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LRB103 31820 LAW 60441 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Tennessee House of Representatives recently expelled two fellow lawmakers from the state legislature for their role in a protest calling for more gun control in the aftermath of the deadly school shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville, where six people were killed, including three children; and

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WHEREAS, Of the three representatives who were involved in the protest, Reps. Gloria Johnson, Justin Jones, and Justin Pearson, only the latter two were expelled; and

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WHEREAS, Reps. Jones and Pearson are Black, while Rep. Johnson is white; and

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WHEREAS, Tennessee House leadership has denied that race was a factor, alleging that Reps. Jones and Pearson were trying to incite a riot at the protest, while Rep. Johnson was more subdued; and

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WHEREAS, President Joe Biden has called the expulsions shocking, undemocratic, and without precedent; and

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WHEREAS, Expulsion from the chamber is a move the Tennessee House has used only a handful times since the Civil

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1 War under distinctly different circumstances, including  
2 accusations of sexual misconduct and misuse of federal grant  
3 money; and

4 WHEREAS, While most state legislatures have the power to  
5 expel members, it is generally reserved as a punishment for  
6 lawmakers accused of serious misconduct, not used as a weapon  
7 against political opponents; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we condemn the actions  
10 taken by the Tennessee House of Representatives on their  
11 racist action of expelling and silencing two Black lawmakers  
12 duly elected by Tennesseans.