>measured</b>	114:10	100:23,25	22,25
197:11,23	197:14	<b>meets</b>	101:1 104:4	184:10,12
<b>Maywood</b>	<b>measures</b>	174:7	106:2	188:7,10
70:10	7:15 11:19		108:16	191:6,9
	24:17 93:15		109:19	193:1 195:5,
			111:1 112:1	8,11
			113:5,13,16	<b>members</b>
			115:18	2:5,24,25

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

3:1,7 5:15, 23 6:1,2 7:4, 21,22,23 8:15,16,17 9:25 10:3,4 11:5,8,20,25 12:12,15 13:4 19:17, 19 21:18 26:14 30:7, 23,25 32:14 33:20 36:8 37:1,13,18 40:5 41:3 47:4 53:15 62:25 63:2,6 67:25 70:3 72:9 78:2 83:18 85:7, 19 90:19 91:18 94:10 105:24 109:6,7,12 110:23 112:22,25 113:1 115:8, 10,12,13 116:12 117:23,25 118:3 119:15,18, 20,21 120:25 121:3,5,6,16 132:20,23 137:7 154:9 156:4,5,6,7, 25 157:3,14 171:6 176:18 182:15 183:15 186:19 187:10,11,	12,13,18 188:12,18 189:2,11 190:11,14, 15,25 193:2, 8 195:6 198:2 <b>memorial</b> 154:13 <b>memories</b> 192:7 <b>memory</b> 22:25 38:3 188:13 190:25 191:4,8,14 192:25 193:6,9 195:4,10 197:16 198:4 <b>men</b> 91:15 92:14 107:22 112:11,15 <b>Menlo</b> 121:25 <b>mental</b> 145:14 <b>mention</b> 15:25 72:11 75:3 77:8 <b>mentioned</b> 171:24 <b>mentioning</b> 15:21 <b>mentor</b> 112:3 <b>mentorship</b>	110:10 <b>Merced</b> 102:1 <b>Mere</b> 22:11 <b>merits</b> 38:8 117:3 133:24 161:16 <b>Mersucci</b> 2:17 <b>mesa</b> 162:12 195:14,18, 25 197:7 <b>message</b> 100:8 160:2 <b>Messages</b> 188:3,4 <b>messaging</b> 143:25 <b>met</b> 24:10 122:14 187:22 193:13 <b>Mexican</b> 63:20 <b>Mexico</b> 50:8 94:22 195:18 <b>mi</b> 4:22 <b>mic</b> 6:5 51:12 75:5 171:23 178:10 <b>Michelle</b>	2:20 84:23 <b>microphone</b> 90:20 105:25 182:17 <b>microphones</b> 63:3 <b>mid</b> 14:23 106:21 121:25 157:21 187:2 <b>middle</b> 36:15 126:21 144:18 <b>midterm</b> 26:23 77:18 <b>midterms</b> 157:16 <b>migrated</b> 94:25 <b>Mike</b> 174:22 <b>miles</b> 92:4 141:11 163:14 170:6 <b>military</b> 71:14 89:4 <b>millennial</b> 196:14 <b>Millerick</b> 193:4 <b>million</b> 17:3 39:1 42:16,24	55:24 57:13, 16 85:13 90:25 91:25 123:20 126:25 127:3 134:25 135:2,16 137:10,11, 24 138:20 145:2,5 146:5 163:18 185:22 <b>millionaires</b> 78:19 <b>millions</b> 31:5 43:8 64:5 77:22 90:12 93:2 104:24 107:15 134:12 135:1,6 140:2 154:18 159:24 184:7 <b>mind</b> 62:21 <b>minds</b> 85:2 <b>mine</b> 145:21 <b>minority</b> 55:9 68:25 75:10 100:19 136:17 162:21 173:11
--	---	---	---	---

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

<b>minute</b>	43:11	110:24	<b>moral</b>	<b>motivations</b>
23:23	<b>Mitchell</b>	128:5	66:9	153:21
151:23	164:13	133:17	<b>morals</b>	<b>motives</b>
152:10	171:17	157:18,25	96:5,9	6:1 16:5
186:20	<b>mob</b>	172:11	<b>morning</b>	19:19 47:4
<b>minutes</b>	106:18	181:6,23	15:19 32:25	<b>mountain</b>
3:2,4,5	<b>mocked</b>	182:15	54:12 63:5	92:16
73:13	168:2,9	184:10	69:12,18	141:12
134:23	<b>mocking</b>	189:11	74:11,16	<b>mouth</b>
<b>miracles</b>	71:11	193:2,4	151:16	119:8
71:16	168:10	195:6	152:25	<b>mouths</b>
<b>miraculous</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>momentary</b>	154:10	83:15
71:10	110:3,14,16	4:15	165:21	<b>move</b>
<b>mirror</b>	<b>model</b>	<b>moments</b>	173:5	8:3,19 9:9
21:8 100:22	22:8 101:25	102:9	<b>Morongo</b>	11:4 12:5,20
<b>mis</b>	103:12,16	<b>moms</b>	162:14	21:21 34:8,
9:23	166:19	155:3	<b>mother</b>	10,12 60:12
<b>misdemeanor</b>	192:8	<b>Monday</b>	63:20	61:1,2,8
116:25	<b>models</b>	198:8,12	192:18	115:4
<b>misleading</b>	194:12	<b>money</b>	<b>mothers</b>	118:17
127:18	<b>Modesto</b>	17:12 47:21	60:24	119:11
<b>misplaced</b>	191:22	63:14 85:17	<b>motion</b>	120:22
151:21	<b>Modoc</b>	92:15,22	9:22,25	131:4
<b>Missouri</b>	141:9,17	93:15 98:15	10:3,6,25	153:22
34:20	174:6	119:8	12:4,9,17	170:21
146:22	<b>mom</b>	125:23	13:7 14:3,5	173:2,18
<b>misstate</b>	145:7	126:24	115:7	190:2
177:25	<b>moment</b>	135:9 136:8	117:23	<b>moved</b>
<b>misstates</b>	3:13 7:11	137:13	119:13	7:17 9:1,4
178:3	11:20 14:2	138:1,2,4,8	156:23,25	10:21 11:21
182:23	20:8 26:16	143:25	181:20	117:19
<b>mistake</b>	51:20,25	145:10	182:1,7	120:24
44:4 52:23	52:6,10	163:3	198:10	181:22,24
103:16	60:16 62:21	<b>month</b>	<b>motions</b>	<b>movement</b>
125:18	65:8,9 66:2,	42:21	10:15 13:5,	15:13 16:11
150:13	14 67:9,14	<b>months</b>	6,9,14,15,	59:2 193:11
<b>mistaken</b>	72:8 74:1	104:7 133:3,	16,18,21,23,	<b>moves</b>
	88:24 106:5	7 147:18	25 156:13	173:4
	108:6,25	160:8	186:15	187:23
		185:16	188:5,8,9	198:11
		193:17		

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

<b>movies</b> 110:11	<b>N</b>	<b>nationwide</b> 41:19	<b>neutralize</b> 41:23	129:10
<b>moving</b> 6:6 8:6 65:24 112:23 173:6 188:5, 7 189:14 190:25 198:5	<b>Nakanishi</b> 4:6,13 <b>nakedly</b> 101:15 <b>named</b> 196:10 <b>names</b> 46:24 168:20 198:2	103:13 152:5 <b>native</b> 109:22 162:16 <b>natural</b> 59:14,15,18 72:22 142:19	<b>Nevada</b> 56:24 141:15 <b>Newsom</b> 52:2 67:5 73:12 116:17 125:20 150:6,14,22 163:3	<b>nonpartisan</b> 16:21 46:25 137:1 <b>norms</b> 60:25 <b>Norris</b> 2:19 <b>north</b> 50:4 107:4 <b>Northridge</b> 191:21
<b>mucho</b> 69:10,11	<b>Namo</b> 4:22	<b>nauseating</b> 140:14	<b>Newsom's</b> 44:15 103:15 125:13	<b>nos</b> 12:17 115:15 119:23 121:8 156:8 182:7
<b>multi</b> 127:2	<b>nation</b> 4:17 5:6 22:8 28:7,14 59:7 68:12, 13 70:2 71:13,21 73:23 82:23 97:2,14 103:12 166:25 167:3 194:25	<b>NDA</b> 88:10 <b>nearby</b> 174:13 <b>needed</b> 15:23 41:15 85:1 88:1	<b>NFL</b> 110:2 <b>nice</b> 110:18	<b>nose</b> 7:25 11:10 109:9 156:9
<b>multiple</b> 52:1 136:7 165:15	<b>nation's</b> 25:9,14 63:25 106:18	<b>negative</b> 25:2 <b>negligent</b> 135:3	<b>Nicholas</b> 172:15 <b>nicknamed</b> 110:2	<b>note</b> 86:17 190:4
<b>murder</b> 159:9,16,17	<b>national</b> 18:5 21:23 22:22 24:13 25:13 26:2 50:20 60:16 72:3 159:3 196:6	<b>negotiation</b> 25:7 <b>neighbor</b> 35:11 197:12	<b>night</b> 14:24 144:25 148:19 <b>nightmare</b> 55:18	<b>notices</b> 2:3 <b>notwithstand ing</b> 25:12 108:22
<b>murdered</b> 178:18,25	<b>nationally</b> 124:25	<b>neighborhoods</b> 145:24 165:11	<b>no's</b> 10:6 12:4 <b>noes</b> 118:5 157:5	<b>November</b> 89:21 121:19 122:20 143:21 148:11 155:22
<b>murderous</b> 147:3		<b>neighbors</b> 37:23 63:15 107:20	<b>noise</b> 81:15,18,23, 25 85:10	<b>nullifying</b> 128:2
<b>murders</b> 180:4		<b>nest</b> 86:13	<b>nonetheless</b>	
<b>music</b> 3:24,25 4:9 8:13				
<b>mute</b> 6:4				
<b>mutual</b> 73:21 193:14				
<b>mystery</b> 177:1				

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

<b>number</b> 50:22 58:17 59:8,13 90:10 110:10 152:23 160:18 161:25 194:17	<b>objectives</b> 101:20 <b>obliterate</b> 77:21 <b>obliterating</b> 79:2 <b>observe</b> 193:2 195:6	<b>officials</b> 18:7,19,20 23:8 116:25 121:23 122:8,12 124:25 171:7,8 <b>oftentimes</b> 94:11	<b>operate</b> 4:6 <b>operating</b> 91:25 <b>Operation</b> 94:18 <b>opinion</b> 24:25	85:25 100:20 104:6 115:19 129:1 139:12 140:19
<b>numbers</b> 55:19,22,23 163:17	<b>obsessing</b> 176:25 <b>obvious</b> 146:15 <b>occurred</b> 25:16 <b>occurring</b> 149:13	<b>Ohio</b> 56:23 146:21 <b>oil</b> 44:16 <b>older</b> 192:18	<b>opinions</b> 29:22,25 <b>opponents</b> 18:3 129:18 <b>opportunities</b> 193:24	<b>oppressed</b> 4:19 <b>oppression</b> 38:12 <b>orange</b> 19:4 <b>order</b> 4:8 6:7,13, 23 7:12 9:2, 10 10:12 12:25 13:6, 9,24,25 14:11 15:17, 20,22 28:3 44:18,19 47:3 48:11 53:8 76:4 106:24 108:19 115:24 131:13,14 132:12,19 133:18 159:12 161:10 172:25 177:22,23 178:3 182:8, 11,17,18,20, 22 183:4 184:11,14, 18 186:8,13 188:15,21, 25 189:2,10
<b>numerous</b> 157:24 <b>Nvidia</b> 17:21	<b>occurs</b> 26:4 46:20 <b>odds</b> 36:20 <b>offense</b> 71:8 72:18 <b>offer</b> 3:11 70:25 71:4 <b>office</b> 23:6,24 29:19,20,24 48:7 53:14 93:22 134:5 172:9 <b>offices</b> 134:6 <b>official</b> 5:12 18:24 122:11 196:12	<b>oligarchs</b> 61:18 62:7, 9,11 <b>online</b> 4:8 <b>open</b> 7:19 8:14 9:25 11:5,23 12:12 46:15, 21 87:21 98:7 109:5 115:9,21 117:25 119:17 121:2 135:11 156:4,25 164:3 177:3 181:25 182:1,2 187:10 <b>openly</b> 46:25 106:12	<b>opportunity</b> 37:11 41:7, 22 62:5 67:20 76:25 94:10 97:24 109:14 121:21 124:4 125:2 135:8 170:25 <b>oppose</b> 138:21 150:25 <b>opposed</b> 54:15 138:23,24 <b>opposing</b> 64:19 <b>opposite</b> 83:25 134:19 <b>opposition</b> 18:15 21:18 29:7 77:10	
<b>O</b> <b>Oakland</b> 41:4 109:22 111:3,6,8, 12,22 <b>oath</b> 45:20 <b>Obama</b> 129:20 130:17 <b>obedience</b> 5:22 132:22 <b>objection</b> 35:5,6 44:25 55:2 74:25 88:6 109:11 156:10 169:8 187:17 188:14,20 189:1,9 <b>objections</b> 81:24				

