

ADVOCATES FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

UNION CHURCH IN WABAN

14 Collins Road

Waban, MA 02468

April 23, 2023

The Honorable Justin Jones
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.
Suite 422 Cordell Hull Bldg.
Nashville TN 37243

Dear Representative Jones,

We the undersigned members of the Union Church in Waban, affirming the inclusive love of Jesus, are moved to bear witness to the tragic school shootings in Nashville, to the state house demonstrations and protests by the people of Tennessee, and to the senseless retaliation by the majority of the Tennessee House of Representatives voting to silence the people by expelling you and Rep. Justin Pearson and punishing Rep. Gloria Johnson. Instead of addressing measures to prevent more gun violence, the rulers of the House chose to defend their decorum, thereby trivializing the loss of life and ignoring the grief and the outcries of communities traumatized by endless gun violence. They chose love for guns over love for children.

We fully support your vigorous, inspiring protest and steadfast refusal to be set aside and silenced. We are heartened by the quick action of your constituents to enable you to continue your eloquent representation and be even stronger now to give voice to the countless victims of gun violence in this country. Most importantly, your direct actions and agitation for racial justice fortify our understanding that the incidents of gun violence that move us to pray and protest are but one of many inhumane manifestations of racial injustice that we can no longer tolerate in any part of this country.

We are grateful for your eloquence and clarity of purpose in harmony with the truth-telling of Dr. King and Frederick Douglass - the truth that those in power concede nothing without a demand; freedom must be demanded by the oppressed.

Your demands are our demands. May you, an instrument of peace, prevail over the instruments of war that tear at the heart of our country.

With gratitude,

Undersigned members of the Union Church in Waban and its Advocates for Racial Justice