

**HOUSE SELECT INVESTGATING COMMITTEE
2021 SESSION**

**Representative John Barker, 70th District
Chair**

MEMBERS

Dennis "Boog" Highberger, 46th District

Susan Ruiz, 23rd District

Susan Humphries, 99th District

Kristy Williams, 77th District

Cindy Neighbor, 18th District

STAFF

**Connie Bahner
Committee Assistant**

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Robert Gallimore

JG Scott

KANSAS OFFICE OF REVISOR OF STATUTES

Gordan Self

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SELECT INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Barker at 1:00 pm on Friday, January 22, 2021, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Connie Bahner, Committee Assistant
J.G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Robert Gallimore, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Aaron Coleman
David Bell, counsel for Aaron Coleman

Others in attendance:

No list available

Hearing on:

Chairperson Barker called the meeting to order. At the Chairman's request, each representative identified themselves: Representative Susan Ruiz, Representative Cindy Neighbor; Representative Susan Humphries; Representative Dennis "Boog" Highberger; and Representative Kristy Williams. Chairperson Barker referred the Committee to the letter of January 13, 2021, from the Speaker of the House Ron Ryckman, Jr., stating that on January 12, 2021, a complaint had been filed pursuant to House Rule 4901, and that these House members had been appointed to serve on the Select Investigating Committee pursuant to House Rule 4902 (Attachment 1). Each member should have a copy of the Complaint (Attachment 2), which was signed by thirteen House members. Also contained in their file is a Certificate of Service by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives serving Representative Coleman with a copy of the complaint (Attachment 3). Chairperson Barker stated that Gordon Self, Chief Revisor, is appearing by Webex, and Connie Bahner is the Committee Assistant. Representative Coleman is here in person with his attorney, David Bell.

Chairperson Barker stated that the Revisor will give an overview of House Rule 4902. After the overview, Representative Coleman will have an opportunity to make a statement to the Committee. The Committee will then go into executive session in Room 320-E for deliberation after the first portion of this hearing.

Gordon Self, Chief Revisor, provided an overview of this proceeding. Chairperson Barker stated that in Kansas there are a number of burdens -- preponderance of evidence, clear and convincing, or beyond a reasonable doubt. Is there any precedence that indicates what that burden is? The Revisor responded

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MINUTES of the Select Investigating Committee at 1:00 pm on Friday, January 22, 2021, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

that the Constitution is very broad. The rules themselves do not specify any standards that the Committee is obligated to follow.

Chairperson Barker stated that Representative Coleman could make a statement at this time.

Representative Coleman made a statement to the Committee (Attachment 4).

Chairperson Barker stated he would entertain a motion from Representative Humphries to recess into executive session in Room 320-E.

Representative Humphries moved that the open meeting of the House Select Investigating Committee be recessed for a closed executive meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 46-1002 and 75-4319(a) to discuss matters related to a complaint lodged against a member of the House of Representatives, pursuant to House Rules 4901 through 4903, because discussion of such matters in an open meeting would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; that the Committee resume the open meeting in Room 346-S of the Statehouse at 1:45 p.m., and that this motion, if adopted, be recorded in the minutes of the House Select Investigating Committee and be maintained as a part of the permanent records of the Committee. Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes, is designated as essential personnel and will be present in the meeting in addition to the Committee members, seconded by Representative Highberger. The motion carried.

Thereupon, a recess was taken at 1:15 p.m.

Whereupon, at 1:45 p.m., Chairperson Barker reopened the hearing. Representative Coleman advised he would be willing to answer some questions.

Representative Neighbor stated she can see a pattern in his behavior that has occurred over and over since Representative Coleman was 18, and she wondered if he had ever taken anger management classes. Representative Coleman stated he had previously undergone therapy from 2015 to 2017. I was fired as a client by my therapist because they said I no longer needed any more services, but I have considered continuing or possibly going back and getting some form of help therapy. Representative Neighbor stated she had concerns about his repeat actions and she asked about therapy because she wanted to know if he had been given any tools to work with because the information they had received would tend to make people have security issues, to not feel safe. Representative Neighbor asked Representative Coleman to give his definition of what a hit is in connection with the statement he made against the Governor. Representative Coleman stated it was an inappropriate tweet in reference to mobilizing opposition to Governor Kelly, and he has apologized for his inappropriate word choice. If he were going to make the same statement today, he would say either he or someone he knew was planning to run against the Governor in 2022 instead of using the inappropriate word choices.

