

Student Government Association

Tennessee Technological University

SGA Resolution SR-S23-02

A Resolution Condemning the Expulsion of Representative Justin Jones, Representative Justin J. Pearson, and the Attempted Expulsion of Representative Gloria Johnson from the Tennessee House of Representatives

- Whereas,* the Tennessee House of Representatives voted on April 6, 2023, primarily along partisan lines, to expel Representative Justin Jones of House District 52 and Representative Justin J. Pearson of House District 86, and attempted to expel Representative Gloria Johnson of House District 90; and,
- Whereas,* the Tennessee House of Representatives is a democratic institution that serves as the voice of the people of Tennessee; and,
- Whereas,* the Tennessee House of Representatives has a responsibility to uphold the rights and freedoms of its members; and,
- Whereas,* on April 6, 2023, Representative Justin Jones was expelled from the Tennessee House of Representatives without due process or a fair hearing; and,
- Whereas,* on April 6, 2023, Representative Justin J. Pearson was expelled from the Tennessee House of Representatives without due process or a fair hearing; and,
- Whereas,* on April 6, 2023, an attempt was made to expel Representative Gloria Johnson from the Tennessee House of Representatives without due process or a fair hearing; and,
- Whereas,* the expulsions and attempted expulsion of these members of the Tennessee House of Representatives were politically motivated and violated the principles of democracy, free speech, and equal representation; and,
- Whereas,* the expulsions and attempted expulsion of these members of the Tennessee House of Representatives set a dangerous precedent for the suppression of dissenting voices and the abuse of power within the State of Tennessee; and,
- Whereas,* the students of Tennessee Technological University, whose permanent residence is within House District 52 and 86, were deprived of their right of representation in the Tennessee House of Representatives; and,

Whereas, the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University stands with these students and condemns the actions taken by the Tennessee House of Representatives to expel their duly elected representatives; and,

Whereas, the actions taken by the Tennessee House of Representatives set a dangerous precedent that threatens the ability of elected officials to represent their constituents without fear of retribution or retaliation; and,

Whereas, the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University believes in the fundamental principles of democracy and the importance of protecting the rights of citizens to be represented by their elected officials.

NOW THEREFORE,

Be it resolved, that the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University condemns the actions taken by the Tennessee House of Representatives to expel Representatives Justin Jones and Justin J. Pearson and attempt to expel Representative Gloria Johnson; and,

Be it further resolved, that the Student Government Association calls on the Tennessee House of Representatives to reaffirm its commitment to democracy, free speech, and the rights and freedoms of its members to represent the voices of their constituents; and.

Be it further resolved, that the Student Government Association calls for the full reinstatement of Representatives Justin Jones and Justin J. Pearson to their offices and the benefits which come with such public trust; and,

Be it further resolved, that the Student Government Association calls for an end to politically motivated attacks on members of the minority party in the Tennessee House of Representatives and a return to the principles of democracy and free speech that are essential to a healthy and functioning society; and,

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Student Government Association, and the Secretary of the Student Government shall send a copy of this resolution, by certified mail, to every member of the Tennessee General Assembly and the Governor of Tennessee.

Respectfully Submitted By:
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Senator, College of Graduate Studies

Co-sponsor(s):
Marlee Miller
Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

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Committee Record

Committee Name:	Committee Secretary:	Status:
Governmental Affairs	Mary Davis	Passed

Senate Record

SGA Secretary:	Aye:	Nay:	Abstain:	Status:
Savannah Griffin	19	4	2	Passed

SGA President:

Addison Dorris

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