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REASON FOR VOTING NOT TO EXPEL DURHAM

After more than an hour debating, members of the Tennessee General Assembly on Tuesday voted 70-2 to expel Representative Jeremy Durham (R-Franklin).

Tuesday marked only the third time a legislator has been kicked out of Tennessee's statehouse. Previous expulsions happened in 1866 and 1980

Representative Terri Lynn Weaver (R-Lancaster) and Representative Courtney Rogers (R-Goodlettsville) voted against expelling Durham. More than 20 legislators abstained from voting or were not present.

Durham, accused in an Attorney General's report of sexually harassing at least 22 women, attempted to make a case against his expulsion arguing that the vote was tantamount to an unfair trial. Durham claimed he did not get a chance to present evidence to defend himself.

I voted against expelling Durham because he was denied due process. Yesterday's vote was a very important one. I believe in procedures. I believe those are paramount. Those procedures of due process, in other words, innocent before guilty, are precious procedures to be afforded by everyone even if some are bad actors. I'm sure there were shenanigans but still there was no due process presented to me. The vote was very difficult for me to make. But I was sent there to the state legislature to be your voice. There was no room to be on the fence on this by abstain from voting. After yesterday's vote what is concerning to me is that any member of the General Assembly can be expelled based on rumors or hearsay and that puts justice and due process on a very slippery slope. I defended the process of law for all and I would do it again. I want to thank the people of District 40 for your confidence in me. I was sent there to be courageous and to vote the right way and I believe I did that.

Sincerely;
Terri Lynn