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Representative Ruiz asked what allegations had been made against him since 2017. Representative Coleman stated there have been a number of allegations. In reference to John Whitmer and the Governor's mask mandate, he told them to mask it or casket. Another allegation before this Committee is his inappropriate and unprofessional tweet about calling out a hit on the Governor. There was also a restraining order issued against him by his opponent's campaign manager, which was ultimately dismissed by mutual agreement. He also had a messy breakup with an ex-girlfriend.

Representative Williams asked if Representative Coleman was currently on social media. He stated that he now has Twitter handlers and Facebook handlers to manage his social media accounts. He is not personally on social media. In light of recent events, he has a team who handles that for him. Representative Williams asked him what other actions he has taken or will take to help manage his responses. Representative Coleman stated he has learned to clear out his thoughts before he says something and he filters them through somebody he trusts before he says them. He stated he has requested a mentor from the Minority Leader.

Representative Highberger asked him about the newspaper article about the breakup with his girlfriend. Representative Coleman stated that was in 2019 and he was 19 years old at the time. He admitted it was a mistake to text his girlfriend to "Air out the clip into your head." He also admitted that he texted her, "Mag dump yourself. Do that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again, then I'll know what happened." He admitted he also told John Whitmer, "John, I'm going to laugh and giggle when you get COVID and die," but he apologized to former Representative Whitmer. Representative Highberger referred the Committee to the testimony submitted by Representative Tom Sawyer dated January 22, 2021 (Attachment 5) and the testimony of Heather Sprague Scanlon (Attachment 6). Representative Coleman admitted to the statement in Ms. Scanlon's testimony that said, "When the official Kansas House Democratic Twitter page put out a post condemning him, he immediately called me and launched into a raging diatribe, threatening to 'kick Tom Sawyer's ass,' among other threats."

Representative Ruiz stated that Taylor Passow stated in her written testimony (Attachment 7) that he told her, "I hope you get kidnapped and raped and chopped up and scatter in bits and pieces." Representative Coleman stated he did say that to her. That would have occurred in late December, 2019. He stated that occurred in connection with a messy breakup and he was not a candidate for any office at that time. After conferring with his counsel, Representative Coleman stated that although this comment was deeply inappropriate, it was in the context of trying to talk her out of hitchhiking from Topeka to Kansas City.

There were no further questions of Representative Coleman.

Representative Humphries moved that the open meeting of the House Select Investigating Committee be recessed for a closed executive meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 46-1002 and 75-4319(a) to discuss matters related to a complaint lodged against a member of the House of Representatives, pursuant to House Rules 4901 through 4903, because discussion of such matters in an open meeting would

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constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; that the Committee resume the open meeting in Room 346-S of the Statehouse at 2:40 p.m., and that this motion, if adopted, be recorded in the minutes of the House Select Investigating Committee and be maintained as a part of the permanent records of the Committee. Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes, is designated as essential personnel and will be present in the meeting in addition to the Committee members, seconded by Representative Highberger. The motion carried.

The meeting was recessed at 2:06 p.m. for executive session.

The meeting resumed at 2:45 p.m. Chairperson Barker stated that testimony would be taken from Representative Tom Sawyer (Attachment 4). He stated that with the Committee's approval, Representative Sawyer would not be sworn in. Representative Sawyer stated that the important thing is Representative Coleman's pattern of behavior. A lot of things came out in the primary about what he did when he was a juvenile, but that was several years ago and most people forgave him for that. However, more recent things have happened such as his comments about COVID and John Whitmer and the problems with choking and hitting his girlfriend, and his posts and tweets. Heather Scanlon was his Chief of Staff and she has submitted testimony. She tried to be helpful to him, but it got to the point where she became afraid of him. His pattern of behavior shows that he is still a dangerous person. The Constitution and the House rules give the Legislature a lot of latitude on disciplinary action. Abusing women is never acceptable. During his time in the Legislature, this is only the third time he is aware of that it has gone through this process. It's the Committee's job to look at the evidence and determine if Representative Coleman has a serious pattern of behavior because he did some very serious things when he was 14 years old and if he has not changed, that should cause everyone great concern. The State of Missouri is having the very same situation right now.

