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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Arizona House of Representatives Phoenix, Arizona 85007

DISTRICT 14

April 4, 2012

Andy Tobin, Speaker
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Speaker Tobin,

I am writing to request that you immediately implement restrictions on Representative Daniel Patterson's access to the House building. Putting in place such restrictions is the only way to ease the worries of both Members and staff who fear for their safety and well-being.

More specifically, I request that Representative Patterson's key card access be revoked so that he will no longer have access to the secured parts of the building. As such, he must be given an escort on and off the House Floor for purposes of voting and will have access to the hearing rooms if the Ethics Committee meets again to consider the complaint against him. I believe voting on legislation is the only constitutional right to which he is entitled and nothing else should be afforded to him.

Further, he should be removed from his office, and Nicole Soliere must no longer serve as his assistant. I believe he is not entitled to any assistant at all, but to the extent he has a need for administrative assistance, he should make that request through the Chief Clerk's office, and they should be empowered to determine if his request is legitimate and who may be assigned to help with on a case-by-case basis.

This request is based on both my personal experiences with Representative Patterson, including actions he has taken since the Ethics Complaint was filed and the Report of the Independent Investigators was submitted, as well as the conduct that is outlined in the Ethics Report and its exhibits. That report details Representative Patterson's inappropriate, unethical and aggressive conduct, including:

- An unprofessional exchange with Representative Gowan (Report at p. 10)
- Removal from the MAPS committee because of his inappropriate and aggressive outbursts and confrontations with the committee chair and others (Report at p. 12)
- An aggressive confrontation with Reps. Farley and Pancrazi in a caucus meeting (Report at p. 11)
- A belligerent altercation with Rep. Farnsworth on the House Floor (Report at p. 11)
- An altercation with Rep. Wheeler following an ENR committee meeting (Report at p. 13)

This pattern of aggressive and unprofessional conduct should not be tolerated in the House. If this were any other work place, an individual who acted as Representative Patterson has would be put on administrative leave or removed from his co-workers in some fashion so that he was no longer be a threat to them and no longer a disruption to the regular flow of work. That is all I am asking for to occur with Representative Patterson. He should not be allowed to interfere with the work of this body or to intimidate or interrogate staff or Members, but at the same time, he can be allowed access to the floor so that he can cast his votes on legislation.

This request is all the more urgent because we have all been put on notice of Representative Patterson's aggressive actions and thus if he were to act out again, the State would be liable for any injuries or damage that he causes. The Ethics Investigators laid this out clearly in their Report:

A House 'on notice' of his potential to injure others, particularly staff, puts the House and the State in the crosshairs of civil liability for subsequent injury.

(Report at p. 20) Thus, not only do I want to avoid anyone feeling threatened or intimidated, or worse yet, actually being injured, but I also want to avoid liability and a substantial monetary judgment that is likely to result from our civil liability for such injuries or damage.

It cannot be disputed that both Members and staff in this building feel threatened. As such, it is incumbent upon the House to do something to eliminate any possible threats. And those feelings of being threatened are based, in part, on Representative Patterson's actions following the release of the Ethics Report. He has contacted Members and staff, and perhaps others that I am unaware as I write this letter, to discuss the contents of the report and to interrogate them regarding their involvement in the ethics investigation. His actions since the report was released are further evidence that a threatening, intimidating, and hostile workplace now exists at the House and will continue as long as he is allowed access to other people in this building.

As the Speaker, you are empowered with the responsibility to keep Members, staff and the public safe and secure. I am asking you to utilize that authority immediately and to demonstrate to the public, Members and staff that you take this responsibility seriously.

I have talked with my entire caucus and they all share these concerns and believe these security measures are needed. I look forward to hearing from you promptly regarding these concerns and stand ready to assist in implementing the security measures to protect everyone who enters this building.

Sincerely,



Chad Campbell
House Minority Leader