



SENATOR PAUL BAILEY
STATE OF TENNESSEE

May 7, 2026

Dear Caucus Members:

I want to begin by expressing my profound disappointment in the conduct that unfolded on the Senate floor today. What Tennesseans witnessed was not passionate debate, it was a deliberate abandonment of the decorum, discipline and institutional respect that have long distinguished the Tennessee Senate. Standing on desks, shouting from the well, displaying signs and encouraging disorder inside the chamber diminished the dignity of this body and weakened the public's confidence in our institution. The Senate is not a stage for political theater and chaos can never be permitted to replace civil debate and responsible governance. I am proud, however, that throughout these proceedings our Republican caucus remained disciplined, composed and focused on conducting the people's business with the seriousness and professionalism Tennesseans expect and deserve.

The Tennessee Senate has always been defined by something greater than partisan disagreement. We will not always agree, either across the aisle or within our own caucus, but this institution only functions when every member respects the rules, traditions and standards that preserve order and protect the integrity of the chamber. Every Senator has the right to advocate forcefully for their beliefs, but no Senator has the right to undermine the institution itself in pursuit of attention, disruption or political spectacle. What occurred today crossed a line that cannot become normalized, excused or rewarded. If the Senate loses its principles, it loses its credibility, and if it loses its credibility, it loses the trust of the people we were elected to serve.

If entrusted with a leadership role within this caucus, I will put Tennessee first, defend our conservative principles and protect the integrity of this institution without hesitation. Accountability is not optional; it is the foundation of effective leadership and requires the resolve to enforce standards even when it is difficult. **I will not tolerate, excuse or reward conduct that violates the rules of this Senate or disrupts its order!** What occurred today, disruption, chaos and disregard for decorum, falls short of the standard this institution demands and will be treated as such moving forward. The people of Tennessee deserve a Senate defined by order, seriousness and principled leadership; not disorder, spectacle, or manufactured outrage. I remain committed to ensuring this chamber never loses sight of that responsibility.

All My Best,