In response to a question by Representative Ruiz, Representative Sawyer stated that it was in September 2020 that Representative Coleman stated he wanted to kick Representative Sawyer's ass. That statement was made to Representative Sawyer's Chief of Staff, Heather Scanlon, not to him. Ms. Scanlon received some texts from Representative Coleman that were very scary and that was one of them. Representative Coleman has never apologized to him. He doesn't know if he has apologized to Ms. Scanlon.

Chairperson Barker asked Representative Sawyer if this would be setting new precedent. Representative Sawyer stated this is a pattern of behavior and Representative Coleman is still a dangerous and abusive person. This is not an isolated incident and it involves some things that have happened pretty recently. Chairperson Barker believes this is more a medical question than a legislative question.

Representative Humphries questioned Representative Sawyer on his statement that it is up to the House to decide who's fit to serve. She asked if it wasn't the job of the electors to decide that. Representative Sawyer stated that this process is a safeguard. Representative Humphries agreed that this process is for

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disciplining a person as a representative after being elected, Representative Sawyer disagreed and referred to the situation in Missouri where the person was elected and the Republican Caucus kicked him out of the Caucus immediately after the election.

Chairperson Barker talked about the Mayor in D.C. being convicted and went to federal prison. After he came out, he was re-elected. There was a Congressman in Florida who had been a federal judge who was convicted and impeached by the United States Senate and kicked out of office. After getting out of prison, he ran for United States Congress and came back in as a United States Representative. No action was filed against him because he had been elected by the people.

In response to a question by Representative Ruiz, Representative Sawyer stated that the Legislature is a very stressful place. If somebody has issues of lashing out or doing indecent things when things get uncomfortable or a girlfriend breaks up with him or they have a fight, that can cause a lot of concern that this person might do something dangerous to somebody else.

In response to a question from Representative Williams, Representative Sawyer stated that there have been no concerns or issues with Representative Coleman since the Legislature has been in session. He is not aware of any complaints being filed against Representative Coleman since he was sworn in.

Representative Williams asked Representative Coleman about his willingness to accept an informal letter from this Committee admonishing his behavior which would include requests or recommendations for a House apology. They might consider some other recommendations to help him manage his choices and decision making.

Representative Coleman stated that he wanted to apologize to the Minority Leader Tom Sawyer, and he is willing to apologize to Ms. Scanlon for his inappropriate conduct and he will accept any recommendations of the Committee. He would also like to have a mentor here in the building. He has also talked about obtaining counseling to deal with the stress.

Representative Williams asked the Chairman if the Committee were to decide to prepare such a letter, would it set the foundation of expectations for the House Leader and be on the record? Chairperson Barker stated that the letter should also indicate that if that behavior continues while Representative Coleman is a member of the House of Representatives, a complaint could be filed. Representative Coleman acknowledged his understanding.

In response to a question by Representative Ruiz, Chairperson Barker stated that a censure has to go through the entire body and get a two-thirds vote. Chairperson Barker stated he would delegate the drafting of the letter to Representatives Highberger and Humphries, with the assistance of the Revisor of Statutes. Chairperson Barker stated that the Committee will vote on whether to prepare a letter. If the vote is split evenly, then no letter will be written and no further action will be taken.

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Representative Highberger stated that this is a difficult situation and that most of Representative Coleman's behavior occurred prior to his service in the House of Representatives, but there are credible allegations of threats made to members of the House of Representatives and to staff members.

Representative Highberger moved that this Committee recommend issuing a letter of reprimand to Representative Aaron Coleman pursuant to Rule 4902, seconded by Representative Ruiz.

Representative Humphries suggested a strongly worded letter of warning from this Committee be written to Representative Coleman to serve as a baseline of where the Committee stands, that it set out what they are requesting Representative Coleman to do, and that any inappropriate behavior will result in a new hearing. She is not in favor of taking this to the whole body.

Representative Williams asked if this Committee wrote a letter of reprimand, would it go to the full House body and would it be equivalent to a vote on censure. Chairperson Barker stated that was correct, but that it would take a two-thirds vote. The Chairman did not know if there would be discussion on the House floor regarding censure, but he thought there would be. The Chairman also did not know if Representative Coleman would have to defend himself in front of the full House. Representative Williams asked what the advantage would be of having a letter of warning that included requirements or recommendations versus taking it before 125 members and having them do something that would be basically the same thing.

Representative Highberger stated that a reprimand is a less severe punishment than a censure. He believes a reprimand would give them a more solid basis for taking stronger action if further inappropriate behavior occurs.

