Please, note that a media outlet might publish this as a letter-to-the-editor, unless you ask them not to publish it. Feel free to adapt the letter, but we ask that you include the request that journalists reach out to legislators about how they are voting before Thursday morning.

Use the email list provided.

Subject Line: Coverage of Tennessee House expulsion vote thisThursday

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen within your coverage area regarding the resolutions introduced in the Tennessee House of Representatives this week to expel State Representatives Gloria Johnson, Justin Jones and Justin Pearson (HR63, HR64 and HR65). The House plans to vote on them on Thursday morning. Have you asked our State Representatives how they plan to vote, and will you be publishing it? It's important, if possible, that we know this information before the vote. Can we count on you to let our community know how our lawmaker votes Thursday?

The press is a vital pillar in our Democracy and your role is important as the process in the House unfolds. I am thankful for journalists like you who work tirelessly to protect it. Can we count on you this week? Here is some information that might help in your coverage.

The Tennessee Constitution guarantees a legislator the right to "protest against, any act or resolve which he may think injurious to the public or to any individual, and to have the reasons for his dissent entered on the journals." ARTICLE II, Section 27

The actions of Representatives Johnson, Jones and Pearson contributed meaningfully to the real debate in this state about gun violence. The people are more concerned about that debate than they are about a departure from the rules that govern ordinary procedures in the House. This is no ordinary time because the people are in mourning and want to see true reforms.

It is wrong to deny Districts 90, 52 and 86 representation during these critical debates and as the state considers the budget and other legislation. This is not a partisan issue, but an attack on the freedom and representation of everyday Tennesseans like me.

Without you, Democracy wouldn't just be in peril, but we would be left in the dark. Thank you for considering my views and for your pursuit of the truth.

Gratefully yours,

YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS