



STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

Brian C. Bosma
Speaker of the House

Website: www.in.gov/h88
E-mail: H88@in.gov
Phone: (317) 232-9657

October 23, 2018

Via Electronic Mail & Inter-Department Mail Delivery

The Honorable Greg Steuerwald, Chairman
The Honorable Clyde Kersey, Vice-Chairman
The Honorable Jim Baird, Member
The Honorable Sue Errington, Member
The Honorable Kathy Richardson, Member
The Honorable Steve Stemler, Member
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear House Ethics Committee Members:

I have received a copy of the complaint filed with the Ethics Committee by Representative Linda Lawson and wanted to forward an immediate request for your consideration. While I believe this to be an improper use of the Ethics Committee process, due to the allegations made in Representative Lawson's letter and the impact on the institution, I request an immediate review of this matter by the current Ethics Committee and resolution prior to the November 6th election for the reasons set forth below.

This is the first occasion to my knowledge that an ethics complaint has been filed by a member of the House against another member of the opposite party regarding events of which the complainant has no personal knowledge. The complaint also appears to be filed for maximum political impact in the last several weeks of a contested election in my district.

Regarding the need to resolve this matter promptly, Indiana Code §2-2.2-3-3 provides that the members of the Ethics Committee hold their office until the day before the general election. Thereafter, a new Ethics Committee will be appointed by the leaders of the two caucuses, generally following Organization Day. If I should be in that role following Organization Day and make these appointments, it would no doubt be alleged that my selections are being made with an eye toward the pending complaint. This could lead to an appearance of impropriety to the members of the House and the public. It would be in our institution's best interest to avoid such an appearance.

In addition, Representative Lawson has raised the specter that there could be retribution from me to members for the handling of this complaint. I have taken no retaliatory action against any member of the House for any conduct toward me in my years of service, and find this allegation to be entirely unfounded and offensive. However, as this assertion has now been made, to avoid the appearance of impropriety, I believe it is imperative for this matter to be addressed expeditiously by the present Ethics Committee prior to the election as four of the six committee members are retiring from the General Assembly, greatly reducing any possibility of retribution.

Finally, if this matter is not resolved expeditiously, a cloud will hang over this institution and over me personally as we address the sexual harassment policy being prepared for submission to the Legislative Council by Representatives Sullivan and Pryor and Senators Brown and Tallian. That policy is scheduled for consideration by the Legislative Council no later than November 20, 2018 following the election. A similar concern should be expressed for any action which may result from the reports released today regarding Attorney General Curtis Hill.

I am prepared to immediately submit sworn testimony to the Committee for your consideration and to make myself available at any time to address this complaint as the committee sees fit. I adamantly deny these allegations and am prepared to do so under oath either in the form of an affidavit or in person. I am also prepared to request the submittal of sworn testimony from my attorney Linda Pence.

I appreciate your consideration of my request and look forward to your response. I will not reach out to any of you personally on this matter to avoid any allegation of directing your conclusions on this request. Thank you for your service to our state.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian C. Bosma". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian C. Bosma, Speaker
Indiana House of Representatives
120th General Assembly