Chairperson Barker stated that under Rule 4902(c), "Upon completing its hearing the deliberations thereon, the select committee may dismiss the complaint or may make recommendations to the full House of Representatives for reprimand, censure or expulsion." That indicates it would take it to the House.

Chairperson Barker is not in support of the motion.

Mr. Bell stated that both he and his client are willing to work with all members of the Committee to put together what the Committee feels are appropriate recommendations with the understanding that Representative Coleman needs to fulfill those recommendations and that he is making a public declaration that he will fulfill them.

Representative Humphries stated it would be her greatest desire to come to a consensus on this Committee and not have to take it to the House. She would vote against the motion, but she is not satisfied with a private letter. The letter would have to be a base line and any behavior outside of that

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would trigger some type of action.

Representative Highberger stated with the permission of the second, he wishes to withdraw his motion. Representative Ruiz agreed to the withdrawal of the motion.

Representative Neighbor stated that she knows members of the Committee are concerned about going against who the voters put in office, but this is something they have not run into before and it is probably something they need to look at. She strongly believes that there has to be accountability, and she thinks the letter should be signed by all the Committee members. Someone stated that Representative Coleman deserves a second chance, but this is about his fifth or sixth chance. His third chance would have been when he was 18 years old. Something has to be done; otherwise, this is a slap in the face to all those people that are his victims. Whatever the Committee does must have strong accountability measures and this has to be taken seriously.

Chairperson Barker agreed that everyone on the Committee should sign the letter because it would have more meaning.

Representative Ruiz stated that Representative Coleman has shown a pattern of behavior, most of which has been from the age of 18 forward. His behavior shows that he is impulsive and has not learned from his mistakes nor has he been using the skills he might have learned when he was in therapy from 2015 to 2017. She believes that Representative Coleman only apologizes when he is confronted or when information comes out in public.

Representative Williams stated that one of the options the Chairman stated is available is dismissal of the complaint. That does not necessarily equate to innocence. An informal letter could be attached to the dismissal which could include a reprimand.

Chairperson Barker stated that it is an informal letter; however, if it was not complied with, one of the members of the House could file a complaint and the information from this hearing could be passed on when another committee was convened.

Representative Williams asked if it would be comparable to a settlement where you're not fully acknowledging guilt or innocence and you're not saying you condone any behavior of Representative Coleman. Chairperson Barker said he would equate it to a diversion.

Revisor Self stated that this has not happened frequently in the history of the House so they don't have many examples. In the past, the examples resulted in a dismissal of the complaint and then all the allegations were contained in the record of the body so that the allegations were preserved from that standpoint. A dismissal did not equate to a finding of innocence but, rather, it simply was that this may have been that the select committee could not move forward with any recommendations to the body

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and dismissed the complaint. The allegations were nonetheless preserved in the record. With regard to a step further and as part of the dismissal of the complaint, having a letter from this body, there is nothing that specifically allows that nor is there anything would deny that option to the Committee. The options in the rule are dismiss the complaint or make recommendations to the full House so part of those recommendations could be to write a letter of reprimand, so to speak, or a letter expressing the Committee's concerns. It is not mandatory that the body takes any action regardless of what this Committee recommends. In terms of this Committee, any kind of reprimand, censure or expulsion, this body can give recommendations to the full body, but with regard to writing a letter, the rule doesn't speak either way on that.

Representative Williams asked if it would be an option for this Committee to conclude that they would like to send a letter and dismiss the complaint. Revisor Self stated that that would be an option. He could not tell this body what they can and cannot do when there is no specific prohibition.

Representative Williams stated the letter would be written by the Committee and provided to Representative Coleman without invitation to him or his attorney for agreement or input on the content.

Representative Coleman stated he will abide by the recommendations of this Committee.

Representative Neighbor stated she would not be able to dismiss the complaint without there being some sort of consequences for Representative Coleman's inappropriate behavior. Representative Coleman has had a lot of opportunities and it is about time that we help him to understand that in this legislative body we carry ourselves with dignity and respect and under the rule of law. He cannot continue to threaten or hurt anyone else. Words matter.

Representative Williams moved that the Committee submit a letter of dismissal, that the dismissal shall include a letter of warning and admonishment with a list of recommendations agreed upon by the members of the Committee and provided to Representative Coleman, seconded by Representative Humphries.

