



## THE CENTER

at Sierra Health Foundation

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### **Sacramento Leaders Join White House Signing of Gun Violence Legislation**

*Les Simmons and Julius Thibodeaux join President Joe Biden to celebrate the signing of the  
"Bipartisan Safer Communities Act"*

**Sacramento, CA** – Two Sacramento leaders joined President Joe Biden today in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the signing of the "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act." The new law, passed by Congress last month, addresses gun violence through new gun safety restrictions to carve out a path toward safer communities nationwide.

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation partners **Les Simmons**, senior pastor at the South Sacramento Christian Center and director of the Simmons Center and **Julius Thibodeaux**, director of Movement 4 Life, attended. Both were invited to the historic event in recognition of their leadership and success in creating safe and healthy youth activities and alternatives to gun violence.

"We are proud to see Les and Julius being recognized on the national level," said **Chet P. Hewitt, President and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and The Center**. "Their leadership in Sacramento gives our neighborhoods and community members the support, hope and connection they need to build community power and face complex issues like gun violence. South Sacramento Christian Center and Movement 4 Life are incredible examples of why we prioritize funding and partnering with community-led organizations with the trust and established relationships to really make a difference."

Both Simmons and Thibodeaux-Hasan shared their reflections from the White House lawn.

"I am honored to stand with LiveFree, The Center and Movement 4 Life in celebration of the Safer Communities Act. This legislation will strengthen our ability to prevent, respond to and interrupt violence and help our communities heal from the trauma violence leaves behind when it occurs," said **Simmons**. "After the downtown shooting which left multiple people dead and wounded, the City of Sacramento changed directions from supporting community led violence reduction strategies and youth pop-ups, which is a move in the wrong direction. I'm hopeful that through the Safe Communities Act is a

sign that precious resources for community mental health, crisis intervention workers and violence interrupters are on the way to saves lives.”

“I’m proud to stand in the larger-than-life footprints of great men and women who have come here before me to speak on behalf of those whose cries for equality, liberty and justice have gone unheard,” said **Thibodeaux**. “Sacramento based organizations like Movement 4 Life and collaborative efforts like Healing the Hood are central to centering community voices in advancing peace. It’s people in communities that have been deemed unworthy who can truly make this country one of second chances.”

Both Simmons said Thibodeaux are available for interview. For more information about Sierra Health Foundation and The Center, please visit [www.sierrahealth.org](http://www.sierrahealth.org).

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