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House of Representatives State of Tennessee

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Statement from Representative Justin J. Pearson

Yesterday, I was honored to visit the White House where I met with President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, Ambassador Susan Rice, and other senior advisors. Our conversation focused on how we can prevent gun violence, make sure our communities are safe and preserve our democracy.

President Biden thanked me and my fellow Tennessee General Assembly colleagues, Representative Gloria Johnson and Representative Justin Jones, for standing up for the grieving parents, frightened children and fed-up communities in our state and across the nation to speak the truth about the need for common sense gun legislation.

“But, you know, you’re standing up for our kids. You’re standing up for our communities—safer communities—and democratic values. That’s what it’s all about,” President Biden said to us.

I appreciate President Biden and Vice President Harris for assuring us that they will do all they can within their executive powers to support common sense gun legislation and put an end to the senseless killing of people in our schools and communities. What happened in the Tennessee General Assembly with the “Tennessee Three” and the thousands who marched on our state capitol is a moment that has catalyzed a movement—a movement for Justice and the eradication of gun violence.

On behalf of District 86 and all Tennesseans, I have proposed legislation to remove weapons of war from our streets, rather than add guns to our schools. District 86 and communities across our nation deserve safer streets, not schools outfitted like fortresses with armed teachers and guards. Tennesseans and communities across our nation also need and deserve more federal and state funds devoted to them to generate equal access to a clean environment, healthcare, quality education and economic advancement because we know investing in our communities is the greatest prevention to gun violence.

The visit to the White House presented a shining opportunity to elevate the need for common sense gun legislation before our nation's leaders and the world and to continue to galvanize the people across our nation who represent multiple generations, races and ethnicities; socioeconomic statuses and political ideologies to keep pushing forward, speaking truth to power and believing that justice is possible and is the only solution. Representatives Johnson, Jones and I will continue to amplify the voices of our constituents in the state house, across our nation and beyond our borders for justice and democracy. We will keep fighting.

I stand in solidarity with the union as you courageously fight for a workplace that honors and protects the workers and pays wages that are on par with workers in communities similar to ours. I support your right to strike and to demand that Republic Services supports a workplace that not only recognizes the humanity of sanitation workers and justly rewards their service, but also safeguards their well-being.

Justice is a safe workplace where the dignity of all work is recognized. Justice is the only goal, the only answer. We must keep fighting for it. I hope that together we can achieve it on behalf of sanitation workers.

In love and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin J. Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin J. Pearson

House Representative District 86
113th Tennessee General Assembly