

State Representative  
Brandi Bradley  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue, Room 307  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Office: 303-866-2935  
Email: brandi.bradley.house@coleg.gov



Member:  
Appropriations Committee  
Behavioral & Public Health  
Committee

**COLORADO**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
State Capitol  
Denver  
80203

Most by now have seen the tragic news streaming out of Israel, how Hamas terrorists from Gaza snuck across the border last weekend on the quiet morning of a religious holiday to murder, rape, and destroy the lives of many innocent Israelis. They decapitated children, kidnapped and sexually assaulted young women, and viciously murdered other unarmed Israelis, including the elderly. The atrocities, which were clearly understood immediately for what they were, have met or exceeded some of the most egregious actions committed by groups like ISIS or the Taliban. They represent the very worst acts of humanity and constitute not simply an act of war but war crimes.

As some have pointed out, these recent actions were not committed in a vacuum, but there is nothing nuanced about last weekend or the days since. There is no feigned position of moral equivalence here. The actions by these Palestinian terrorists from Gaza were evil.

Yet despite this moral clarity, pockets of individuals around the world are shockingly celebrating the violence committed by Hamas, using clear antisemitic rhetoric such as chants in Sydney of "Gas the Jews!" All of this should be startling even to the most ignorant of modern history.

While the last survivors of the generation that experienced the Holocaust are quickly fading, some of the lessons from that period should not. Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor who passed in 2016, said during his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986: "We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

Times and events such as these likewise compel us to take sides and to openly voice our support for the individuals who were attacked and for the nation of Israel in its justified response. We cannot be silent without risking being complicit. We have a duty to speak, to shame those who would advocate for what Hamas did, and to implore our leaders at the national level to both speak and act on our behalf in support of Israel.

That being said, it is now all the more important that we speak because of the recent actions taken and statements made by the recently appointed member of the Colorado General Assembly, Democrat Representative Tim Hernandez (HD 4, Denver). Rep. Hernandez saw fit to publicly join with the handful of others at the Colorado Capitol supporting Palestinian violence, even going so far as to repeatedly refuse to condemn the terrorists' actions when given the chance to do so on video. After intense political fallout, he attempted to distance himself somewhat from his behavior, but there is no explanation or excuse for his actions as a state leader.

Censure and expulsion are weighty subjects. They should never be employed without the utmost seriousness and care. Many statements made by elected officials, particularly over the course of a debate, offend others. Some

may be perceived or even possibly intended as hurtful, mean, or morally wrong. No such statements, however, on their own warrant the use of either extraordinary power.

The principles of free speech, which we have all sworn to protect, are not endowed to simply protect speech with which we all agree. That God given right protects especially speech deemed offensive. In nearly all cases, it is the People, not elected officials, who should expel or otherwise permanently censure any elected official who wades into serious speech indiscretions by use of the ballot box or with a recall vote.

That said, there are rare times when those powers are warranted. Whenever there is a call to openly support the murder, rape, and kidnapping of men, women, and children based on their ethnicity or nationality, such a time is realized. No measure should be taken by the State to silence Rep. Hernandez while acting lawfully within his rights as a citizen, however disturbing, but as an official of the State of Colorado, it is wholly appropriate to remove a representative who openly supported and celebrated what Hamas did over the weekend.

This conflict, however, is about much more than the antisemitic behavior of one representative. We must take action against Rep. Hernandez to send a clear message that we do not agree with those supporting Jewish persecution, but we can do more.

Therefore, we the undersigned:

- Call upon the Leadership in the Colorado House and Senate to prioritize the repassage of SJR11-027 “Concerning Continued Support by the Colorado General Assembly for a Strong Relationship Between the United States and Israel” as its first order of business upon the commencement of the Second Regular Session of the 74<sup>th</sup> General Assembly;
- Hereby support the Colorado Federal delegation and President Joseph Biden’s condemnation of the terrorist acts of Hamas and call upon them to further support Israel in its attempts to address the threat Hamas poses to its people;
- Issue our formal statement of support to those same Federal leaders in their efforts to free any American hostages and to bring justice to those Americans murdered by Palestinian terrorists;
- Rebuke the despicable displays of celebration over the rape and murder of Jewish people in Israel and the antisemitic rhetoric globally, including the calls for worldwide jihad on “The Friday of Al-Aqsa flood”;
- Demand that Leadership in the Colorado House of Representatives initiate immediately those steps necessary to expel Rep. Hernandez for his actions supporting Hamas terrorists; and
- Extend our heartfelt support to the Israeli people, to all the victims of this violence, and to the nation of Israel, particularly in this time of need; remembering as the prophet Zechariah said, “for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye”; you are not alone.

Submitted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

Representative Brandi Bradley

Representative Scott Bottoms  
Representative Stephanie Luck  
Representative Ken DeGraaf  
Representative Ryan Armagost  
Representative Ty Winter  
Representative Rick Taggart  
Representative Mike Lynch  
Representative Richard Holtorf  
Representative Anthony Hartsook  
Representative Mary Bradfield  
Representative Rose Pugliesi  
Representative Lisa Frizell  
Representative Don Wilson  
Representative Marc Catlin