



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAC McCUTCHEON
Speaker of the House

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE MAC MCCUTCHEON'S STATEMENT

REGARDING THE INCIDENT ON THE HOUSE FLOOR 3/21/19

The incident that took place Thursday morning on the floor of the Alabama House was as disappointing to me as it was shocking.

All members of the House have a right and are encouraged to express their opinions. However, they don't have a right to recklessly disregard the Rules of the House in making those comments.

House Rule 50(a) states, "Members shall act with decorum at all times on the House floor and in committee meetings." Furthermore, every member "shall observe decency of speech; never use language or engage in activity that is profane, obscene, tasteless, vulgar, morally crude or meant to harass..."

Those same rules require me as speaker to preserve order and decorum. House Rule 58(a) gives me the power "to remove any member who is engaging in a breach of the peace from areas of the State House that are under the control of the House."

Had the representative from Jefferson County not left the chamber when she did, I would have had her removed.

House members were not the only people subjected to a stream of harassing statements and obscenities during the representative from Jefferson County's outburst. House staff, visitors in the House gallery, and nearly a dozen pre-teen and teenage pages were present on the floor at the time of the incident.

Conduct such as this should never be tolerated from anyone and it will not be tolerated from House members as long as I'm Speaker.