



## House of Representatives

STATE OF IDAHO

CAPITOL BUILDING

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, ID 83720-0038

April 15, 2021

After a preliminary investigation under House Rule 45, the Committee on Ethics and House Policy has unanimously found probable cause in the ethics complaint filed against Representative Aaron von Ehlinger. Under House Rule 45 these proceedings will move forward to a public hearing.

A copy of the complaint is available from the Office of the Chief Clerk of the House.

Rep. Sage Dixon, Chairman  
Committee on Ethics and House Policy



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March 17, 2021

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

Dear Chairman Dixon:

On March 11 a complaint of inappropriate sexual conduct involving a [REDACTED] and Representative von Ehlinger was reported to the Speaker of the House by the Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Kim Blackburn. Upon receipt of this information, it was immediately reported to the Attorney General's Office, who interviewed Ms. Blackburn and determined that the encounter may have violated the House of Representatives Respectful Workplace guidelines. At that time, the Attorney General's Office referred this matter to law enforcement for a possible criminal investigation. An investigation by the Boise Police Department was commenced. On March 12, House Majority Leadership was briefed regarding these allegations. On advice of the Attorney General's Office, no further action was taken by the House Majority Leadership at that time in order to prevent interference with the criminal investigation. On March 16, House Majority Leadership was informed that the law enforcement investigation would not be moving forward at the request of [REDACTED]. Based upon the complaint being brought to our attention, and now that it appears that we will no longer be interfering with an ongoing investigation, we feel compelled to bring this complaint before the Ethics and House Policy Committee.

We, the undersigned, bring a complaint alleging that Representative von Ehlinger has possibly engaged in conduct unbecoming a Representative which would be detrimental to the integrity of the House as a legislative body under House Rule 45(2)(b)(i). Due to the severity of the allegations contained within the complaint, we are referring this matter to the Ethics Committee. It has been alleged that Representative von Ehlinger used his position as a member of the House of Representatives to initiate a sexual encounter with a [REDACTED] of the House of Representatives.

Within the complaint made to the Assistant Sergeant at Arms, it is alleged that Representative von Ehlinger took [REDACTED] to dinner. Following dinner, Representative von Ehlinger took [REDACTED] back to his apartment, saying he had to stop by for something that he had forgotten. [REDACTED] accompanied him up to his apartment. The details of what occurred next are unclear, but at some point, Representative von Ehlinger is alleged to have initiated a sexual encounter with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] reported that at some point she said "no" to the encounter.

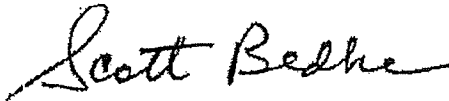
Rep. Sage Dixon  
March 17, 2021  
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According to the allegations within the complaint, [REDACTED] did not want this to occur. It is further alleged that she felt she could not refuse because of the power differential between Representative von Ehlinger as a member of the Idaho House of Representatives, and her as a [REDACTED]. It is also alleged that [REDACTED] was also fearful because she believes that Representative von Ehlinger carries a gun at all times.

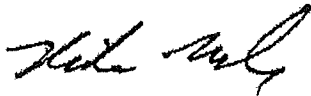
Based upon our knowledge, the individuals with information regarding these events are [REDACTED], Assistant Sergeant at Arms Kim Blackburn, Detective Monte Iverson, Detective Brandon Joseph, and Representative von Ehlinger. Included with this letter is the statement provided by Ms. Blackburn to the Boise City Police.

The above actions constitute the basis for this ethics complaint. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

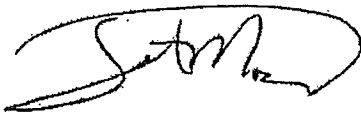
Sincerely,



Rep. Scott Bedke  
Speaker



Rep. Mike Moyle  
Majority Leader



Rep. Jason Monks  
Assistant Majority Leader



Rep. Megan Blanksma  
Caucus Chair

March 11, 2021

For: Detective Iverson, Boise Police Dept

Preface: I was asked to give a written statement concerning information conveyed to me by Idaho House of Representative [REDACTED]. My relationship with [REDACTED] started in January 2020; when she was a [REDACTED] and I was the Asst. Sergeant at Arms for the House of Representatives. Part of my duties was to oversee the Page Program during the Legislative Session.

[REDACTED] came to me around 8:20 a.m. on the morning of March 11, 2021 and asked if she could talk to me in private. We went to an area where we could talk. I asked her what was going on and she was clearly upset and began telling me that she had gone to dinner last night with a person and something had happened and she wasn't sure what to do. I asked her to be specific and start at the beginning. She said it started with this person being nice to her at work. He gave her \$40 to go get him lunch and when she came back with the lunch, he told her to keep the change. She said it was nice because it helped her pay her Les Schwab bill. On other occasions, he would bring her lunch and paid to fill-up her car with gas. On the night of March 10, 2021, she met him in downtown Boise. She got in his car and he took her to the Barbacoa Grill for dinner. She said he was a gentleman and opened the doors for her and they talked about her life and stuff. After dinner, they went back to his apartment and he left to go put something in his car. She started talking to me about him having an erection. She didn't say what happened between him leaving to go to his car and her seeing he had an erection, but she said she still had her coat on. She said she froze when the sexual contact started and didn't know what to do. He said this shouldn't scare her because she was already a [REDACTED]. He started taking her clothes off and then she said he had his penis in her mouth and ejaculated on her. I asked her if she told him "No" at anytime and she said she did. She said to me "you know he has a gun". She said he relayed an incident in the past where a Legislative Representative said something inappropriate to a House Page and a big deal was made of the comment. He told her he wasn't going to tell anyone. She then said that the person she was with last night was Rep. von Ehlinger.

After hearing what [REDACTED] had just told me, I said "You must want me to help you or you wouldn't have come to me and told me of this encounter". She told me that she was afraid to be around him. I asked her "Do you want to report this?". She said she was afraid and didn't know what to do. I said "[REDACTED] you must be uncomfortable with what happened last night or you wouldn't have come to me and now you are saying you are afraid to work around him. I will help you report this incident through the proper channels, but you will need to tell your accounting of what happened to someone that will help you. Do you want me to report this?" She said yes. At that point, she told me to wait and she hurried off. She didn't immediately return so I headed back to my office. I came across her coming out of the bathroom and she said she had just thrown up. I asked her again "You want me to report this, correct?" and she said yes. She went back to her work area and I immediately informed the Speaker of the House, Scott Bedke of my conversation with [REDACTED].

I believe this to be a true and accurate accounting of my conversation with [REDACTED] on March 11, 2021.

Kim S. Blackburn  
Asst. Sergeant at Arms  
House of Representatives  
(208) 332-1151