Representative Highberger asked if the letter would include criticism of his relation anger and that the letter would be a public letter. Representative Williams stated she was agreeable to those additions to make sure that the intent of the Committee is included.

Representative Humphries stated she would welcome input from the other Committee members.

Representative Ruiz wants the letter to be worded very strongly and very tight and that it condemn Representative Coleman's pattern of behavior, that it state any expectations the Committee has of him, and that there are time lines in the letter for him to seek therapy or anger management. She doesn't want the letter to be open-ended; he needs to be told what the standards are and their expectations of

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him.

Chairperson Barker stated he understands where she is coming from, but he's not sure that that can be included in an informal letter of warning.

Representative Williams stated the Committee would want to review a draft of the letter before the final letter is sent out. She thinks this is a good compromise to get them on the right track and to help Representative Coleman to take positive steps.

Chairperson Barker stated this letter will speak from the Committee and not from the House of Representatives.

Representative Neighbor asked the Revisor if the dismissal could be without prejudice. Revisor Self stated there is no language in the rule that would speak to that.

Representative Highberger stated that he supports the motion.

Representative Williams moved that the Committee is recommending a dismissal of the charges, that the dismissal shall include an informal letter of warning and admonishment that would include a list of criteria or recommendations to be signed by the member of the Select Investigating Committee, it shall be made public, and there would be some reporting mechanism with that, seconded by Representative Humphries. Following a vote, the motion passed.

Chairperson Barker asked Representatives Highberger and Humphries to draft the letter. He gave them ten days to draft the letter.

Chairperson Barker asked Representative Coleman if he understood what had transpired. Representative Coleman stated that he did and that he intends to comply fully with the Committee's recommendations. Chairperson Barker stated he would talk to the Speaker about getting a mentor for him. Chairperson Barker reminded him that people's eyes are upon him. He hopes Representative Coleman will take his appointment seriously.

Chairperson Barker thanked everyone for being there. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

(Note of Committee Assistant: The following additional testimony was submitted: Faith Rivera (Attachment 8); Rachel Fustini (Attachment 9); Megan McQuinn (Attachment 10); Ciera Fuller (Attachment 11); and Dustin Figge (Attachment 12.)

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RON RYCKMAN
SPEAKER

To: Susan Kannarr, Chief Clerk
Date: January 13, 2021
Re: Membership for Select Investigating Committee

On January 12, Chief Clerk Susan Kannarr delivered a complaint in accordance with Article 49 of the House Rules. The complaint in question was signed by the House Minority Leadership, along with seven members of the Minority caucus and names Rep. Aaron Coleman (D-Kansas City) as the respondent. Having reviewed the Clerk's communication and attached statement of the complaint, it conforms to the requirements of House Rule 4901. I hereby appoint, pursuant to House Rule 4902, the following House members to serve on the select investigating committee:

Rep. John Barker (Chair)
Rep. Susan Humphries
Rep. Kristey Williams
Rep. Dennis "Boog" Highberger
Rep. Cindy Neighbor
Rep. Susan Ruiz

A copy of the signed complaint will be given to Chair Barker, who will then proceed under the House Rule to convene the Committee and initiate its inquiry. Pursuant to House Rule 4902(b), the select committee shall constitute an investigating committee and shall have the powers thereof under Article 10 of chapter 46 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated. Rules and Journal Committee staff are assigned to assist.



Ron Ryckman, Jr.
Speaker, House of Representatives

cc: House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer
House Majority Leader Dan Hawkins
Legislative Research
Revisor's Office

78TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL BLDG., SUITE 370-W
TOPEKA, KS 66612
785-296-2302
ron.ryckman@house.ks.gov

House Select Investigating Committee
Date 1/22/21
Attachment # 1

Offenses of Aaron Coleman

- Directly and publicly threatened the Governor of Kansas with a “hit” through Twitter on November 4, 2020. The tweet read:

