



Senate Majority Office
House Majority Office

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Black Oregon Legislative Leaders Call for Reinstatement of Representative Justin Pearson to Tennessee House of Representatives

Rep. Pearson was reinstated today by the Shelby County Commission.

SALEM, Ore - Yesterday, Black Members of the Oregon State Legislature sent a letter to Tennessee Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton calling for the reinstatement of wrongfully-expelled Representative Justin Pearson. Today, Rep. Pearson was [reinstated to his office](#) by the Shelby County Commission.

The letter was signed by Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D-Eugene), Senator Aaron Woods (D-Wilsonville), Senator Kayse Jama (D-Portland), Senator Lew Frederick (D-Portland), Representative Janelle Bynum (D-Happy Valley) and Representative Travis Nelson (D-Portland).

The letter reads:

"We, the aforementioned Elected Members of the Oregon Legislature, stand in solidarity with Representative Justin Jones and Representative Justin Pearson of the Tennessee State House of Representatives.

On Thursday, April 6th, Representative Justin Pearson, Representative Justin Jones, and Representative Gloria Johnson exercised their First Amendment Rights and left the Floor to join a protest against gun violence in this nation. For the Tennessee State House of Representatives to selectively decide to only expel Representative Pearson and Representative Jones (who are both Black men) and not their colleague Representative Johnson (a white woman) sends a resounding and unmistakable message of deep-seated racism and bigotry. This is both abhorrent and shameful to Democracy and the Legislative process.

Yesterday, the Nashville Metropolitan Council voted unanimously to reinstate Representative Justin Jones to the Tennessee State House of Representatives. On Wednesday, April 12th at

2:30pm, the Shelby County Commissioner will decide whether to reinstate Representative Justin Pearson to the Tennessee House of Representatives.

We, the Black Members of the Oregon State Legislature, now call for the full and immediate reinstatement of Representative Justin Pearson to the Tennessee State House of Representatives, as well.

The time has come for the racist practices of the South to die. The eyes of the Nation are upon you. Oregon is watching you. Do the right thing.”

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