



## DEMAND GUN REFORM!

**A** GOP supermajority in Tennessee recently ousted two young Black lawmakers, Justin Jones and Justin Pearson, for "violating the House's decorum." Their "crime"? Protecting from the House floor and calling for gun law reforms following a deadly school shooting in Nashville.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, more than 11,500 people died from gun violence in the United States in the first four months of this year. That's 115 deaths a day. Mass shootings have become daily events—146 incidents with four or more victims shot or killed in the first 100 days of 2023.

You might remember some of the recent ones: the Old National Bank, Louisville, Kentucky, five dead, eight injured; The Covenant School, Nashville, Tennessee, seven dead including the gunman; Monterey Park, California, 11 dead and nine wounded at a Lunar New Year dance...

And the list goes on and on and on. These horrendous, senseless events happen so frequently that they blur together from one year to the next as we grow numb to the news of more senseless gun violence and deaths. We hear of legally purchased assault rifles used to massacre, and shooters with a history of illness holding gun permits and stockpiling weapons. We see monuments of flowers and teddy bears outside of schools and parents in anguish, mourning their children.

Yet, in the aftermath, we always hear the same thing from Republican lawmakers: pious platitudes. The victims' families are in their prayers, period. Instead of discussing solutions, GOP Presidential hopefuls flocked to the annual NRA convention in April to show their opposition to reform and appeal to a gun-hungry base. In fact, Republican lawmakers across the country are pushing laws to expand rights to own and carry firearms. Point of fact, Governor Ron DeSantis recently signed a bill allowing Florida residents to carry concealed guns without a permit.

More than half of Americans have dealt with gun violence in their personal lives. And still we cannot pass simple background checks or agree on how to enforce red flag laws. We do not need to trample on Second Amendment rights to hold the gun industry and lobbying firms accountable and enact common-sense legislation that will, without doubt, save lives. Let's all join reinstated Tennessee Representatives Justin Jones and Justin Pearson in standing up and demanding reform now!

Ely Flynn  
Linda Flynn  
Publisher