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

<b>orderly</b> 5:12	139:23 140:14	<b>Pacific</b> 195:22	<b>pardon</b> 85:14 186:6	<b>partisan</b> 7:5 25:3
<b>orders</b> 43:18 130:5	<b>outrageous</b> 15:4 30:6	<b>paid</b> 62:11 127:24 167:18	<b>parent</b> 65:11,13	27:15,25 28:8 33:8 47:1 73:22
<b>Oregon</b> 141:14 193:12	<b>outright</b> 36:12		<b>Parenthood</b> 42:19	74:4 81:20 84:1 85:10 91:19 97:22
<b>organ</b> 192:10	<b>outstanding</b> 196:11	<b>pain</b> 72:14	<b>parents</b> 93:11 144:23 145:12 170:12	98:3,8 100:6 101:12,16, 20 103:4,14 106:23 117:9
<b>organization</b> <b>s</b> 93:3	<b>overly</b> 71:12	<b>painfully</b> 37:3	<b>park</b> 70:10 121:25	136:14,25 158:4 161:24 166:18 171:25 173:6 183:17
<b>organize</b> 124:17	<b>overreach</b> 130:6 132:2, 8	<b>pales</b> 123:10	<b>parks</b> 70:23	
<b>original</b> 141:23	<b>override</b> 73:25	<b>Palmdale</b> 75:4 147:9 153:10	<b>parliamentar</b> <b>y</b> 9:11 13:13 180:14 186:20	<b>partisanship</b> 80:11,12
<b>Oroville</b> 43:2	<b>overturn</b> 106:19 126:7 161:5	<b>Palo</b> 91:24		<b>partnership</b> 183:10,13
<b>Ortega</b> 2:17 156:24	<b>overwhelmin</b> <b>gly</b> 20:11	<b>palsy</b> 93:23	<b>part</b> 5:21 59:6 70:1 164:21 168:1,3	<b>party</b> 7:2 25:21 29:14 36:3 38:11 42:2 56:7 72:25 74:9 77:25 97:18 100:9, 13 103:2 104:13,14 107:9 114:8 127:8 136:17 139:2 143:6, 8,10 150:14 161:25 163:1 173:11 174:1 175:1, 4,14
<b>Oshta</b> 3:11,12,13	<b>owe</b> 66:15	<b>Pam</b> 51:3		
<b>outcome</b> 47:12 164:2	<b>owed</b> 15:1	<b>pandemic</b> 122:18 155:11	<b>part</b> 5:21 59:6 70:1 164:21 168:1,3	
<b>outcomes</b> 68:6	<b>owned</b> 132:5	<b>pandering</b> 64:25	<b>parte</b> 46:17	
<b>outdoes</b> 111:16	<b>owner</b> 3:23 4:3 109:23 134:20	<b>paper</b> 168:20	<b>partially</b> 72:13	
<b>outlandish</b> 129:17		<b>Papers</b> 58:11,16 59:8	<b>participate</b> 18:22 73:19 168:15	
<b>outlets</b> 62:11	<b>P</b>	<b>Pappin</b> 2:18	<b>participation</b> 165:25	
<b>outlook</b> 4:11	<b>p.m.</b> 198:14	<b>paramount</b> 47:12 70:11	<b>parties</b> 15:21,25 16:3 34:22 71:5 102:21 175:4	
<b>outrage</b> 27:24,25 62:10,12	<b>Pacheco</b> 2:17	<b>paraphrase</b> 89:17		



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

<b>party's</b> 25:6 74:9 151:3	<b>passionately</b> 197:17	145:7	34:23 36:25	25 131:2,19
<b>Pasqual</b> 162:12	<b>past</b> 95:15 104:7 108:17 153:16	<b>paying</b> 123:14 124:11 167:16	39:6,10,12, 14 40:15 41:4,12 42:3,21 43:20 44:19 47:17 49:5 52:15 53:13 54:24 55:13, 24 56:15,16, 19 57:3,9,17 59:15 60:2 63:9 64:1 65:20 66:10, 21,24 67:3, 7,12,13,14 68:2,3 69:19,20 70:5,8 71:23 73:5 74:14, 19,25 75:25 76:19,22,25 77:1 78:21 80:1 81:2,5, 6,11,21 82:6,7,8 84:15 87:3,4 88:3 89:5 92:13 93:7 95:9,23 96:25 102:12,22 107:21 108:12 109:2 111:2 112:9 113:21 114:8,18 116:16 117:4 123:12 124:1,8,9,24 128:8,10,12 130:3,10,11,	135:16,25 136:22 138:16,25 141:1,21 142:2,8 143:3 144:1, 10,14 145:9, 19,23,25 146:6 147:11,12, 22 148:2,9, 10,11 150:11 151:20 152:14,17, 18,22 153:2 154:15,25 155:1,10,14, 21 158:19 160:5 162:22 163:1 164:1 165:8 168:14 169:1,2,25 170:7,16 172:16 174:18 175:3,4,12 176:24 178:13,25 179:13,18 180:4 196:13
<b>pass</b> 16:18 96:21 118:24 130:23 135:23 149:12 150:15,16 153:24 154:2 187:1 190:6,7,9	<b>Patel</b> 2:18	<b>payment</b> 99:21		
<b>passed</b> 3:20 13:17 14:25 23:21 42:18 57:3 77:20 78:3 104:23 118:23 124:21 151:1 153:23 188:25 194:13 197:6	<b>path</b> 27:1 60:25 103:8	<b>peacefully</b> 60:25 197:7		
<b>passes</b> 103:21 109:10 156:10	<b>patience</b> 7:11 191:12	<b>pearl</b> 88:25		
<b>passing</b> 4:11 154:23, 24 166:25 197:2,3	<b>patriotism</b> 31:4 38:12	<b>Pearson</b> 8:8		
<b>passion</b> 112:16 186:25 192:3	<b>pattern</b> 27:18	<b>Pelleran</b> 156:3		
	<b>Patterson</b> 2:18 15:16, 18,22 71:2,3 74:22 148:14,16 151:13 170:24,25 172:4 198:11	<b>Pellerin</b> 2:18 112:25 116:1 125:8 154:7,8		
	<b>Paul</b> 164:13 171:16	<b>pen</b> 39:13 154:13 176:25		
	<b>paved</b> 24:2	<b>pending</b> 10:11		
	<b>pawns</b> 143:19	<b>pennies</b> 124:10		
	<b>pay</b> 42:12 50:10 85:18 95:21 99:19 123:18 143:16	<b>penny</b> 99:16		
		<b>people</b> 4:19 17:6 19:13,22 20:22,23,25 21:6 22:6 24:7 26:20 27:3 28:9,21 29:1 30:1, 16,17,19,20 31:6,7 32:19		<b>people's</b> 28:17 34:18 41:22 96:7 139:10 174:1 197:16
				<b>percentages</b> 163:15

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

<b>perfect</b> 35:17,18	29:9 86:17 192:11	165:13	<b>planning</b> 157:19	11,13 12:23, 24,25 13:12, 24,25 14:10 15:17,20,22 19:17 22:9 28:6 35:25 48:10,15 61:20 75:13 76:10,23 108:16,19, 25 131:25 132:10,11, 19 133:18, 23 152:13 153:3,16 159:12 160:5 161:10,15 165:7 172:18 177:21,23 178:3,4 180:10,14, 15 182:8,10, 11,14,16,18, 20,22,25 183:3 184:11,12, 14,18,20,21 186:8,13,14, 15
<b>perform</b> 134:22,24	<b>personalities</b> 5:25	<b>pill</b> 161:3	<b>plans</b> 175:9	<b>pointed</b> 33:25
<b>performance</b> 101:19	<b>personality</b> 192:6	<b>Pillorin</b> 121:14,15	<b>plant</b> 92:7 129:22	<b>pointless</b> 147:24
<b>peril</b> 129:12 130:16	<b>personally</b> 22:25 51:5	<b>Piper</b> 71:11	<b>platform</b> 150:13	<b>points</b> 13:9 38:21 103:3 149:10 176:19
<b>period</b> 94:17 120:16 177:20	<b>persons</b> 5:9,13 155:5	<b>pissed</b> 79:1	<b>platitudes</b> 163:15	<b>poison</b> 161:3
<b>permanent</b> 128:7	<b>perspective</b> 20:7 60:16, 17,18	<b>pivotal</b> 67:9	<b>play</b> 4:10 36:21, 24 37:11 39:19 61:10 65:23 143:20	
<b>permission</b> 35:4 58:3 74:25 125:10 191:3	<b>pertains</b> 6:14	<b>placate</b> 25:5	<b>playbook</b> 38:4 106:7, 25	
<b>permits</b> 6:16	<b>Pete</b> 195:25	<b>place</b> 13:15,20 62:25 78:25 116:23 126:4 171:4 176:25 180:4 189:12 191:1 194:7	<b>players</b> 36:22,25	
<b>perpetuating</b> 49:12	<b>petitions</b> 187:25	<b>Places</b> 174:2	<b>playing</b> 25:25 36:25 64:14 65:14 91:19 96:23 137:18	
<b>persecute</b> 35:13	<b>Petri</b> 2:18	<b>plain</b> 97:10	<b>pledge</b> 5:1,4 82:14	
<b>perseverance</b> 195:16	<b>philanthropist</b> 109:24	<b>plainly</b> 165:14	<b>plenty</b> 99:8	
<b>persist</b> 35:25	<b>phone</b> 53:5 124:16	<b>plan</b> 14:25 27:5,7 33:25 78:6, 13,18 82:5 101:18 141:25	<b>pockets</b> 38:25	
<b>person</b> 15:24 55:4 96:24 166:6 172:15 194:21 196:23	<b>pick</b> 124:16	<b>planet</b> 31:10 66:11	<b>podcast</b> 164:14 171:14	
<b>personal</b>	<b>picked</b> 63:2,17	<b>Planned</b> 42:19	<b>point</b> 6:6,13,23 7:12 9:2,9,	
	<b>Picking</b> 52:15			
	<b>piece</b> 24:5 153:25			
	<b>pieces</b> 6:9 141:7 143:12			



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

<b>polarization</b> 129:19 130:20,21	195:24	<b>pontificating</b> 44:18	<b>Posta</b> 162:13	148:12 159:20 177:8,17
<b>policies</b> 18:13 41:10, 13,20 56:25 65:19,23 79:14 122:4 123:25 124:5,12 130:5	<b>politically</b> 100:10	<b>poor</b> 78:20 82:6 95:22,23	<b>potential</b> 74:2 194:22	<b>powerful</b> 20:7 35:20 60:7 117:4 175:7
<b>policy</b> 5:20 34:2 39:5 40:12 57:12 99:10 143:17 170:3,14,21 196:15	<b>politician</b> 142:6	<b>poorest</b> 141:17 147:21	<b>potentially</b> 90:25	<b>powerless</b> 34:24
<b>polio</b> 193:16	<b>politicians</b> 15:11 16:9 19:5 22:6 28:10 38:1 44:23 45:7 46:12 77:19 78:13 79:2,8 86:16 102:23,24 103:6,9,11, 23 116:16, 17 117:5 126:12 138:25 139:2,7,9 141:21 144:2 145:4, 18 146:7 158:20 161:3 166:17 175:7	<b>populace</b> 25:17	<b>pound</b> 101:3,4,6	<b>powers</b> 16:16 62:3
<b>polite</b> 40:16	<b>politics</b> 22:13 84:10 91:19 98:4 113:21 114:6 137:18 145:17	<b>popular</b> 65:20	<b>pounding</b> 101:8	<b>practical</b> 55:4
<b>political</b> 7:1,2 15:25 16:3 18:3 20:16 22:24 23:7 24:10, 23 25:5,21 26:3 38:21 44:25 46:23 60:13 71:5 77:24 93:1 98:17 99:7 101:19 102:21,25 108:8 117:2 125:19,21 135:15 141:20 143:19,25 164:23,25 166:15	<b>poll</b> 87:5 138:14	<b>population</b> 55:25 56:8, 14 66:11 86:10 174:13,14	<b>power</b> 15:7 18:17 25:14 26:20 27:6,7,8,13, 17 32:4 33:6,7 34:9, 11,12 36:14 38:1 39:21 44:20 45:16 53:23 57:11 58:22 60:20, 25 61:5,13, 16,19 64:9 71:15 72:10 79:6 81:12 84:1,9 86:9 90:3 91:7 102:7,22 103:22 104:8 106:9, 11,17 108:10,11 114:8 116:15 126:8,10 127:4 128:5, 7 130:7 131:19 138:25 142:22 146:5,19,20 147:5,15	<b>practice</b> 98:11 <b>pragmatic</b> 25:8 55:4 <b>pray</b> 35:13 38:16 <b>prayer</b> 3:10,11 75:19 <b>prayers</b> 155:17 <b>pre</b> 148:21 <b>preceded</b> 194:14 <b>precious</b> 126:21 <b>precisely</b> 166:6 <b>predicated</b> 25:24 <b>predicted</b> 150:17 <b>prediction</b>
	<b>polling</b> 127:23	<b>portal</b> 85:25 169:4		
	<b>polls</b> 20:11 37:24 103:23	<b>portion</b> 13:5 14:8 50:14 54:25 <b>Portland</b> 193:12 <b>portrait</b> 75:24 76:3 <b>position</b> 20:18 36:9 66:1 <b>positioning</b> 25:5 <b>possess</b> 45:24 <b>possibility</b> 18:11 <b>post</b> 190:12		

