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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA STATEMENT

RE: Shooting at bowling alley and in Lewiston, Maine

I pray for the loved ones of those lost during yet another preventable tragedy in America. I was privileged to attend Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine and now mourn the lives lost during the senseless violence committed by a mass shooter at a bowling alley not very far from my alma mater in Lewiston, Maine. I stand in solidarity with the survivors as they grapple in the aftermath of this horrific act and pray for the healing of those injured during the attack and the Lewiston community. I'm grateful for the first responders who prevented additional loss of life and are now searching for the gunman.

Gun violence is a national epidemic. It is a preventable epidemic. The deaths caused by gun violence are a product of the moral cowardice of people in power failing to protect innocent people. Common sense gun laws are achievable common ground on which both sides of the aisle should firmly stand. We need universal background checks, bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, Extreme Risk Protection Orders and more laws that would encourage responsible gun ownership while removing weapons of war from our streets. Elected leaders must prevent these tragedies from Memphis to Maine. As legislators, it is our duty to do all we can to prevent these atrocities by passing laws that protect people, schools, and communities.

Our office is working tirelessly to end mass shootings and gun violence in our district and our country. I implore my colleagues in the Maine Assembly and the Tennessee General Assembly to listen to our communities and pass legislation that repeals permitless carry laws, expands background checks, and implements extreme risk protection orders.

–Justin J. Pearson
House Representative District 86
113th Tennessee General Assembly