



STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE



April 6, 2023

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Speaker Cameron Sexton
Tennessee House of Representatives
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N. Suite 600
Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, TN 37243
speaker.cameron.sexton@capitol.tn.gov

Dear Speaker Sexton,

We, the undersigned who proudly serve in State Capitols across the country, stand in solidarity with Tennessee State Representatives Justin Jones, Justin Pearson, and Gloria Johnson as they face the threat of expulsion for simply standing with the people they are elected to serve.

There is nothing 'disorderly' about courageously standing in solidarity with the people we are elected to serve, in opposition to the gun lobby that continues to profiteer off of an epidemic they have fueled. The Tennessee State Capitol is the people's house, and Representatives Justin Jones, Justin Pearson, and Gloria Johnson exemplified leadership on the House floor this week by standing up for what's right. Any attempts to silence these elected leaders for exercising their constitutional right to protest are anti-democratic.

Gun violence harms people from all walks of life, but gun deaths disproportionately impact Black and Brown communities. The attempts to expel Reps. Jones, Johnson, and Pearson show a dark truth in the light of day: there's a robust and racist connection between fighting against gun safety and dismantling our democracy. Calling for gun safety within the people's house exemplifies our democracy in action. Expelling lawmakers is not.

From Tennessee, to Oklahoma, to Florida, we are witnessing courageous state lawmakers across the country standing with the people and defending our freedoms. State legislators are on the frontlines of our democracy, determining the rules of who gets to vote, how those votes are counted, and what issues get prioritized for our communities in the years to come. Actions to strip lawmakers away from their duly-elected positions undermine the people's will and represent a direct threat to our democracy everywhere.

We stand in solidarity with Tennessee State Representatives Justin Jones, Justin Pearson, and Gloria Johnson.

Sincerely,

www.stateinnovation.org

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Facebook: facebook.com/stateinnovationexchange/



Arizona

Representative Lorena Austin
Representative Andrés Cano
Representative Patty Contreras
Representative Oscar De Los Santos
Representative Nancy Gutierrez
Representative Jennifer Longdon
Representative Analise Ortiz
Representative Athena Salman
Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton
Senator Rosanna Gabaldon
Senator Anna Hernandez
Senator Juan Mendez
Senator Priya Sundareshan
Senator Raquel Terán

Colorado

Representative Ruby Dickson
Representative Elisabeth Epps
Representative Meg Froelich
Representative Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez
Representative Cathy Kipp
Representative Sheila Lieder
Representative Mandy Lindsay
Representative Karen McCormick
Representative Barbara McLachlan
Representative Naquetta Ricks
Representative Emily Sirota

Representative Tammy Story
Representative Brianna Titone
Representative Elizabeth Velasco
Representative Steph Vigil
Representative Jenny Willford
Senator Lisa Cutter
Senator Jessie Danielson
Senator Rhonda Fields
Senator Julie Gonzales
Senator Nick Hinrichsen
Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis
Senator Chris Kolker
Senator Janice Marchman
Senator Dominick Moreno
Senator Tom Sullivan

Connecticut

Representative Jillian Gilchrest
Representative Anne Hughes
Representative Robyn Porter
Senator Herron Gaston
Senator Julie Kushner
Senator Matthew Lesser
Senator Ceci Maher
Senator Gary Winfield

Delaware

Representative Sherry Dorsey Walker
Representative Eric Morrison
Senator Marie Pinkney

Florida

Delegate Tamara Tallmadge
Representative Robin Bartleman

Representative LaVon Bracy Davis
Representative Anna Eskamani
Representative Yvonne Hinson
Representative Dotie Joseph
Representative Angie Nixon
Representative Michele Rayner- Goolsby
Representative Felicia Robinson
Representative Katherine Waldron
Senator Geraldine Thompson

Georgia

Representative Dewey McClain
Representative Billy Mitchell
Representative Shea Roberts
Representative Sandra Scott
Senator Nabilah Islam
Senator Kim Jackson

Hawaii

Senator Stanley Chang

Idaho

Representative Ilana Rubel

Illinois

Representative Kelly Cassidy
Representative Norma Hernandez
Representative Maura Hirschauer
Representative Theresa Mah
Representative Joyce Mason



Indiana

Senator Jean Breaux

Kentucky

Representative Chad Aull
Representative Tina Bojanowski
Representative George A. Brown, Jr.
Representative Lindsey Burke
Representative Beverly Chester-Burton
Representative Al Gentry
Representative Daniel Grossberg
Representative Keturah Herron
Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo
Representative Rachel Roberts
Representative Sarah Stalker
Representative Cherlynn Stevenson
Representative Pamela Stevenson
Representative Lamin Swann
Representative Lisa Willner

Louisiana

Representative Mandie Landry

Maine

Representative Dan Ankeles
Representative Poppy Arford
Representative Art Bell
Representative Vicki Doudera
Representative Lori Gramlich
Representative Kelly Murphy

Representative Maggie O'Neil
Representative Lois Reckitt
Representative Gerry Runte