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

150:12	<b>presenters</b> 171:22,24	<b>president's</b> 28:3 82:5	<b>price</b> 124:11 143:16	<b>prioritizing</b> 93:8
<b>preference</b> 42:2	<b>presenting</b> 116:12	<b>presidential</b> 122:17 125:13	<b>prices</b> 99:6 107:25 123:13 148:1,3	<b>priority</b> 99:2
<b>preferences</b> 22:7	<b>preservation</b> 59:23	<b>presidents</b> 76:2	<b>pride</b> 37:1 95:9 195:20	<b>Prison</b> 92:11
<b>preferred</b> 102:25	<b>preserve</b> 125:1 131:14	<b>press</b> 26:2 89:7 171:6,12 172:9	<b>primary</b> 25:6	<b>privilege</b> 20:6 167:15
<b>prejudice</b> 193:23	<b>preserves</b> 103:16	<b>pressed</b> 24:12	<b>principal</b> 23:6	<b>prizes</b> 148:4
<b>premium</b> 78:22	<b>presidency</b> 41:25	<b>pressing</b> 37:6,10	<b>principle</b> 34:15 37:1 104:1 131:11,16	<b>pro</b> 110:4 175:8
<b>premiums</b> 78:22	<b>president</b> 14:21 18:1, 12,20 26:25 27:11,16 28:19 30:6 33:13 37:8 41:8 52:13, 15,20 65:19 69:1 71:8 75:12 80:15 81:16 89:4, 7,11,13 90:3,8 96:19 106:6,24 107:5,16 124:17,23 125:16 130:1,13 131:23 133:4 140:6, 7 149:24 150:3 158:23 159:3 163:4 185:13 186:25 196:17,18	<b>pressure</b> 117:2 149:24	<b>principled</b> 97:10	<b>problem</b> 18:18 33:12 58:5 69:25 99:9,24 100:22 120:10 126:20 130:19,22 131:22 145:17 175:12
<b>prepare</b> 2:4 181:14		<b>pressuring</b> 41:17	<b>principles</b> 86:10,21 97:19 100:9 112:4 155:17 174:8	<b>problems</b> 25:9 47:22, 25 55:5 94:4 135:15 150:5 151:22 152:8,9
<b>prepared</b> 164:19 186:10		<b>pretend</b> 131:7	<b>print</b> 10:10 131:6	
<b>preparedness</b> 107:18		<b>pretty</b> 128:22 132:16 149:3 174:17	<b>printed</b> 198:3,4	
<b>preparing</b> 47:9		<b>prevent</b> 159:19 166:2 187:2	<b>prior</b> 191:3	<b>procedural</b> 10:15 115:9 117:25 119:15 121:1 156:13 188:8,9
<b>present</b> 2:24 14:16 94:10 115:8 117:24 119:17 121:2,17 181:25		<b>prevented</b> 49:18	<b>priorities</b> 133:15 135:8 141:12 165:2	<b>procedure</b> 186:21
<b>presentation</b> 187:25		<b>prevention</b> 145:14	<b>prioritize</b> 114:8 137:3	
<b>presented</b> 112:25 121:24		<b>previous</b> 187:20,24		
<b>presenter</b> 172:1		<b>previously</b> 108:25		

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

<b>proceeding</b> 183:1	<b>profoundly</b> 22:24	159:4	<b>protected</b> 43:13 167:14	<b>prove</b> 12:22 120:17
<b>proceedings</b> 5:11,14	<b>programs</b> 92:13 137:14,15	<b>proposals</b> 46:19	<b>protecting</b> 31:5,9 64:8, 9,11 70:18 84:3 88:25 89:15,17 98:5 142:3 177:18	<b>proved</b> 159:21
<b>process</b> 21:25 40:22 46:1,12 47:8,10 59:6 68:24 69:4,6 83:17 85:23 87:20 97:11 107:23 114:13,24 138:19 140:22 151:25 155:14 161:14 164:3 166:10,11, 16 169:13 176:22 177:2,25 184:25 185:1 187:3	<b>prohibit</b> 28:4	<b>propose</b> 16:19	<b>protections</b> 73:25	<b>proven</b> 36:11 122:15
	<b>prohibits</b> 5:9 6:21	<b>proposed</b> 34:25 113:7, 18	<b>protective</b> 44:9	<b>provide</b> 43:8 58:24, 25 155:8
	<b>project</b> 41:11 52:25 135:18	<b>proposing</b> 118:19 119:6	<b>protector</b> 59:13	<b>Providence</b> 72:1,5
	<b>projection</b> 56:9	<b>Proposition</b> 150:18,25	<b>protects</b> 38:22	<b>provision</b> 118:16 123:3
	<b>promise</b> 40:12,13	<b>props</b> 58:4 125:11, 12 159:15	<b>Protein</b> 187:23	<b>provisions</b> 42:18 108:22 127:13
	<b>promises</b> 146:1	<b>prosecutors</b> 127:5	<b>proud</b> 18:6 30:2 41:5 52:1,10 53:19 69:3 77:9 83:12 89:25 102:11 103:7 106:4, 5 108:5 109:22 127:25 149:22 151:16,25 152:21,23 187:6	<b>proxy</b> 151:20
	<b>promising</b> 168:8	<b>prosperity</b> 70:2	<b>psychologist</b> 23:4	
	<b>prop</b> 57:14 58:3 86:6 98:24 125:11,18 127:4,7 128:11 150:23	<b>prostitution</b> 196:8	<b>public</b> 5:20 22:4 23:6,7 42:7 50:23 74:15 84:3 85:21, 24 87:21 90:10 92:5 97:25 114:3 116:19 117:7 120:15 122:14 131:3 141:25 147:23 151:11	
<b>processed</b> 148:25		<b>Protam</b> 106:3		
<b>proclaims</b> 71:22		<b>protect</b> 28:13 47:19 56:4 57:16 67:17 68:15 70:12 78:6, 14 82:4 84:13,20 89:2 90:14 102:25 113:25 117:11,14 137:2 145:4 146:6 165:19 177:15		
<b>Productions</b> 110:16	<b>proper</b> 122:22		<b>proudest</b> 102:9	
<b>profane</b> 6:2	<b>properly</b> 7:16 58:24 100:14		<b>proudly</b> 26:6 69:9 74:1 108:13	
<b>professional</b> 122:13	<b>property</b> 166:16			
<b>profiled</b> 63:16 69:21	<b>proposal</b> 22:10 74:11 83:22 86:19 103:25			
<b>profit</b> 110:9				

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

158:18	<b>pursuant</b>	145:18	182:16	63:16 69:21
183:23	7:16 10:7	<b>putting</b>	<b>quickly</b>	<b>racing</b>
184:4,6	189:4	113:21	3:19 111:7	83:23
196:1,10,22, 24 197:13	<b>pursuing</b>	123:19	123:5	<b>racism</b>
<b>publicly</b>	191:19	139:9	195:19	38:11
113:8,18,23	<b>purview</b>	147:22	<b>quiet</b>	<b>racist</b>
<b>Pueda</b>	151:19	<hr/>	18:4	38:1 40:10
40:25	<b>push</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>quietly</b>	94:16
<b>pulled</b>	81:4 114:5	<b>quadriplegic</b>	3:18 39:22	<b>raging</b>
137:24	175:21	193:19	<b>Quinn</b>	91:12
<b>pulling</b>	<b>pushed</b>	<b>quality</b>	2:17	<b>Raiders</b>
90:12 138:1, 4	28:1 81:21	56:20,21	<b>Quirk</b>	111:10
<b>punch</b>	93:16	<b>quarter</b>	2:19	<b>raids</b>
73:16	<b>pushing</b>	125:15	<b>Quit</b>	39:8 83:17
<b>punching</b>	33:24 64:4	<b>Quercilvo</b>	153:2	107:20
50:3	175:18	188:18	<b>quixotic</b>	147:24
<b>punish</b>	<b>put</b>	<b>question</b>	24:12	<b>rain</b>
127:6	5:3 13:19	60:19 76:21	<b>quorum</b>	35:16
<b>punished</b>	36:25 42:23	85:7 87:5,8, 18 88:5,9	2:4,24 5:16	<b>rainy</b>
83:19	49:3 50:20	98:5 138:18	189:12	100:4
<b>punishing</b>	58:13 60:15, 16,17 62:12	153:20	191:1	<b>raise</b>
137:17,19	65:25 68:6	160:14,15, 16 164:6	198:13	68:19 75:5
<b>punishment</b>	86:1 96:8, 16,25	167:17,19	<b>quote</b>	90:6,20
39:5	107:21	168:10,11, 24 169:7	6:25 23:22	105:25
<b>purple</b>	109:1	171:1,10,11	55:16 71:7	148:1
87:6	118:25	181:4,7,13	89:17	152:19
<b>purportedly</b>	119:8	<b>questioning</b>	101:16	178:10
45:22	128:12	60:12 61:7	142:11	182:17
<b>purpose</b>	145:1,5	<b>questions</b>	<b>quoted</b>	<b>raised</b>
6:25 106:12	150:7	138:14	129:2	7:15 81:2
116:14	155:12	142:7	137:10	103:3
156:18	167:24	164:10	<b>quotes</b>	183:11
<b>purposeful</b>	168:20	167:21	142:9	<b>raises</b>
195:2	171:23	171:9	<hr/>	85:18
<b>purposes</b>	<b>Putin</b>	183:11	<b>R</b>	<b>raising</b>
10:20	18:2	<b>quick</b>	<b>race</b>	197:1
	<b>puts</b>	109:15	103:25	<b>ram</b>
	22:15 39:2		<b>racially</b>	15:11

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

<b>Ramos</b> 2:19 178:6,7 180:6	<b>reactive</b> 21:21	93:13	192:13 194:4	83:10 84:24 85:5 88:14 89:24 90:22 94:8 97:7 100:25 102:16 104:3 106:1 110:25 111:7 113:3, 4,15 115:3, 17,22 116:5, 10 117:19 118:8,12 119:10 120:2,21 121:14 125:9 128:25 132:25 137:6 138:12 139:15 140:17 144:7 146:10 148:15 151:14 153:7 156:12,20 157:12 159:8 163:8 167:7 169:19 170:24 172:5,12 176:2,6,17 178:6 180:7, 12 184:11, 14 186:8 188:9 189:25 191:7,12 193:5 195:9 196:9
<b>ramp</b> 16:9	<b>read</b> 8:11 14:11 35:4 48:13, 19 54:25 74:25 113:10,12 116:6 118:9 119:25 121:10 132:20 136:13,14 157:8 172:25 188:2,24 189:15,23 190:17 198:4	<b>realize</b> 57:2,9 136:15 194:21	<b>recent</b> 3:14 133:10	
<b>rampartisan</b> 83:24		<b>realizing</b> 18:12	<b>recently</b> 20:15 78:1	
<b>ran</b> 23:5 93:22, 24		<b>realtor</b> 134:21	<b>recess</b> 3:4,6 150:6 181:20,24	
<b>Randy</b> 194:15		<b>rear</b> 3:9 188:19	<b>recessed</b> 181:23	
<b>ranges</b> 141:12		<b>reason</b> 63:7 78:17 80:14 100:15 160:17	<b>reckless</b> 93:15 100:2	
<b>Ransom</b> 2:19 12:24, 25 80:22,23 83:9		<b>reasonable</b> 115:1 119:6	<b>recklessness</b> 135:25	
<b>rarely</b> 134:7	<b>reading</b> 99:9 112:24 187:19,24 188:25 189:15 190:7,8	<b>reasons</b> 56:19 160:14 167:2	<b>recognize</b> 8:4,25 109:16,20 113:11 128:23 182:21	
<b>rate</b> 92:9 133:12		<b>Reavis</b> 106:1,2	<b>recognized</b> 2:25 8:1,19, 20 9:20 10:14,23 11:1,14 12:5,19 13:11 14:14 19:11 20:4 21:16 22:19 26:12 29:5 30:23 32:15 36:6 37:16 41:1 43:22 44:13 48:16 51:10 54:10 58:1 60:5 63:4 65:3 67:23 71:2 74:23 77:6 80:7,22	
<b>rates</b> 99:4,20 134:1	<b>ready</b> 5:4 107:3 198:9	<b>Rebus</b> 14:13		
<b>ration</b> 98:25	<b>real</b> 28:22 46:20 47:25 55:3, 16 58:9,10, 12 66:10 91:23 92:19 97:24 100:21 105:6 135:9, 15 141:8 145:5 152:6 175:14	<b>rebut</b> 67:1,2		
<b>raw</b> 163:17		<b>recall</b> 105:2 125:25 126:1,19		
<b>reach</b> 42:14,15,23		<b>recalls</b> 122:18		
<b>reaching</b> 25:8		<b>received</b> 23:14 53:5 85:22 86:3 156:14		
<b>react</b> 68:25				
<b>reaction</b> 129:7	<b>reality</b> 37:7,23			

