



REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVE SPARKS FAILS TO HOLD DURHAM ACCOUNTABLE

Smyrna, Tenn. (September 15, 2016) -- State Republican Representative Mike Sparks refused to vote at all on Tuesday on the expulsion of embattled former Republican State Representative Jeremy Durham.

If Durham had not been ousted, the former Representative would have been eligible for state pension for the rest of his life. The House of Representatives took up the issue on Tuesday during a special legislative session called by the Governor to correct a costly DUI law.

“By not voting on the expulsion, Rep. Sparks tried to give Jeremy Durham a free ride. The Republican leadership finally took action to punish this accused serial sexual harasser and he chose to remain silent on his punishment - essentially voting to let him off the hook,” said Brandon Thomas, Democratic Candidate for District 49.

Thomas continued, “This is a slap in the face to the 22 victims who have been ignored and have suffered for over a year. I am outraged that Sparks stood up for a man accused of such heinous actions.”

The House voted 70-2 to expel the former lawmaker. The two nays cast were by Republican Representative Courtney Rogers of Sumner County and Republican Representative Terri Lynn Weaver of Smith County.

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