Maryland

Delegate Regina T Boyce
Delegate Jon Cardin
Delegate Debra Davis
Delegate Linda Foley
Delegate Brooke Grossman
Delegate Robbyn Lewis
Delegate Lesley Lopez
Delegate Sara Love
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North
Delegate David Moon
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr
Delegate Joseline Peña Melnyk
Delegate Sheila Ruth
Delegate Emily Shetty
Delegate Stephanie Smith
Delegate Vaughn Stewart
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins
Delegate Nicole Williams
Senator Ariana Kelly

Massachusetts

Representative Steven Owens
Representative Lindsay Sabadosa

Michigan

Representative Noah Arbit
Representative Erin Byrnes
Representative Tyrone Carter
Representative Betsy Coffia
Representative Emily Dievendorf

Representative Kimberly Edwards
Representative Jenn Hill
Representative Jason Hoskins
Representative Sharon MacDonell
Representative Donovan McKinney
Representative Jason Morgan
Representative Veronica Paiz
Representative Natalie Price
Representative Ranjeev Puri
Representative Carrie Rheingans
Representative Phil Skaggs
Representative Lori Stone
Representative Penelope Tsernoglou
Representative Dylan Wegela
Representative Jimmie Wilson Jr.
Senator Stephanie Chang
Senator Erika Geiss

Minnesota

Representative Rick Hansen
Representative Liz Olson

Missouri

Representative Joe Adams
Representative Marlene Terry

Nevada

Assemblyperson Sabra Newby
Assemblyperson Howard Watts
Senator Fabian Donate
Senator Dallas Harris



New Hampshire

Representative Donald Bouchard
Representative Rep. Hope Damon
Representative Susan Elberger
Representative Jessica LaMontagne
Representative Ellen Read
Representative Kris Schultz
Representative Christine Seibert

New Mexico

Representative Micaela Lara Cadena
Representative Liz Thomy

New York

Assemblyperson Chris Burdick
Assemblyperson Jessica González-Rojas
Assemblyperson Nily Rozic
Assemblyperson Jo Anne Simon
Assemblyperson Monica Wallace
Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Senator Andrew Gounardes
Senator Liz Krueger
Senator Gustavo Rivera

North Carolina

Representative Eric Ager
Representative John Autry
Representative Cynthia Ball
Representative Mary Belk
Representative Deb Butler

Representative Maria Cervania
Representative Maria Cervania
Representative Pricey Harrison
Representative Lindsey Prather
Representative Renee Price
Representative Caleb Rudow
Representative Julie von Haefen
Senator Lisa Grafstein
Senator Graig Meyer
Senator Natalie Murdock
Senator Kandie Smith

Ohio

Representative Munira Abdullahi
Representative Rachel Baker
Representative Willis Blackshear Jr
Representative Sean Brennan
Representative Juanita Brent
Representative Darnell T Brewer
Representative Richard Brown
Representative Elliot Forhan
Representative Tavia Galonski
Representative Michele Grim
Representative Dani Isaacsohn
Representative Mary Lightbody
Representative Beth Liston
Representative Lauren McNally
Representative Joe Miller
Representative Jessica Miranda

Representative Phil Robinson
Representative Elgin Rogers
Representative Allison Russo
Representative Anita Somani
Representative Daniel Troy
Representative Casey Weinstein
Senator Kent Smith

Oklahoma

Representative Arturo Alonso-Sandoval

Oregon

Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Jeff Golden

Pennsylvania

Representative Dan Frankel
Representative Danielle Otten
Representative Michael Schlossberg
Senator Nikhil Saval
Senator Judy Schwank

Rhode Island

Representative Edith Ajello
Representative Jennifer Boylan
Representative Terri Cortvriend
Representative Susan Donovan
Representative Leonela Felix
Representative Joshua Giraldo
Representative Rebecca Kislak
Representative Michelle McGaw



Representative Brandon Potter
Representative June Speakman
Representative Tina Spears
Representative Teresa Tanzi

South Carolina

Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter

Utah

Senator Nate Blouin

Vermont

Representative Angela Arsenault
Representative Conor Casey
Representative Brian Cina
Representative Esme Cole
Representative Mari Cordes
Representative Golrang (Rey) Garofano

Representative Saudia LaMont
Representative Josie Leavitt
Representative Kate Logan
Representative Jubilee McGill
Representative Marc Mihaly
Representative Emma Mulvaney-Stanak
Representative Logan Nicoll
Representative Barbara Rachelson
Representative Mike Rice
Representative Mary-Katherine Stone
Senator Rebecca White

Virginia

Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Washington

Representative Nicole Macri
Senator Noel Frame
Senator Karen Keiser

Senator Patty Kuderer
Senator Mark Mullet
Senator Marko Liias
Senator T'wina Nobles
Senator Jamie Pedersen
Senator Derek Stanford
Senator Claire Wilson

West Virginia

Delegate Kayla Young

Wisconsin

Representative Jodi Emerson
Representative Greta Neubauer
Representative Christine Sinicki
Senator Melissa Agard
Senator Kelda Roys
Senator Mark Spreitzer