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

<b>recommend</b> 139:11	100:16 101:25	22 13:8 55:18	<b>regret</b> 31:23	<b>remaining</b> 190:18
<b>recommenda tion</b> 59:18	102:2,20 103:11,19 104:16 114:7	108:24 156:17 157:6 188:1	<b>regrets</b> 153:1	<b>remains</b> 116:24 163:16 179:8 191:1
<b>record</b> 86:1 151:11 177:25 178:4 182:23,24 185:15,19 186:11 198:14	116:14,22 117:2 118:17,23 121:25 127:25 128:1 136:11,20, 25 138:19, 25 141:6 145:3 149:20,25 157:10,17, 19 158:9,14, 17,25 161:5 163:25 166:5,14 183:16,18 185:2,4 187:3	<b>referenced</b> 51:25 <b>referred</b> 189:3 <b>reflect</b> 21:4 22:6 51:15 <b>reflection</b> 3:14 <b>reform</b> 24:13,18 38:25 <b>refrain</b> 35:2 159:15 <b>refrained</b> 128:24 <b>refuse</b> 43:25 52:3 <b>refused</b> 24:17 27:14 127:8 160:17 <b>refusing</b> 27:18 <b>regard</b> 12:8 <b>regional</b> 196:15 <b>registered</b> 155:23 <b>registration</b> 17:2 136:15	<b>regulate</b> 19:16 <b>rehabilitating</b> 92:13 <b>reintroduced</b> 23:15,19 <b>reject</b> 103:25 146:4,5 <b>rejecting</b> 136:5 <b>related</b> 56:20 <b>relates</b> 5:19 <b>relationship</b> 163:13,23 <b>relative</b> 8:13 <b>relentless</b> 142:16 <b>relief</b> 83:14 90:9 142:19 147:18 <b>religious</b> 71:12 <b>rely</b> 42:25 137:16 <b>remain</b> 4:25 86:23 135:11 166:19	<b>remarkable</b> 75:21 196:3 <b>remarks</b> 77:8 153:10 169:22 172:25 173:3 <b>remedies</b> 5:15 <b>remember</b> 28:15 29:18 40:6 51:21 62:20 129:14 149:14 150:11 184:7 195:12 197:11 <b>remembered</b> 191:15 <b>remind</b> 42:4 54:17 55:21 63:1 85:19 86:4 97:25 132:20 <b>reminded</b> 28:20 42:25 94:14 95:1, 16 <b>reminds</b> 3:25 197:13
<b>recorded</b> 165:1				
<b>red</b> 41:18 134:13 147:3				
<b>redistrict</b> 114:9 151:25				
<b>redistricting</b> 6:17,22 12:7 14:13 16:17, 22 21:25 22:1,22 23:2,10,13, 16,21 24:3,9 26:4,23 27:5 32:20 33:25 34:7 37:20 39:17 44:15, 21 45:13,19 46:8,11,13 47:5 49:22 83:22 84:1,6 85:20 87:10, 12,20 95:8 96:2,14,21 97:15	<b>redraw</b> 14:22 77:17 79:6 116:18 147:13 <b>reduce</b> 145:11 <b>reduces</b> 99:12 <b>reducing</b> 158:15 <b>reevaluate</b> 135:8 <b>refer</b> 11:17 <b>reference</b> 10:19 12:10,			



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

<b>remote</b> 141:18	155:1 163:20 174:16,19	<b>representing</b> 69:11 110:12	15 79:10,16, 24 86:15 87:16,23 95:7 102:19 105:22 106:21 107:1 138:23 139:6 140:4 149:9,11,18, 24 150:2 157:20 158:4 159:4 163:20 177:5,13 185:11,14	<b>requirements</b> 158:12 183:20
<b>removal</b> 5:14	<b>representation</b> 26:5,21 34:7,15,17, 18 49:7,8 53:14 57:21 95:20,24 96:24 97:17 114:5,21 131:15 163:22 173:21,25 174:2,7 178:17	<b>represents</b> 21:20 34:23 45:4 158:8		<b>requires</b> 156:5,25 187:12
<b>remove</b> 8:9 168:17, 25		<b>reprimanded</b> 179:24		<b>requiring</b> 113:23
<b>removed</b> 7:6 8:8 165:21		<b>reproductive</b> 31:10 42:21 186:2		<b>rescind</b> 188:23
<b>renaissance</b> 110:1		<b>republic</b> 5:6 36:1 76:7		<b>rescinding</b> 189:2
<b>rendering</b> 6:12		<b>Republican</b> 15:11 16:8 17:7 18:18, 23 19:5 42:18 49:19, 24 64:13 68:1 70:13 77:16,18 78:2,13 79:2,4,7 83:24 101:19 104:12 107:8 124:14,23, 25 149:21 151:8 158:20 163:21 185:5 187:1	<b>reque</b> 26:25 <b>request</b> 8:7,21 10:17 11:17 15:4 20:2 24:12 40:16 67:21 90:11 102:14 105:25 156:15 188:10,16, 22 189:5 190:1	<b>research</b> 137:23,25 <b>reservations</b> 162:8 <b>reservoirs</b> 92:19 <b>residents</b> 92:2 141:15 152:7 165:19 <b>resilience</b> 196:23 <b>resist</b> 21:13 35:8 96:11
<b>rent</b> 99:17 144:20,25	<b>representative</b> 88:18 101:13,14 141:16 163:21 166:13 174:20 175:13			<b>resolution</b> 8:12 149:19 190:18,24, 25 <b>resolutions</b> 13:5,14,18, 22,24 14:1 149:12,15 154:24 186:15 188:5
<b>repeat</b> 33:22 51:17 121:22	<b>representatives</b> 28:11 34:24 55:17 57:1 59:21 106:24 117:10 124:15 130:10 141:22 144:2 162:18	<b>republicans</b> 14:21 35:21 39:14 40:19 49:4 63:8,12 64:10 68:9 72:17,20 77:20 78:1,	<b>requested</b> 9:24 91:25 <b>requesting</b> 168:23,24 <b>requests</b> 198:3 <b>require</b> 5:18 16:20 113:7,17 <b>required</b> 24:8 149:3	
<b>repeatedly</b> 66:25				
<b>repeating</b> 63:24				
<b>reported</b> 164:13 175:6,8,11				
<b>Reporters</b> 177:5				
<b>Reports</b> 188:1				
<b>represent</b> 26:20 69:8, 9,20 70:9 79:21 81:11 95:23 135:13 143:3,6	<b>represented</b> 43:14 57:10 96:7 175:3			

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

<b>resolve</b> 106:13	<b>responded</b> 63:13 88:4	<b>resulted</b> 56:1 73:3 154:18	<b>review</b> 58:10 114:1, 14,25 130:25 131:3 183:19	<b>rigging</b> 15:6 33:7 45:7 93:1 146:5 177:14
<b>resonate</b> 194:23	<b>responders</b> 85:19	<b>results</b> 25:2 27:19 33:8 87:8 143:22 196:4	<b>reviewed</b> 22:4	<b>righteous</b> 32:18 76:10
<b>resources</b> 95:21,25 96:3,25 98:15 122:21 142:19	<b>responding</b> 19:24 31:2	<b>retain</b> 190:6,7,9	<b>reviewing</b> 6:8	<b>rights</b> 53:4,8,9 54:24 71:24 72:6 74:20 77:13 79:22 86:11 90:14 123:25 162:21 174:2 186:2 193:10,24
<b>respect</b> 16:14 19:25 21:7 85:15 94:24 95:2 128:10,12 185:2	<b>responsibiliti es</b> 4:12	<b>Retains</b> 127:24,25	<b>revis</b> 8:23 10:19 53:19	<b>Rincon</b> 162:11
<b>respected</b> 20:14 183:25	<b>responsibilit y</b> 42:4 48:25 58:24 88:22 130:22 134:20 139:4 152:6	<b>retiring</b> 110:6	<b>revisit</b> 17:1	<b>rip</b> 139:25 140:1 177:2
<b>respectful</b> 5:25 132:25 172:20 191:2	<b>responsible</b> 72:13 164:4	<b>retroactively</b> 128:18	<b>rewrite</b> 41:15	<b>ripped</b> 38:24 155:12
<b>respectfully</b> 11:17 20:1 26:9 32:12 40:25 44:10 51:8 54:15 60:3 62:23 67:21 80:20 83:6 97:5 114:25 117:13 125:6 167:3 170:22 172:3 195:3	<b>rest</b> 37:11 66:6	<b>return</b> 17:14 27:8 103:22 116:16 189:7	<b>rheumatic</b> 31:15	<b>ripping</b> 107:11
	<b>Restaurant</b> 110:15	<b>returned</b> 76:22	<b>richer</b> 108:1	<b>rise</b> 14:16 21:18 28:7 29:6 30:25 35:15 36:8 37:18 41:3 43:16 48:18 58:5 63:6 65:5 77:12 79:19 80:8,24 83:12 89:25 90:24 94:3 97:4 109:20 115:19
	<b>restaurants</b> 70:24	<b>returning</b> 27:8 95:21, 25 96:25	<b>rid</b> 152:1	
	<b>restore</b> 97:16	<b>returns</b> 16:15	<b>riders</b> 194:9	
	<b>restoring</b> 23:7	<b>reuniting</b> 158:15	<b>rig</b> 14:24,25 18:15 27:2 38:9 40:21 63:10 77:17 79:10 83:2 106:8 107:8 157:22 158:24 185:14 186:25	
	<b>restricted</b> 100:21	<b>reveal</b> 46:24	<b>rigged</b> 39:19 144:11	
	<b>rests</b> 67:3	<b>revenge</b> 142:5		
<b>respects</b> 158:12,14	<b>result</b> 78:9,11,21 92:1	<b>revenues</b> 123:25		
<b>respond</b> 21:8 66:2 70:15 77:2		<b>Reverend</b> 3:10,11,13		



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

121:16	<b>robust</b>	<b>roof</b>	5:17,23 6:3	141:4,14
129:1	154:9	145:8	10:17 12:9,	142:17,23
140:18	<b>Rockland</b>	<b>room</b>	21 36:15,24	143:13,16
146:12	153:13	19:15 46:18	37:11,13	185:21
170:5 193:8	<b>Rodriguez</b>	48:19 53:25	38:9 39:19	<b>Rush</b>
195:12	2:20 84:23	77:24 129:8	41:15 46:16	166:7
<b>risen</b>	85:4	191:17	48:12,13	<b>rushed</b>
122:19	<b>RODRIQUEZ</b>	192:17	60:25 61:1,	97:23 99:3
<b>rising</b>	84:25	<b>rooms</b>	6,10,11,13,	110:3 142:1
80:4	<b>Rogers</b>	78:25	15 62:1	<b>Rushing</b>
<b>risk</b>	2:20 88:13,	<b>rooted</b>	63:10 65:17,	113:21
39:2 76:12	15 89:24	73:10	23,24,25	<b>Russians</b>
123:16	<b>role</b>	<b>roots</b>	82:21 106:8	61:17,25
147:23	9:18 50:12	94:14	120:14	<b>Ruth</b>
<b>risks</b>	58:8 192:8	<b>Rosa</b>	127:14	28:21
76:6	<b>roles</b>	162:11	132:15,22	<b>ruyo</b>
<b>Rivas</b>	58:18	<b>rough</b>	157:5	69:11
14:17	<b>roll</b>	36:9	159:14	
144:15	2:6 7:19,24	<b>Round</b>	172:21	<b>S</b>
<b>Riverside</b>	8:15 9:25	162:15	173:2	<b>Sacramento</b>
93:9	10:5 11:5,	<b>Roxanne</b>	177:11	69:8 93:20
<b>RJ</b>	10,23 12:3,	191:14	182:20,25	145:16
93:23	12,17 27:14	193:3	<b>ruling</b>	171:3
<b>road</b>	109:5,8	<b>rubber</b>	7:13,18,20	187:21
34:20	115:10,14	136:4	9:9 72:25	192:10
<b>rob</b>	117:25	<b>rude</b>	<b>run</b>	<b>sacrifice</b>
110:14	118:5	55:7	14:20 47:9	98:13
137:22	119:17,22	<b>rule</b>	120:7	<b>sacrificed</b>
<b>robbery</b>	121:2,7	8:22 10:7	134:11	34:19
38:25	156:4,8,22,	15:23,24,25	165:6	<b>sad</b>
<b>robbing</b>	181:25	16:1 156:16	175:10	152:4
42:20 79:22,	182:1,2,6	178:2	185:15	<b>sadness</b>
23	187:10,14	182:18	196:4	65:5
<b>Robert</b>	190:16	188:11,17	<b>running</b>	<b>safe</b>
144:15	<b>rolling</b>	189:4	38:4	31:6,7 38:21
<b>Roberts</b>	147:3	<b>ruled</b>	<b>runs</b>	98:21
193:9,13,16	<b>Ron</b>	29:14	165:7	197:19
195:8	15:1 194:14	<b>rules</b>	<b>rural</b>	<b>safeguard</b>
			39:2 43:1	
			47:14	
			135:10	
			140:19	

