



**The Society for the Study of Social Problems**  
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Governor Kay Ivey  
Governor of Alabama  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Ivey:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), one of the oldest and most respected social science organizations in the country, to express our support to rename the Edmund Pettus Bridge the John R. Lewis Bridge. What could be more appropriate than to rename a bridge named after a Grand Dragon of the KKK after someone who dedicated his entire life to civil rights and social justice? Ironically, when people across the country hear or read a reference to the bridge, most of them, we are sure, think of John Lewis, not Edmund Pettus, and the courage Representative Lewis and many others exhibited on a day that came to be known as "Bloody Sunday."

Alabama still suffers from Edmund Pettus's legacy and what occurred that day on a bridge named after him. This is a great opportunity for the legislature to let the rest of the country know that while Alabama has much to be proud of, it, like every other state, has chapters in its history that it is not proud of and to communicate that it no longer countenances the kind of bigotry and hatred that Edmund Pettus represented. What could be more fitting, more powerful of a statement, than to rename the bridge after a civil rights giant and Alabama native son, the Honorable John R. Lewis?

If you wish to discuss our support for renaming the bridge in Representative Lewis's honor, please do not hesitate to contact us. We wish you and the people of Alabama our best.

Sincerely,

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.  
Executive Officer, SSSP  
Professor Emeritus, University of La Verne