

September 25, 2019

Honorable Carol Pope
Office of the Legislative Inspector General
P.O. Box 381
Petersburg, Illinois 62675
carol.pope@ilga.gov

Dear Inspector General Pope:

In accordance with Section 25-63 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, please accept this letter as my response to your founded summary report as to Kevin Quinn.

As an initial matter, I applaud and thank you and Ms. Porter for the work and commitment that was put into this investigation. It is my firm belief that in order to combat the culture of harassment that has pervaded the organizations chaired by Speaker Madigan, victims must first feel safe in coming forward with their allegations. Throughout this process, that is exactly how I felt and that is to the credit of you and Ms. Porter.

Coming forward publicly has been emotionally, mentally, and financially challenging. Victims, like myself, are shamed, labeled liars and considered by those in Speaker Madigan's organizations to be disloyal. In addition to being ostracized, we face retaliation and being blackballed while the perpetrators go unpunished and undeterred in their misconduct. For far too long in Illinois there has been no safe avenue, let alone any avenue, for redress. Hopefully now, in part because of this founded summary report, the systematic shaming of victims and the protection of powerful and high ranking political operatives will end.

Turning to the summary report, I would like to take this opportunity to address some inaccuracies in the section titled "Factual Findings." First, the report states "At times, the Democratic Party of Illinois (DPI) did pay Hampton for her campaign activities." While it is correct that I was required to submit certain paperwork to DPI in order to receive payment for my campaign work, the actual checks received for that work came from Friends of Michael J. Madigan and the Democratic Majority.

Second, the summary report states that "around the same time that Hampton reported the harassment to Madigan and Wier-Vaught, she showed K. Quinn's text messages to a friend." To be clear, I reported the harassment to Madigan, not Wier-Vaught, in November 2017. Also, I confided in my then close friend, Individual A, in September 2016, one year earlier, about Kevin Quinn's inappropriate text messages as I wanted his advice on how to handle the situation. At no point in time did I ever make a statement about blackmail, in jest or otherwise.

Moreover, I find it very suspicious that Wier-Vaught even mentioned Individual A to the LIG as part of its investigation. The evidence shows that Individual A sent Wier-Vaught a transcript of our text message exchange on February 14, 2018, more than four months after her purported investigation into Kevin Quinn's misconduct and one day after I went public with my story. It is my opinion that in communicating with Individual A *after* I went public and in

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disclosing to the LIG my text messages with Individual A, none of which even allude to me trying to “blackmail” Speaker Madigan or his organizations, Wier-Vaught is engaging in a continued effort to silence me, undermine my credibility, and further damage my career, all to protect Speaker Madigan and his organizations.

The timing of Wier-Vaught’s and Individual A’s communications (and accusations) does not pass muster. If Individual A allegedly had knowledge of me talking about taking my story public or blackmailing Speaker Madigan for money in September 2016, just one month after Kevin Quinn began sending me harassing messages, why did he wait nearly a year and a half to bring that information to Wier-Vaught’s attention? If I was really intent on blackmailing Speaker Madigan, why did I remain at the organization and endure the harassment for another four months and why did I wait an additional ten months to go public? In sum, I believe this to be a desperate and disingenuous attempt to smear my reputation and character with absolutely no evidence to back it up. Ultimately, this kind of misguided tactic can only serve to ensure that victims of sexual harassment stay silent and perpetrators go unpunished.

Third, the summary report seems to attribute as fact, certain statements made by Alderman Marty Quinn. In addition to disputing the accuracy of those statements, I think it is important that the report make clear that Marty Quinn did not participate in, nor was he interviewed as part of, this investigation. All statements attributed to Marty Quinn in the section of the summary report entitled “Wier-Vaught’s Next Steps,” come from Wier-Vaught, who, in my opinion, for multiple reasons, is incredible.

Fourth, I deny that I ever stated to Wier-Vaught, or anyone else for that matter, that I did not want Kevin Quinn to be terminated. In fact, at no point in time did I even believe that I had the ability or authority to decide if and how Kevin Quinn would be punished for his conduct. The organization’s failure to terminate Kevin Quinn is not my responsibility to bear. In seeking to justify the decision not to terminate Kevin Quinn based on my purported wishes, Wier-Vaught and Speaker Madigan are wrongly attempting to shift the focus and blame away from themselves and the very organizations that were and are ultimately responsible for making such decisions. The organizations’ failure to employ safe measures and procedures for reporting harassment, and the organizations’ failure to properly investigate and remedy the situation is theirs and theirs alone. Until such time that Speaker Madigan and his organizations accept complete and absolute responsibility for their failures, Speaker Madigan’s public statements vowing to do more to combat sexual harassment will ring hollow.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you again for your dedication and attention to this matter. I also appreciate this opportunity to respond in writing to your founded summary report. I urge the Commission to publish your summary report and this written response in their entirety.

Sincerely,



Alaina Hampton