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

159:22	72:11,17	<b>SCA3</b>	<b>Schultz</b>	<b>seared</b>
<b>safeguarding</b>	75:2,21	23:19,25	2:21 48:10,	22:25
31:10	<b>Sausalito</b>	<b>scales</b>	15 74:22	<b>season</b>
<b>safety</b>	141:13	39:8	77:5 132:11,	111:20
56:21 57:14	<b>save</b>	<b>scandal</b>	18,19 153:6,	<b>seat</b>
92:5	17:13 44:18	177:12	8 154:6	54:4
<b>sake</b>	54:2 68:3	<b>scarce</b>	161:10,15	<b>seated</b>
68:15	70:14,15	126:21	<b>Schwarzene</b>	5:8
<b>Salache</b>	74:25 75:25	<b>scare</b>	<b>gger</b>	<b>seatmate</b>
67:23,24	76:15 82:25	146:22,24	22:12	132:17
189:3,8	102:3,7,8,13	147:5,6,25	<b>science</b>	<b>seats</b>
<b>Sally</b>	131:13	<b>scared</b>	123:25	26:23,24
196:25	138:8	63:18	<b>scolding</b>	27:12 55:19
<b>Sally's</b>	<b>saved</b>	<b>scares</b>	27:14	56:2,4,6,10
197:3	57:9 192:16	146:24,25	<b>Scooby</b>	79:8 104:10
<b>salute</b>	<b>saving</b>	147:15	177:1	106:22
4:25	18:25 19:1	<b>scattering</b>	<b>score</b>	124:19,24
<b>San</b>	52:6 77:3	162:19	38:21	165:17
17:9 28:4	<b>SB</b>	<b>scenario</b>	<b>scored</b>	173:19
93:10 162:5,	11:18	61:14	110:3	<b>Seattle</b>
12 180:9	112:24	<b>schedules</b>	<b>scraping</b>	110:5
195:15,25	113:6,12	198:6	43:4	<b>SECATE</b>
196:11,12,	115:19	<b>scheme</b>	<b>screams</b>	190:22
16,17	121:17	44:15	28:12	<b>seconded</b>
<b>Sanchez</b>	122:6,25	<b>school</b>	<b>screen</b>	7:18 10:3,21
2:21 144:6,8	125:14	49:22 69:23	13:19	11:21,22
146:9	137:8	111:8	111:17	12:11 115:6
<b>sanctimonio</b>	139:12	137:14	<b>screenings</b>	117:22
<b>us</b>	140:15	148:20,22	42:22 149:2	119:14
88:25 104:5	146:7	185:20	<b>scripture</b>	120:25
<b>sanctity</b>	188:24	193:14,25	129:1,7	156:24
137:2	190:2	<b>schools</b>	<b>scrutiny</b>	181:22,24
<b>sand</b>	<b>SB280</b>	38:15 72:12	113:22	<b>seconds</b>
28:25	114:13	98:20	<b>Seahawks</b>	30:20 35:10
<b>Santa</b>	116:23	123:22	110:5	44:7 47:20
162:11	118:19	124:6	111:10	53:25 57:7
<b>sat</b>	120:9 125:6	137:13	<b>seals</b>	59:24 62:22,
66:23,24	127:15	141:4	19:10	23 74:9 88:1
	153:25	147:23		100:11
	<b>SCA's</b>			128:9
	23:25			

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

131:22	<b>selecting</b>	147:22	155:9	<b>shaped</b>
151:2	25:20	155:4	<b>serving</b>	192:11
162:22	<b>selections</b>	185:22	18:11 30:17	196:15
166:21	110:4	<b>sense</b>	53:13 93:5	<b>share</b>
175:11	<b>semi</b>	195:19	95:4 161:25	20:6 94:12
187:24	30:11	<b>separated</b>	192:1,8	95:24 96:3,
198:11	<b>senate</b>	141:11	<b>session</b>	15 141:8
<b>secrecy</b>	6:14 14:12	<b>separating</b>	2:2 3:8	167:22
165:22	23:23 86:13	185:23	46:21 87:25	174:4
166:7	109:11	<b>Sequan</b>	99:2 148:21	<b>shared</b>
<b>secret</b>	112:23	162:13	198:5,7,8	4:5 167:23
83:25	113:12	<b>SERATE</b>	<b>set</b>	196:25
140:23	116:8 118:9	190:24	22:11 68:12	<b>Sharp</b>
171:3,15,18,	119:25	<b>Sergeant</b>	77:21	188:12
21	121:10	2:4	113:13	198:1
<b>Secretary</b>	124:22	<b>servant</b>	116:3,9	<b>Sharpe</b>
122:23	153:25	196:22	118:7,11	2:21 195:9,
<b>secrets</b>	156:11,14,	<b>servants</b>	119:25	11
171:4	18 157:8	122:14	166:1	<b>Sharpie</b>
<b>section</b>	164:17	<b>serve</b>	<b>sets</b>	147:17
5:21 6:15,	187:16	30:1 41:12	116:2	<b>shed</b>
20,25	188:4,25	93:7 95:11	<b>severe</b>	179:6
132:21	189:8,15,21,	99:7 135:25	139:20	<b>shied</b>
<b>Sections</b>	22 190:8,19,	143:1	151:22	196:5
5:18	20,21,25	145:22,23,	152:7	<b>shield</b>
<b>secure</b>	<b>senator</b>	24 149:23	<b>severely</b>	38:10 40:9,
72:5 122:9,	23:18 54:22	155:7 197:4	33:18	10,11
25 141:3	112:24	<b>served</b>	139:19	<b>shine</b>
<b>seek</b>	121:10,18	195:21	<b>shadows</b>	192:7
29:7 185:25	183:9	197:14	166:19	<b>shining</b>
<b>seeking</b>	<b>send</b>	<b>service</b>	<b>Shame</b>	4:21
47:6 116:18	69:19 84:16	84:3 95:11	152:15	<b>shop</b>
161:8 184:1	<b>sending</b>	120:15	<b>shameful</b>	3:21 4:2
<b>seeks</b>	52:16 89:7	195:14,17,	100:12	<b>short</b>
33:21	<b>sends</b>	23 196:1	152:13	102:9
<b>seize</b>	35:16 39:2	197:14	<b>shamelessly</b>	169:22
128:8	<b>seniors</b>	<b>services</b>	25:13	185:16
161:25	27:25 39:2,3	42:25 94:1	<b>shape</b>	<b>shortage</b>
	42:15	145:14	26:17 166:9	
	104:25			
	124:1			

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

37:5	<b>shut</b> 92:7 132:4	19	<b>simple</b> 80:9 85:7	40:25
<b>shorten</b> 131:1,2	<b>sick</b> 91:8	<b>signed</b> 88:10	106:7 119:5	<b>sisters</b> 145:24
<b>shortens</b> 127:15	<b>sickens</b> 91:15	153:25	120:4 142:6	<b>sit</b> 39:22 44:23
<b>shortsighted</b> 136:6	<b>side</b> 54:8 64:7	<b>significant</b> 100:5	160:15	49:13,14
<b>shot</b> 130:8	66:4 96:8	<b>signs</b> 55:10	<b>simplest</b> 167:21	51:6,24 54:4
<b>shout</b> 112:6	101:3,4,6,7	<b>silence</b> 26:21 27:2,	<b>simply</b> 16:4 21:19	70:3 79:9
<b>shouts</b> 27:21	105:22	24 38:17	58:9 64:14	82:18 159:2
<b>shove</b> 47:15	129:20	39:22,23	76:1,22	174:5
<b>shoved</b> 107:22	130:2	41:18 44:20	117:6	177:16
<b>show</b> 35:2,19	131:25	50:17 51:22	142:20	<b>sits</b> 133:14
50:5,6,7,8	140:24	81:14 106:8	153:13	<b>sitting</b> 72:11,24
103:24	146:18,23	142:21	154:14	73:1 80:15
111:11	150:1	143:4 177:8	165:3,18	160:20
<b>showing</b> 28:7,9 74:12	152:17	193:3 195:7	170:16	178:8
<b>shown</b> 27:18 38:14	171:2 177:9	<b>silenced</b> 25:19 37:24	<b>simultaneou sly</b> 51:1	<b>situation</b> 49:2,3 61:25
46:9	178:12	82:7 84:16	<b>single</b> 43:6 49:19	70:16
<b>shows</b> 99:11	<b>sidelined</b> 140:21	<b>silences</b> 162:3	77:23 93:5,	<b>sizes</b> 123:5
<b>shrank</b> 56:15	<b>sidelines</b> 28:2	<b>silencing</b> 45:8 64:5,7	14 96:23	<b>skills</b> 111:9
<b>shuddering</b> 133:12	<b>sides</b> 33:7 140:25	159:24	99:16 102:2	<b>skin</b> 63:18
<b>SHULTZ</b> 74:24	141:3	<b>silent</b> 51:14,20,24	107:25	<b>Skittles</b> 110:17
132:13	169:23	132:1	109:25	<b>sky</b> 57:5
161:11	178:9	139:25	124:13	<b>slap</b> 127:18
	<b>siding</b> 64:19	140:6 141:5	144:17,22	<b>slaps</b> 35:9
	<b>Sierra</b> 192:18	177:15	148:23	<b>slash</b> 123:25
	<b>sierto</b> 188:24	<b>Silva</b> 2:19 26:11,	151:1	<b>slashed</b>
	<b>sign</b> 118:25	13 29:4	154:21	
	<b>signatures</b> 45:1 126:4,	<b>silver</b> 111:17	162:18,24	
		<b>similar</b> 173:10	169:25	
			187:4	
			<b>sir</b> 15:20 75:5,	
			11,16 118:8	
			181:5	
			184:13	
			<b>Sisas</b>	

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

81:16	193:22	<b>south</b>	46:1 48:14,	146:8,11
<b>slashing</b>	<b>society</b>	107:4 170:6	17 51:12	148:13,16
123:15	62:14	<b>Southgate</b>	53:19 54:18	153:9 154:5,
<b>sledgehammm</b>	196:10	70:10	55:1,2 56:11	8 156:2,13,
<b>er</b>	<b>soil</b>	<b>sovereignty</b>	57:7,22,25	21 157:14
173:25	147:4	162:17	58:3,5 60:7	159:6,13,14
<b>sleeping</b>	<b>Solace</b>	<b>SP</b>	63:5 65:1,5	161:9,11,12
91:16	2:22 71:1	8:7	67:24 71:3	163:9
<b>slow</b>	<b>solution</b>	<b>sparked</b>	72:19 74:25	166:22
59:1	33:13	114:6	77:5,7	169:20
<b>small</b>	<b>solutions</b>	<b>speak</b>	80:21,23	170:25
3:21 81:18	25:9 91:10	28:5 81:25	83:8,11	172:7,10,23
133:11	136:1	93:24 94:11	84:22,25	175:24
134:2	<b>solve</b>	105:25	85:3,6,14,	176:5,10,15
135:22	47:22,25	115:25	15,17 88:5,	177:24
147:25	<b>solves</b>	116:4,6	6,12,16	178:7
152:14,15,	134:4	123:12	89:25 94:9	179:16
23 165:15	<b>solving</b>	133:20,24	97:8 101:1	180:8,13,15,
169:2	135:14	141:2	102:14,17	22,25 181:6,
<b>smash</b>	<b>son</b>	150:19,22	104:4	12,16,22
111:18	93:23	172:22	105:23	182:9 184:9
<b>smile</b>	193:15	188:12	106:1,3	186:4,7,13,
4:4 180:3	194:15,21,	191:3	108:13,14,	19 187:8,23
<b>smirk</b>	25 197:3	<b>speaker</b>	15,17	188:14,20
180:3	<b>sons</b>	2:2,24 3:7	109:19	189:1,9
<b>snake</b>	35:14	5:2 6:8 7:9	110:22	190:4 191:9
44:16	193:15	8:2,5,24 9:1,	111:1,25	193:1,8
<b>snap</b>	194:14	8,13,18,23	113:4,5,17	195:5,12
83:16	<b>Soria</b>	10:21,25	115:6,18	198:1
104:24	2:22	11:3,13,15,	116:11	<b>speakers</b>
<b>snatch</b>	<b>Sotomayor</b>	20 12:5,25	117:17,22	133:20
52:16	24:25	13:4 14:4,	118:13	<b>speaking</b>
<b>snatched</b>	<b>sought</b>	15,16 15:14,	119:13	15:24 50:1
19:2 31:8	159:19	16,19 16:7	120:19,24	55:7 75:7
<b>social</b>	<b>soul</b>	19:20 20:5	121:16	90:21 112:8
148:25	111:15	21:17 22:20	125:7,10	118:15
150:13	<b>sound</b>	26:13 29:3,6	128:21,25	182:19
<b>societal</b>	88:24	30:22,24	132:9,14,18	<b>special</b>
		32:16 36:7	133:1,16,19,	49:23 57:13
		37:17 41:2	22 138:1,4,	59:3 109:12
		44:7,11,14	10,13	121:19,20
			139:13,16,	122:20
			18 140:18	123:3,8,10
			144:5,15	

