

Testimony on Senate Bill - **FAVORABLE**

SB0962 - January 6th Insurrectionists - Prohibition on Service in Certain Government Roles

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

March 13, 2026

Honorable Committee Members: My name is Joyce Sims and I appreciate this opportunity to offer comments on SB0962 outlining public service restrictions for persons convicted of crimes related to the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol

As many others did, I watched in horror as livestream videos showed hundreds of people leaving the speech given by Donald Trump and marching directly to the U.S. Capitol where the process for peaceful transfer of power was underway. These people did not arrive to simply protest, as permitted by our Constitution; they brandished flagpoles, chemical sprays, and other items as weapons against the Capitol Police who were stationed at building entrance that day. Bike racks set up as barriers by the Capitol Police were picked up and used as weapons by the crowd as they swarmed over the vastly outnumbered law enforcement officers. They built a gallows and called for the Vice President to be hung. Someone used a fire extinguisher to break a window so people could climb into the building. It's not feasible or necessary to describe everything all that that happened, except to note that many law enforcement officers paid a terrible price for doing their jobs; for protecting members of Congress.

The people who stood trial and were duly convicted of crimes as a result of their actions that day were pardoned; they were told they were patriots. Most reasonable people understand that is not the case.

Given these extraordinary circumstances, it would be unreasonable to have anyone convicted of crimes related to events of that day - January 6, 2021, even if pardoned, holding a position of power or authority. This bill would prevent such persons from serving on boards, committees, commissions, and other such workgroups created by authority of the State, and to remove or terminate employment of any such person serving in violation thereof.

Thank you for your favorable vote on SB0962.

Joyce Sims

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