



# shelby county DEMOCRATIC PARTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shelby County Democratic Party position on the resignation of TN House Speaker Cameron Sexton

The Shelby County Democratic Party joins the Tennessee State Democratic Party's resolution dated, Saturday, May 17th, 2023, calling for the resignation of House Speaker Cameron Sexton.

The Speaker systemically refused to hold accountable the members of the Republican Party that brazenly and repeatedly demonstrated a lack of respect for our democracy. Having a super majority, the Republicans attempted to silence the voices of and penalize three Democratic Representatives for participating in a peaceful protest with thousands of citizens reacting to random mass murder and in support of sensible gun control.

With the world watching, the Tennessee General Assembly expelled Representatives Justin Jones, D-52, and Representative Pearson, D-86, (while acquitting Representative Gloria Johnson, D-90), for daring to question the status quo, and for endeavoring to be a voice for their constituents. The status quo was interrupted because when the Republicans took extreme action to accuse the three Democrats, the Republicans cast a spotlight on their own previous and current behaviors.

Recently that light magnified Representative Scotty Campbell's resignation after he was found guilty by a subcommittee of violating the workplace harassment and discrimination policy.

We applaud the recent actions of Governor Lee to revisit the gun reform issue and his executive order addressing a mental health order of protection weapons ban. We would encourage Governor Lee to hold the Speaker of the House accountable for his non-action to address several previous disregards by Republicans for the rules, but in particular the recent shocking comments from Representative Paul Sherrell- calling for state-sanctioned lynching. Tennessee already has electrocution and lethal injection to administer the death penalty. Representative Sherrell appearing very pleased at the addition of a firing squad was eager to add a racist element by offering an amendment that would include, "hanging from a tree".

Tennessee has a history of lynching, and it is unreasonable to assume that Representative Sherrell is unaware of the racist nature of his suggestion. In fact, since Representative Sherrell's comments, other Oklahoma officials were recorded making similar racist suggestions. Had even a censure been imposed on Representative Sherrell; it might have discouraged the spread of such a senseless attack on a body of people harmed by such a callous and insensitive expression of hatred.

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