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

124:14	<b>spirit</b>	<b>stacking</b>	175:16	<b>starting</b>
125:14,20,	32:21 60:1	157:21	178:25	193:25
25 126:5	67:18	<b>stage</b>	179:12,14,	<b>starts</b>
135:7	111:14	6:6 15:16	25 180:5	57:17 65:16
138:18,22	<b>split</b>	21:24	196:7	<b>state</b>
160:12,22	114:19,20	<b>stake</b>	<b>standard</b>	5:9,16,17,21
164:14	162:11,12,	37:2 42:6	22:12 45:12	6:11 7:8
<b>specifically</b>	13,14,15,19	43:9,10	68:11 97:13	9:13 12:23
58:17	165:13	<b>stakes</b>	166:1	15:1,19,22
108:21	170:8,11	90:7 185:10	<b>standing</b>	16:22 18:9
171:25	<b>splits</b>	<b>stamp</b>	4:25 18:25	23:5,18
174:10	86:19 162:7	136:4	29:1 31:11	29:21,24
<b>speech</b>	<b>splitting</b>	<b>stand</b>	36:2 51:7	30:18 36:19
5:22 19:18	141:7 162:4	3:10 26:14,	52:12 53:19	39:16,25
132:22	170:16	16 28:8,11,	77:12	40:24 42:9,
149:25	<b>spoiled</b>	18 43:15	105:17	19 45:18,20
172:8,24	27:22	44:1,17 50:2	131:9	46:3 47:7,22
184:19	<b>spoke</b>	52:2,3,4,5,9,	149:16	48:10 49:24
<b>speeches</b>	16:4 20:15	18 53:16,23	150:24	50:14 52:11,
172:8,10	95:3,15	54:4 61:9	197:20	12 54:22
<b>spend</b>	100:20	64:10 66:7,	<b>stands</b>	55:21 56:18,
91:6 124:13	104:22	13,14,15,19	5:6 53:17	22,25 57:11
135:1	<b>spoken</b>	67:17 76:9	198:12	58:18 60:11
152:10	34:4 183:3	77:14 81:2,	<b>stark</b>	64:13 66:21
<b>spending</b>	<b>sponsor</b>	3,25 82:13,	114:2	67:3,7 69:25
20:7 37:4	77:9	17 90:6,13	<b>starring</b>	72:4,22 73:1
98:19 99:24	<b>sports</b>	96:4,5,6,9	110:10	74:2 76:16,
100:2	110:15,20	98:8 103:25	<b>start</b>	24 79:5,19
126:20	<b>Spreckles</b>	104:18	27:9 32:17,	83:13 84:6,
134:22,25	92:7	105:18,19	23 51:20	11 86:13
145:3 152:3	<b>spurred</b>	117:9	55:22 65:14	87:7 91:12
<b>spent</b>	193:19	124:25	99:1 102:23	92:11 93:18
31:15 75:18	<b>st</b>	132:7 136:4	127:2 141:4	94:5,24,25
98:17,18,20,	26:25	138:3	157:23	96:17,25
21 151:16,	<b>stack</b>	142:16,25	176:19	97:2,11
17,23 160:8	80:15	146:1,2	178:22	106:13,20
191:21	<b>stacked</b>	150:2	180:2	107:12,20
193:17	148:3	151:10	<b>started</b>	108:12,16,
<b>spine</b>		153:20	53:2 64:12	18,22 109:3
18:19		155:21	129:20	112:7,15
		169:11	157:21	114:18
		174:18		122:22,24
				123:8,11,23



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

125:23	<b>states</b>	<b>steamrolling</b>	158:21,24	99:16
126:21	5:5 14:22	18:23	186:2,24,25	<b>strikes</b>
127:1	18:12 24:8,	<b>step</b>	<b>stopgap</b>	54:25
128:13,15	14 27:24	28:13,23	59:1	<b>striking</b>
132:10,11	32:1 33:17	50:16,21,25	<b>store</b>	35:2
133:8,18	45:11 52:7,	62:6,8,9,14,	123:14	<b>strip</b>
134:8	22 53:2,3,11	15 65:8	<b>stories</b>	39:6 44:20
137:22	55:20 56:22,	182:15	192:5	45:16
138:6,18	25 58:25	<b>stepfather</b>	<b>story</b>	123:25
141:18,24	59:11 62:13	63:20	29:9 195:16	142:22
143:5	64:24 68:25	192:19	<b>straightforw</b>	<b>stripped</b>
151:22	70:21 77:16	<b>Stephanie</b>	<b>ard</b>	100:19
152:2,6	78:17 79:4	2:22 146:9,	101:18	<b>stripping</b>
154:22,25	80:15 81:22	11 148:14	<b>strategies</b>	47:17
155:24	83:6,24	<b>stepped</b>	83:2	137:16
158:25	94:23,25	3:20	<b>strategy</b>	<b>strong</b>
159:10,11	96:19,22	<b>stepping</b>	21:21	21:18 37:18
160:4,20	98:10 140:7,	50:1 120:10	<b>stray</b>	48:18 54:8
161:10,16	8 149:25	<b>STI</b>	6:3	69:25
163:5,19,22	157:21	42:22	<b>streak</b>	115:19
177:21	158:5	<b>stick</b>	95:5	139:8
178:3,15,18,	165:21	32:22	<b>street</b>	140:19
23 179:8,19,	173:11	<b>stifle</b>	31:9 55:1,15	195:19
21 180:15	195:21	86:25	73:5	197:19
182:8,10,18	<b>statewide</b>	<b>stolen</b>	<b>streets</b>	<b>stronger</b>
183:20	121:19	178:25	19:2 69:22	196:21
187:4	173:14	179:23	72:15 91:17	<b>strongly</b>
191:21	196:15	<b>stood</b>	<b>strength</b>	48:11 90:17
<b>state's</b>	<b>stating</b>	101:23	165:17	<b>struck</b>
85:18 122:1	146:14	140:24	<b>strengthenin</b>	54:13 74:15
124:14	<b>statutory</b>	150:25	<b>g</b>	<b>structural</b>
<b>stated</b>	122:7	<b>stop</b>	92:25	99:25 134:8
20:25 87:9,	<b>stay</b>	35:1 40:20	<b>stretch</b>	<b>structurally</b>
19 164:14,	18:9 184:3	79:22,24	36:12	136:19
15 167:20	<b>steadfast</b>	100:2	<b>stretched</b>	<b>struggled</b>
170:19	193:23	124:18	135:17	75:17
<b>statement</b>	<b>steal</b>	129:11	<b>stretching</b>	<b>struggles</b>
35:20 75:15	26:21 27:2,	130:9,10,18		108:2
150:7,9	12 79:24	140:9 148:8		
<b>statements</b>	135:19			
129:17	140:9			

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

<b>struggling</b> 77:22 135:11 144:19 145:10 155:3	131:11	110:5 111:4	86:3	26:8 109:4
<b>stuck</b> 145:13	<b>suburban</b> 86:25	<b>supermajority</b> 55:6	<b>suppression</b> 37:22 40:11 64:20	<b>sustain</b> 7:20
<b>student</b> 133:11 135:21	<b>subvert</b> 161:4,23	<b>supervised</b> 192:1	<b>supreme</b> 24:23 53:3 105:13,15	<b>sustainable</b> 144:21
<b>students</b> 50:19 52:17 137:20 194:8	<b>subverting</b> 131:20	<b>support</b> 23:14 24:19 26:14 29:2 30:25 36:8, 18 37:18 48:18 50:12	<b>SUREATE</b> 190:23	<b>sustained</b> 7:25
<b>study</b> 99:11	<b>succeed</b> 73:21 187:4	<b>support</b> 23:14 24:19 26:14 29:2 30:25 36:8, 18 37:18 48:18 50:12	<b>surprise</b> 87:14	<b>sweep</b> 94:20
<b>studying</b> 194:9	<b>successful</b> 173:19	<b>support</b> 23:14 24:19 26:14 29:2 30:25 36:8, 18 37:18 48:18 50:12	<b>surrender</b> 39:24 66:8, 10	<b>sweltering</b> 4:1
<b>stuff</b> 72:19	<b>suddenly</b> 81:12 99:7,8 177:12	<b>support</b> 23:14 24:19 26:14 29:2 30:25 36:8, 18 37:18 48:18 50:12	<b>surrenders</b> 39:25	<b>swing</b> 25:4
<b>stunt</b> 98:18 125:19	<b>suffered</b> 68:3	<b>support</b> 23:14 24:19 26:14 29:2 30:25 36:8, 18 37:18 48:18 50:12	<b>surrounded</b> 3:22	<b>swirling</b> 71:10,19
<b>stupid</b> 148:4	<b>suffering</b> 42:2 72:14 78:8 82:7 139:20	<b>support</b> 23:14 24:19 26:14 29:2 30:25 36:8, 18 37:18 48:18 50:12	<b>survival</b> 37:21 134:2	<b>switch</b> 49:25
<b>subject</b> 5:14	<b>suffers</b> 92:8	<b>support</b> 23:14 24:19 26:14 29:2 30:25 36:8, 18 37:18 48:18 50:12	<b>survive</b> 40:19 135:23	<b>sycophants</b> 19:9
<b>submissions</b> 85:22	<b>sugar</b> 92:6	<b>supported</b> 138:23 140:1 149:14	<b>survived</b> 194:15	<b>syndrome</b> 100:13 139:21
<b>submit</b> 33:11 85:24 180:17 181:1 186:10	<b>summary</b> 120:1	<b>supporting</b> 21:12 50:9	<b>suspend</b> 8:22 10:17 12:9,10,21 76:5 108:20, 24 130:24, 25 131:15 156:15 188:11,17	<b>synonymous</b> 195:13
<b>submitting</b> 35:18 181:2	<b>summer</b> 3:24 4:1,9 191:21	<b>supportive</b> 93:25	<b>suspended</b> 157:6	<b>system</b> 8:18 22:15 23:2,11 24:14 25:23 26:3 78:5 83:3 88:18 103:8 108:8 144:10 146:5 157:1 158:25 175:2
<b>subterfuge</b>	<b>Summit</b> 15:16 48:10 177:21	<b>supports</b> 137:13	<b>suspending</b> 3:3 128:3	<b>systems</b> 43:7
	<b>sun</b> 35:15 144:24	<b>supposed</b> 13:2 86:23 131:1,5 165:5	<b>suspension</b>	
	<b>super</b> 55:9 56:3 57:10 78:19	<b>supposedly</b>		



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

<b>T</b>	<b>talents</b>	115:15	<b>tat</b>	<b>teammate</b>
	111:6	118:5	21:21	112:7
<b>Ta</b>	<b>Tales</b>	119:23	<b>taught</b>	<b>tear</b>
2:22	111:18	121:7 156:8	28:24 112:3	63:14
<b>table</b>	<b>talk</b>	157:5 182:7	<b>tax</b>	<b>tears</b>
84:5 101:6,8	43:9 46:19	187:14	42:12,13	82:4,6
115:5,16	47:17 50:25	190:16	50:24 78:18	104:20
117:21	54:21 58:8	<b>Tangiba</b>	105:19	<b>technical</b>
118:6	64:21,22	133:24,25	123:18,25	111:8
119:12,24	71:5 72:24	<b>Tangipa</b>	126:21	167:13
120:23,25	74:18 84:25	97:7,8	136:2	<b>teddy</b>
121:9 145:1,	89:1,15,16	110:25	<b>taxation</b>	112:4,5
6 155:7	104:25	111:25	34:17	<b>Tedford</b>
<b>tables</b>	105:6,7	112:1	<b>taxes</b>	112:3
107:21	127:14	119:25	50:11 95:21	<b>teenager</b>
<b>tactic</b>	129:12	120:1,3,20	<b>taxpayer</b>	195:19
179:15	132:1	121:4	125:23	<b>Tejas</b>
<b>tactics</b>	170:15	132:25	<b>taxpayers</b>	94:15
125:4	173:7	133:1,17	138:20	<b>television</b>
178:24	175:21	137:5 163:8,	<b>Taylor</b>	18:5
<b>takes</b>	178:11	9 184:10,12,	191:23,25	<b>telling</b>
52:8 106:16	179:25	21,22	192:4,20,23	20:21
108:3 115:7	<b>talked</b>	<b>tank</b>	<b>teacher</b>	145:25
117:24	66:25 148:5	147:25	3:16	152:20
119:16	<b>talking</b>	<b>tanks</b>	<b>teachers</b>	155:23
121:1	4:7 20:19	93:12	137:14	<b>tells</b>
126:10	34:21 45:19	<b>target</b>	145:11	19:8
134:21	64:10 104:8	124:2	194:9	<b>tem</b>
168:25	105:6 150:6	<b>targeted</b>	<b>teaching</b>	175:8
181:25	151:18,23	17:18 83:13	194:5	<b>temperate</b>
<b>taking</b>	176:19	142:21	<b>team</b>	5:24 132:24
6:22 18:1	178:12	<b>targeting</b>	36:21,25	<b>temperature</b>
43:18 44:4	<b>talks</b>	90:9,10	122:24	54:13
52:21 62:25	18:10 53:5	<b>tariffs</b>	168:4	<b>temporarily</b>
68:7 69:23	58:17 72:19	81:17 83:19	183:14	70:5,15
83:15 105:8	<b>tall</b>	107:24	192:8	131:15
173:24	142:16	123:13	<b>team's</b>	152:1
174:1	<b>tally</b>	147:25	168:5	181:25
<b>tale</b>	7:24 10:6	<b>tarnishes</b>		
166:20	11:10 12:3,	103:18		
	17 109:9			

