

May 3, 2021

Rep. Sage Dixon, Chairman House Ethics & House Policy Committee

Dear Chairman Dixon,

We, the undersigned, hereby bring a complaint that Representative Priscilla Giddings has engaged in behavior unbecoming of a representative which was detrimental to the dignity and integrity of the House as a legislative body pursuant to House Rule 45 (2)(b)(i).

We believe two separate, but related acts warrant your committee's investigation.

First, Rep. Giddings disseminated the identity and photo of a young lady Statehouse intern (Jane Doe) who reported sexual assault by a representative on April 16th, 2021. The identity and photo were embedded in defamatory writings she disseminated. She also appears to have made defamatory statements herself. She shared these writings through a Facebook post, which disclosed the name and displayed a photo of the intern, and through her official government e-newsletter which linked to an article with the photo. It is inappropriate to share the identity of a person who has reported sexual assault because it endangers that person and prevents other survivors from coming forward. Sexual harassment is a subset of sex discrimination, made unlawful by 67-5909, Idaho Code. Therefore, the committee may find that such treatment by Rep Giddings amounts to retaliation against Jane Doe for raising a claim for sexual harassment which is unlawful under 67-5911, Idaho Code. Rep. Giddings' action raises additional concern when a sensitive Ethics Committee investigation is underway. The intimidating and bullying of the teenage witness by others could have threatened the integrity of the earlier investigation and certainly caused harm to the victim.

Second, Rep. Giddings appeared to misrepresent her actions to the Ethics and House Policy Committee while under oath. She was directly asked to confirm that she had posted a picture of Jane Doe. She responded, "That is not correct." When pressed further by a committee member who pulled up her Facebook post and could see the photo, she feigned ignorance as to whether she had posted the image. When asked if she is the administrator of her Facebook account, she would not answer the question.

Alternatively, the committee may find that Giddings' elusive answer was evidence of action giving rise to a determination that Rep. Giddings should be held in contempt of the committee.

Rep. Giddings conduct appears to be unbecoming a Representative which is detrimental to the integrity of the House as a legislative body. To maintain a safe workplace at the Idaho House of Representatives, we must be able to receive and respond to reports without interference. Additionally, people working at the Statehouse must be able to report abuse without the threat of bullying, threats, or invasion of privacy. Representative Giddings' behavior invaded Jane Doe's privacy and threatened her safety. It also threatened the integrity of the investigation. Further, appearance of dishonesty while under oath was an affront to the House

We would appreciate your prompt attention to this manner.

Sincerely (See attached),

Scott Bedhe
Speaker of the House,
Representative Scott Bedke
No Market
Representative Steve Berch
Representative Matthew "Matt" Bundy
Jun
Majority Caucus Chair
Representative Megan Blanksma
Representative Greg Chancy
Representative Marco Erickson
Representative Marco chickson
Hepresentative Rod Furniss

Representative Marc Gibbs

Representative Brooke Green
Sanda Wind Sorty. Representative Linda Wright Hartgen
Representative Laurie Lickley

Representative Chris Mathias

Representative Brandon Mitchell

Representative Colin Nash

Assistant Minority Leader
Representative Leaves Nessesher

Representative Lauren Necochea

Minority Leader

Representative Ilana Rubel

Representative James Ruchti

Representative Scott Syme Minority Caucus Chair Representative Sally Toone arolne Nilssan Troy Representative Caroline Nilsson Troy Representative John Vander Woude Representative Jon Weber Representative Julie Yamamoto Representative Bick Youngblood

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