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Karen Whitsett Stands with Haley Stevens After Party Leaders Attack Her Rogers Endorsement

Whitsett says Black Democratic leaders attacked Stevens instead of asking why she made one cross-party vote

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DETROIT - Michigan State Representative Karen Whitsett today defended U.S. Representative Haley Stevens after Stevens endorsed Mike Rogers for the United States Senate. Whitsett said Stevens did not have to make the endorsement and criticized Black Democratic leaders who condemned her instead of asking why a proud Democrat chose to cross party lines in one race.

"I stand with Haley Stevens. She did not have to endorse Mike Rogers. Haley said she remains a proud Democrat and described supporting Rogers as 'this one vote.' She made that choice knowing the political cost.

I recognize the playbook because Democratic Party leaders used it on me - again and again. During COVID, I survived, told the truth about the treatment that helped me and thanked President Trump. Instead of caring that I was alive and fighting to save lives, members of my own party tried to silence, shame and censure me.

But my district knew me. They knew who answered the telephone, delivered food and supplies, helped seniors and showed up when families were afraid. The political establishment attacked me, but the people I served supported me and kept voting me back into office.

During lame duck, I chose to listen to Jesus and walk away rather than surrender my conscience. They brought the NAACP into the fight against me. I did not walk away from my duty. I walked toward obedience to Jesus Christ. When I challenged Planned Parenthood and refused to abandon my convictions, I watched pastors get brought forward to give religious cover to abortion and condemn anyone who would not fall in line.

Different issue. Same machine. Same punishment.

This moment should put a beaming spotlight on everything wrong with today's Democratic Party and the socialist direction of its leadership: either move with the machine or the machine will try to destroy you.

Instead of asking why a proud Democrat crossed party lines in one race, Black Democratic leaders attacked her. DNC Black Caucus Chair Virgie Rollins called Haley a 'sellout' and accused her of using Black Michiganders for a 'political stunt.' Michigan Democratic Party First Vice Chair Portia Roberson also publicly criticized Haley's appearance with Rogers. They attacked her instead of asking why she reached that point.

Before pointing your finger at Haley, look carefully at the people smiling for the cameras while claiming to be the victims. Who is surrounded by party leaders, national figures, political organizations and a powerful communications machine? Who is actually being isolated and publicly punished? She could have stayed silent. She did not.

Haley does not belong to the Democratic Party. Neither did I. Our voices, votes and consciences are not property owned by political leadership.

If unity exists only when everyone obeys, that is not unity. That is control.

I am still a Democrat, but I am not a servant to a political machine or its socialist agenda. I serve Jesus Christ, my conscience and the people.

The political establishment tried to tell my district who I was. My district answered at the ballot box."

About Karen Whitsett

Karen Whitsett is a Michigan Democrat and state representative known for her district-first approach, independent voice and work serving Detroit-area residents. Reality Matters presents public claims, documented records and firsthand experience in clear language so people can reach their own conclusions.

Public record references: ABC News, MLive and Associated Press reporting published November 1, 2026. Media inquiries and additional information: realitymatters.info

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