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

<b>temporary</b> 15:8 26:8 68:24 121:25 125:5 128:6 158:2	182:14	124:18 146:16,21 147:13 155:20 158:5,23 167:1 169:25 173:3,5,10, 12,14,18,20 177:5,13	149:5,7,10 150:22 154:22 167:11 170:14 174:18 175:18 177:24 178:21 179:1,11,24	<b>threatens</b> 28:12 39:1 114:6 <b>threats</b> 72:2 93:19 <b>threshold</b> 62:17 <b>throat</b> 81:8 <b>throated</b> 30:25 <b>throw</b> 73:23 135:18 <b>throwing</b> 97:25 <b>thugs</b> 19:3 89:7 <b>thunderous</b> 163:10 <b>Thursday</b> 187:21 <b>tide</b> 80:4 <b>till</b> 74:17 182:2 198:12 <b>tilt</b> 39:8 <b>time</b> 4:11 6:5 8:25 20:7 23:20 28:23, 24 29:16 33:25 34:1,6 36:11 37:4 42:24 43:19 46:20 52:25
<b>temptation</b> 96:11	<b>tested</b> 28:16			
<b>tempted</b> 128:23	<b>testified</b> 74:14			
<b>TEMU</b> 88:20	<b>testimony</b> 178:4 180:18,21 181:11 182:23 183:23 186:11	<b>Texas's</b> 62:5 <b>theft</b> 49:12 <b>theory</b> 37:23 <b>thereof</b> 121:13 157:11 <b>thin</b> 99:16 176:21 <b>thing</b> 20:18 33:21 60:14 64:8 66:20 75:21 85:9 98:2 102:4 134:8 136:25 143:23 164:5 174:22 175:2 <b>things</b> 3:22 51:20, 24 54:15 58:16,21 73:6 130:11 146:14 147:5 148:24	<b>thinks</b> 124:19,23 <b>Thompson</b> 174:22 <b>thought</b> 19:6 58:13 75:2,19,22 116:21 130:6 138:15 154:15 <b>thoughts</b> 75:25 155:16 <b>thousands</b> 22:5 71:17 77:25 112:14 137:15 139:25 <b>threat</b> 41:23 92:18 144:18 <b>threaten</b> 106:8 <b>threatened</b> 27:11 <b>threatening</b> 41:20 137:25	
<b>Ten</b> 99:24	<b>testing</b> 42:22			
<b>tenacity</b> 194:20 196:4	<b>Texas</b> 14:22,25 15:10 16:8 22:9 25:12, 16 26:24 32:24,25 33:2,22 34:12 35:23 37:22 38:5,9 39:19 40:2 41:16 48:23 49:4,5,6,8,9 50:6,8 56:23 60:14 61:22 62:1 64:13 69:1 74:15, 18 76:13 77:16 79:4, 16 81:21 84:15 92:21 94:16 98:9 101:14,16, 17 102:24 104:11 106:20 117:10,13 118:17,22, 25 119:1,2			
<b>tens</b> 22:4 77:25 137:15 184:7				
<b>term</b> 18:11 33:16 52:20 102:9 104:9				
<b>terms</b> 55:7 97:10				
<b>terribly</b> 18:13				
<b>terrified</b> 63:8 106:15				
<b>terrorists</b> 83:21				
<b>terrorized</b> 17:17 82:16				
<b>terrorizing</b> 83:16				
<b>test</b>				

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

53:21 58:19, 22 63:11 75:18 76:7 78:25 88:7 89:19 91:6 93:15 94:17 99:8 100:21 105:1 109:21 111:7 114:1, 15,22 121:25 122:8,15 130:25 131:1,2 134:13 151:14,16 152:3 155:19 161:12 175:19 179:9,12,25 188:25 194:6 197:9	23:1  <b>tiresome</b> 104:5  <b>tit</b> 21:21  <b>title</b> 48:6 127:19, 22 128:20  <b>titles</b> 197:15  <b>today</b> 5:9 6:9 14:21 16:4, 24 17:7 21:18 26:6 28:25 29:1, 12 30:25 31:2,4,21,24 33:6,11 34:8 35:18 37:18 41:3 43:9,12 45:19,22 46:2 51:23 53:25 54:14, 21 57:5 58:4,7 59:4, 5 60:8 61:2, 20 62:1,22 63:7 65:5 68:4,20 69:7 70:7 75:11 80:24 81:1, 24 84:25 90:24 94:12 97:21 101:8, 22,24 103:4, 21,25 104:17 106:9 108:9, 18 109:13, 20 116:12, 19 123:12	124:22 125:11 133:25 140:18,19 142:10 144:9 147:8 149:19 151:20 152:10 153:12 154:10 156:17 161:7,14 163:12 164:4 169:13,21, 23 170:25 175:22 177:25 183:12 186:12 187:7 188:13,19 192:16 195:1,4,12 197:11,19  <b>today's</b> 3:10,11 31:3 95:16,18  <b>Todd</b> 101:14  <b>told</b> 3:25 20:16 34:6 66:24 88:4 99:1,25 150:10 165:19 167:25 171:17  <b>tone</b> 5:19 49:25 50:16	<b>Tongipa</b> 2:22  <b>Tony</b> 100:23  <b>tool</b> 21:25  <b>tools</b> 127:5  <b>tooth</b> 35:7  <b>top</b> 29:4,6 196:13  <b>tore</b> 38:20  <b>torn</b> 22:21 107:20  <b>torture</b> 19:3  <b>totally</b> 17:2  <b>touch</b> 91:12 123:5 192:15  <b>touchdowns</b> 110:4  <b>tough</b> 154:11  <b>town</b> 111:3,15 170:9  <b>toxic</b> 163:12,23  <b>track</b> 175:5  <b>tradition</b>	4:14  <b>traditional</b> 3:24  <b>Tragically</b> 24:10  <b>trail</b> 15:12 16:10  <b>trailblazer</b> 193:10  <b>trained</b> 122:13  <b>training</b> 137:14  <b>trampling</b> 127:12  <b>transcripts</b> 164:25  <b>transfer</b> 60:19,20,25 163:5  <b>transformati on</b> 193:20  <b>transmittal</b> 109:11 156:11 187:17  <b>transparency</b> 19:25 22:2 28:17 45:6 64:11 97:19 98:7 116:18 163:25 164:22 166:25 168:8 169:10  <b>transparent</b>
---	--	---	---	---

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

97:11	<b>trillions</b>	177:15	89:4 129:2	102:12
114:12	50:20	<b>Trump's</b>	186:1	124:12
122:9	105:18	38:23 42:10	<b>turnouts</b>	<b>ultra</b>
140:22	<b>trip</b>	77:15 78:10	99:13	42:13
169:13	3:14	79:18 83:13	<b>turns</b>	<b>un</b>
177:3	<b>trophies</b>	90:3 106:24	170:4	15:7 18:21
184:25	179:9	108:11	<b>tweets</b>	<b>unacceptabl</b>
<b>transparentl</b>	<b>trouble</b>	123:22,25	147:1	<b>e</b>
<b>y</b>	164:22	124:5,11	<b>type</b>	21:2 113:22
65:18	<b>true</b>	148:12	168:8	<b>unaddressed</b>
<b>transplants</b>	110:1	<b>trust</b>	<b>tyranny</b>	25:16
192:14	111:14	20:10,12,14,	40:14	<b>unanimous</b>
<b>travel</b>	118:21	22 21:10,25	<b>tyrant</b>	8:22 10:17
92:3	129:10	23:7 27:6	104:19	68:8 156:15
<b>treasury</b>	131:16	117:6	105:9	188:10,16,
163:5	197:13	127:20		22 189:5
<b>treat</b>	<b>Trump</b>	141:24,25	<b>U</b>	<b>unashamedl</b>
41:25 136:3	14:21 15:3	142:8		<b>y</b>
<b>treated</b>	17:16 18:1	166:11	<b>U.S.</b>	36:14
155:13	19:8,9,21	<b>trusted</b>	58:10	<b>unaware</b>
177:12	26:25 31:20	159:22	106:23	181:10
<b>treats</b>	33:13 38:4,	<b>truth</b>	<b>UC</b>	<b>unbelievabili</b>
136:2	13 41:20	64:12 75:15	109:22	<b>ty</b>
<b>tribal</b>	43:5 44:2	127:19,21	194:4	13:25
162:7,19	63:7,11,24	131:8	<b>UCLA</b>	<b>unbelievable</b>
<b>tribe</b>	64:15,25	172:22	17:19	13:22 30:6
162:11,12,	67:4 77:19,	<b>Tuesday</b>	137:25	<b>uncertain</b>
13,14,15	25 78:12,20	146:13	<b>UFW</b>	92:2
<b>tribes</b>	79:3,10,24	<b>Tulare</b>	95:3	<b>unchallenge</b>
141:4 162:6	83:20	17:8	<b>ugliest</b>	<b>d</b>
<b>trick</b>	100:12	<b>Tungapa</b>	63:24	72:8
143:25	104:7 105:5,	12:18,20	<b>ugly</b>	<b>unchecked</b>
<b>trigger</b>	15 106:6,14,	<b>turn</b>	38:24 42:10	65:21
118:16	25 107:2,5,	35:9,19	77:20 78:3,	<b>unconstituti</b>
126:5	25 108:4	43:25 61:25	11 104:22	<b>onal</b>
<b>trillion</b>	122:4	73:15	<b>ultimate</b>	24:24 63:23
104:23	123:11	<b>turned</b>	67:2	64:21,22
123:18	129:24	37:23	<b>ultimately</b>	
	130:12	<b>turning</b>	48:2 81:22	
	137:11,18,			
	24 147:14,			
	16 160:2,3			

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

<b>unconstrained</b> 26:3	<b>understanding</b> 7:3	<b>unique</b> 4:9 71:4 141:2 143:1	<b>unquote</b> 71:7	121:13 127:16 156:9
<b>undemocratic</b> 15:7 18:21 47:16 65:25	<b>understands</b> 65:13,19,20	<b>united</b> 5:5 18:12 32:1 52:7,22 53:2,3,11 62:13 64:24 78:17 81:22 83:5 96:19 140:7,8 195:21 197:19	<b>unserious</b> 77:10	157:10 187:15
<b>underlying</b> 101:17	<b>understood</b> 31:20		<b>unsure</b> 87:13	<b>urgent</b> 80:20 91:23 155:18
<b>undermine</b> 36:15 131:14 150:18	<b>Undeterred</b> 23:15		<b>unwanted</b> 98:17	<b>urging</b> 26:8
<b>undermined</b> 81:20	<b>undo</b> 90:25		<b>unwavering</b> 20:1 24:1 193:9 194:19	<b>usual</b> 84:10
<b>undermines</b> 97:13 103:17 166:12	<b>undocument ed</b> 63:25 69:10	<b>university</b> 50:23 90:11 191:21 194:2	<b>unwilling</b> 124:25	<b>utility</b> 99:4,20 133:10 134:1
<b>undermining</b> 124:3 150:23	<b>unemployment</b> 92:9	<b>unjust</b> 35:17	<b>upcoming</b> 14:24	<b>utter</b> 90:25
<b>underscore</b> 103:5	<b>unethical</b> 117:2	<b>unleashed</b> 106:18	<b>update</b> 49:17	
<b>underscorin g</b> 46:5	<b>unfair</b> 24:16 114:2	<b>unlike</b> 15:10 16:8 79:15 84:15 158:5	<b>uphold</b> 45:20	<b>V</b>
<b>underserved</b> 98:5	<b>unfairly</b> 77:17	<b>unmarked</b> 107:22	<b>uplifting</b> 110:12	<b>Valencia</b> 2:22
<b>understand</b> 29:22 48:3 52:6 58:12 114:15 142:25 143:2 144:10 146:18 175:23	<b>unfaltering</b> 31:1	<b>unnecessary</b> 98:16 125:14,19 160:12	<b>upset</b> 130:3	<b>validate</b> 148:11
	<b>unfolding</b> 4:16		<b>urban</b> 47:15 141:19 143:12	<b>Valley</b> 43:1 93:4 162:15
	<b>unfortunate</b> 37:7		<b>urge</b> 22:16 30:15 36:18 37:13 64:25 80:1,5 90:17 103:25 136:5 137:4, 8 146:1,7	<b>values</b> 84:21 112:4 144:12 155:17 174:3
	<b>unidentified</b> 19:3	<b>unpopular</b> 18:13 41:10, 14		<b>Vanessa</b> 192:20
	<b>unified</b> 179:25	<b>unprecedented</b> 31:12 44:5 76:5,7,8 77:15	<b>urgency</b> 17:25	<b>vanity</b> 135:18
	<b>unilateral</b> 66:9			<b>vans</b> 107:22
	<b>unilaterally</b> 66:8 79:6			

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

<b>variety</b> 110:13	<b>vetting</b> 11:19	<b>vision</b> 196:4	47:11 55:14 68:19 86:25 87:2 90:6 143:3 160:23 162:3 165:13,18 179:13	108:13,23, 24 109:1,6, 7,8 114:25 115:9,10,11, 12,13,14 117:25 118:1,2,3,4 119:15,18, 19,20,21,22 120:5 121:1, 3,4,5,6,7,21 124:25 125:6 128:10,12 138:9 140:15 151:7,12 154:4 155:25 156:1,4,5,6, 7,22 157:1, 2,3,4 167:4 170:23 172:3 173:12 180:10 181:17,21 182:2,3,4,5, 6 187:7,10, 11,13 190:13,14, 15
<b>vast</b> 62:3	<b>victims</b> 89:14	<b>visit</b> 3:16	<b>void</b> 50:22,25	<b>voted</b> 9:7,15 14:5, 7 45:16 49:20,24 79:12 95:7 102:3 114:25 120:4 126:3 127:7 130:11 149:20
<b>vastly</b> 22:23	<b>victory</b> 27:20 110:6	<b>visiting</b> 109:13	<b>vortex</b> 130:20	
<b>VCS</b> 17:16	<b>video</b> 69:16	<b>visitors</b> 3:8 4:25 5:9 194:9		
<b>veiled</b> 103:22	<b>view</b> 85:24 139:4 160:5	<b>vital</b> 70:1 155:8		
<b>vendetta</b> 137:22 138:7	<b>views</b> 25:4 174:4	<b>Vladimir</b> 18:2	<b>vote</b> 6:6 7:20,21, 22,23 8:6, 16,17,18 9:25 10:1,2, 4,5 11:4,5,6, 7,8,9,24,25 12:1,2,12, 13,14,15,16 16:25 17:4, 10,11 20:2, 25 22:16 24:17 25:17, 24 26:9 27:3 30:21 31:3,4 32:13,19,25 37:13 40:25 44:10 45:6 48:4 51:8 54:9,21 60:4 62:24 64:6, 25 67:13,21 68:4,6,8 73:15 74:21 76:25 77:4 80:5,20 83:7 84:3,14,20 90:18 95:16, 18 97:5 102:14 104:1	
<b>ventures</b> 110:13	<b>vigorously</b> 25:10	<b>voice</b> 25:20 26:25 28:17 40:4 43:19 47:16, 17 49:6,7 54:24 69:12 70:7,11,20 80:13,19 81:6 82:10 84:5,16,20 85:25 90:5 93:25 122:25 128:3 139:10,11 142:22 152:19 154:1,25 155:25 159:23 162:22 177:19 178:14,15, 16,17 179:25		
<b>Verde</b> 91:24	<b>villain</b> 177:2			
<b>verge</b> 97:25 135:21	<b>violate</b> 6:20			
<b>Verne</b> 193:13	<b>violated</b> 15:24 29:15 178:3 182:19			
<b>version</b> 10:13	<b>violates</b> 6:14,24			
<b>versus</b> 143:13	<b>violating</b> 7:8 29:8 34:3 46:2 127:13			
<b>vested</b> 12:23 120:8, 18	<b>violation</b> 6:4,11 45:17,20,23 128:15 141:25 182:25			
<b>veteran</b> 91:15 197:12				
<b>veterans</b> 28:1 50:18 124:1 155:5				
<b>vetoed</b> 149:5	<b>violent</b> 60:21 106:18	<b>voices</b> 17:4 25:19 38:2 45:8		



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

151:2,7	139:3	93:6 107:14	129:4	143:25
153:13	143:21	124:4	150:18	<b>watch</b>
161:7 163:2	158:1,3,4,6	137:17	153:9	40:24 68:5
<b>voter</b>	159:5,19,25		166:15,16	69:17 70:3
15:8 17:1	161:5 165:8	<b>W</b>	<b>wanting</b>	196:13
22:2 37:22	166:5 168:9,		96:1	<b>watched</b>
39:17 40:11	11 169:18	<b>wages</b>	<b>wantonly</b>	167:9
49:7,9 64:20	177:8,15	99:15	126:24	<b>watching</b>
99:13	184:8 185:6,	<b>wait</b>	<b>war</b>	40:5,6 67:25
122:25	12	50:7 145:12	31:14 93:18	70:6 91:9
147:14	<b>votes</b>	182:1	<b>Ward</b>	95:10,12
155:23	7:24 10:6	<b>waiting</b>	2:23	<b>water</b>
<b>voters</b>	11:10 12:3,	64:15	<b>warm</b>	125:21
16:11,14,25	17 18:8	111:19	110:18	142:18
17:3 18:14,	25:25 57:20	<b>Wake</b>	<b>warmonger</b>	174:24
17 19:25	68:6,23 86:6	17:25	129:16	<b>ways</b>
22:15 25:4	102:10	<b>walk</b>	<b>warning</b>	33:20
26:25 27:24	108:20	23:23	31:9 96:10	<b>weakening</b>
34:4 39:22	109:9	167:10	107:23	61:5
44:22,24	115:15	<b>walked</b>	173:1	<b>weakens</b>
45:9,11,25	118:5	74:17	<b>wars</b>	62:2
46:6 47:11,	119:23	191:17	114:7	<b>weakness</b>
15 48:1,22	121:8 156:6,	<b>walking</b>	<b>Washington</b>	36:1
55:12,20	8,25 157:5	53:24 96:18	19:9,21	<b>wealthiest</b>
57:4 62:13	165:1	<b>Wall</b>	33:16 63:13	141:19
63:8 64:5,7,	166:13	55:1,15	65:22 78:1	<b>wealthy</b>
11,18 67:19	173:14	<b>Wallace</b>	185:13	38:25 42:13
81:11 82:2,	182:7	2:3,23 12:11	<b>waste</b>	78:19
21 83:4,25	187:12,14	21:16,17	27:13 90:25	185:18
84:18,19	190:16	<b>wallets</b>	145:16	<b>weapon</b>
86:4 90:16	<b>voting</b>	137:3	<b>wasted</b>	159:9,16,17
98:5 102:25	33:2 45:21	<b>Walnut</b>	126:24	<b>weaponize</b>
103:9,10,17,	46:3 77:3	70:10	163:3	39:7
20 107:2,10	86:11 90:13	<b>wannabe</b>	<b>wasteful</b>	<b>weaponized</b>
108:4	114:16	39:20	136:5	33:15 38:18
113:19	115:8	<b>wanted</b>	<b>wasting</b>	63:11
114:11,15	117:24	58:5 75:6,8	93:15 98:15	<b>wearing</b>
116:13	119:17	77:8 112:1,	135:6	52:17
117:12,15	121:2 154:3	20 126:16		
121:21,23	170:12			
122:2 125:2	181:25			
127:7,9,20	<b>vulnerable</b>			
128:17,20	49:4 52:15			

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

107:22	18:9 49:2,7,	<b>Winchester</b>	<b>wondering</b>	<b>workers</b>
<b>Weber</b>	9 88:20	92:17	17:5 60:13	137:20
8:8	92:22 96:19	<b>wiped</b>	144:25	146:2
<b>week</b>	104:14	53:16 57:15	<b>wooden</b>	<b>working</b>
28:3 42:6	124:16	<b>wiping</b>	154:13	23:1 27:25
75:17 89:9	133:4,15	92:7	<b>word</b>	39:4 83:19
91:9,10	160:9	<b>wisdom</b>	98:6,7	111:13
103:23	<b>Whitford</b>	46:6 58:12	104:12	144:23
129:4 142:8	24:22	67:15	129:3	145:12,20
146:12	<b>who've</b>	<b>wise</b>	151:11	148:2 155:2
161:3	34:4	35:4	166:24	166:18
167:10	<b>wholehearte</b>	<b>wishes</b>	<b>words</b>	185:17
183:12	<b>dly</b>	105:25	4:23 5:19	<b>world</b>
<b>weekend</b>	69:3	<b>withheld</b>	28:5 35:4	17:18 43:25
95:15	<b>wicks</b>	11:4 14:6	51:22 54:18	52:18 61:3
<b>weeks</b>	2:23 109:16	<b>withhold</b>	74:6 75:11	82:25
46:5,10	188:12,18	9:21 11:2	76:2 94:12	184:25
104:7	193:4,5	50:15	168:18	191:18
159:21	195:6	<b>withholding</b>	172:14	<b>worried</b>
162:25	<b>wide</b>	9:24 89:13	<b>work</b>	139:19,21
<b>weigh</b>	196:9	137:20	24:4 38:17	<b>worse</b>
41:7 66:22	<b>wife</b>	<b>witnessed</b>	68:22,23	44:16 73:6
76:19	196:25	26:18 46:4	69:22 92:12	100:11
<b>welcomed</b>	<b>wildfire</b>	<b>witnessing</b>	93:5 94:1,4	139:25
114:10	57:15 83:14	41:24	95:10 143:9	148:6
<b>welcomes</b>	90:9 145:13	<b>woke</b>	149:8 158:8,	<b>worship</b>
110:23	<b>wildfires</b>	154:10	17 160:7	132:3
<b>Westminster</b>	92:18 98:19	<b>woman</b>	164:25	<b>worst</b>
67:11	122:19	43:17	174:23	171:3,15
<b>Wetback</b>	<b>willfully</b>	191:16	185:2,4,24	<b>worth</b>
94:18	66:5	<b>women</b>	195:20,24,	49:6,8 100:7
<b>whatsoever</b>	<b>Wilson</b>	43:19 91:15	25 197:17	185:7
30:15	2:23 195:25	<b>women's</b>	<b>worked</b>	<b>write</b>
<b>whine</b>	<b>win</b>	42:22 53:9	97:20	172:8,10
28:18	18:9 36:18	123:25	148:25	176:19
<b>whispered</b>	38:6,7 41:16	186:2	149:6	<b>writes</b>
117:5	61:15 79:8	<b>won</b>	183:16	134:3
<b>white</b>	106:25	129:14	193:25	<b>writing</b>
	127:19		195:22	25:1 135:2,
			196:21	24



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

<b>written</b> 40:14 85:22 86:2 134:15 136:17 164:17 172:25	87:25 89:2 100:1 106:3 144:19 149:5 159:3 191:19	<b>younger</b> 3:18	
<b>wrong</b> 18:22 33:22, 23 61:22 69:1,2 75:12 76:14 85:11 88:3 92:24 103:1 105:22 129:6 131:23,24, 25 146:24 147:10 149:23 169:17 170:17 175:18 177:10	<b>year's</b> 185:9 186:25	<b>youngest</b> 100:25	
<b>wrongly</b> 147:12	<b>years</b> 3:17 4:5,16 24:3 29:12, 19 30:3 32:6 47:6 51:16 56:18 57:12 58:18 68:8 71:17 80:16 83:12 102:24 140:13 145:13 161:8 176:23 186:1 193:17 196:3 197:14	<b>youth</b> 110:10	
<b>wrongs</b> 75:13			<b>Z</b>
<b>wrote</b> 168:13	<b>yesterday</b> 14:25 38:10 51:2 54:25 94:13 95:1 106:20 172:25	<b>Zabur</b> 2:23	
<b>X</b>		<b>Zona</b> 193:9,11 194:4,12 195:8	
<b>xenophobic</b> 94:17	<b>Yesterday's</b> 55:15	<b>Zona's</b> 193:15,20 194:19,22, 25	
<b>Y</b>	<b>York</b> 107:4	<b>zone</b> 92:24	
<b>yards</b> 110:3	<b>young</b> 65:11 112:10,15 191:16 192:9		
<b>year</b> 17:11 18:15 50:9 65:14			