“I’m not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit on you it’s real. the Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win.”
- https://www.kctv5.com/politics/state-rep-elect-from-kck-vows-to-call-out-a-hit-on-kansas-governor-says/article_037d3d6e-2026-11eb-95b4-8b128bc61d2e.html
- Harassed and threatened an elected official in Wyandotte County, who had obtained a criminal Do Not Contact Order.
- Told former Republican state lawmaker John Whitmer, “John, I’m going to laugh and giggle when you get COVID and die.” “At least we can say you died doing what you love. Ask your buddy Herman Cain how it worked out for him.”
 - <https://kansasreflector.com/2020/07/31/mask-it-or-casket-democratic-house-candidate-hopes-gop-stricken-by-covid-19/>
- Admits to physically abusing his girlfriend. When she broke up with him because of this behavior, he choked and hit her multiple times. Following that incident, she provided news outlets with text messages that again, he admits to sending.
 - <https://www.vice.com/en/article/pky44m/teen-candidate-who-blackmailed-a-girl-for-nudes-admits-he-abused-his-ex-girlfriend>
 - <https://theintercept.com/2020/08/25/aaron-coleman-ex-girlfriend-assault/>
 - “Air out the clip into your head.”
 - “Mag dump yourself. Do that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again, then I’ll know what happened.”
 - “I hope you get abducted raped chopped up and have ya pieces scattered around and Burnt in different locations. You might get lucky and they might kill you first then rape your corpse.”
- Revenge porn of a young female student; harassed a fellow female student to the point of attempted suicide—telling her to kill herself; blackmailed a female student for nude photos
 - <https://www.themarvsue.com/aaron-coleman-kansas-still-harassing-women/>
- Threatened to shoot up a school
 - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-iewish-candidate-for-kansas-state-house-arrsted-for-gun-threat-as-teen/>

January 12, 2021

Chief Clerk
House of Representatives


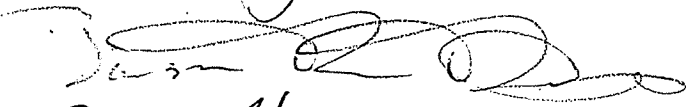


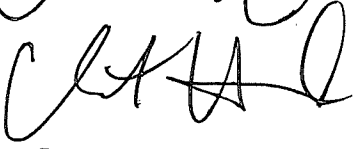
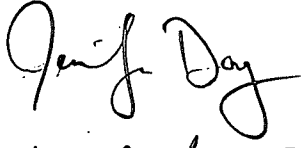

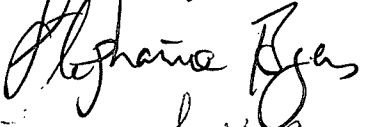
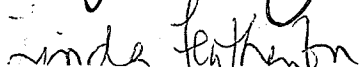
Pursuant to House Rule 4901, we are requesting censure procedures including consideration of expulsion of Representative Aaron Coleman for his actions after he became the Representative-elect of the 37th House District.

Representative Colman brings to the Kansas Legislature a longstanding history of physically and emotionally abusive behavior. Some acts pre-date his election in 2020, yet illustrate a pattern of behavior that continues to the present day.

An attached document outlines some of his more recent and egregious offenses - including a public threat against the Governor of Kansas, recent physical abuse of a woman, and harassment of another woman that resulted in the filing of a request for a court protective order. This list is long, but it is not comprehensive.

Representative Coleman's past and present behavior renders him unfit for office. His removal is further necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of legislators and Capitol staff.

We the undersigned hereby desire to lodge a formal complaint.

	H 95
	H 102
	H 17
	H 22
	H 10
	HD 48
	HD 20
	HD 86
	HD 16

House Select Investigating Committee
Date 1/22/21
Attachment # 2

Barbara W. Ballard HD 44

Stephen J. Clayton HD 19

Frank Reed HD 30

R. J. HD 25

STATE OF KANSAS

SUSAN W. KANNARR, J.D.
CHIEF CLERK
E-Mail: susan.kannarr@house.ks.gov



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

STATEHOUSE
300 S.W. 10TH STREET
STE 272-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
(785) 296-7633

January 14, 2021

Representative John Barker
Chairman, Select Investigative Committee
300 S.W. 10th St., Rm. 285-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Gordon Self
Revisor of Statutes
300 S.W. 10th St., Rm. 24-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: Service of Article 49 Complaint to Rep. Coleman

Dear Chairman Barker and Revisor Self:

I certify that on January 13, 2021, a copy of a complaint under Article 49 of the Rules of the Kansas House of Representatives by Minority Leader Sawyer and others against Representative Coleman was personally delivered to Representative Coleman. An electronic copy of the full complaint and a letter from Speaker Ron Ryckman appointing the select investigative committee was sent to Representative Coleman's legislative E-mail account on January 14, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan W. Kannarr".

Susan W. Kannarr
Chief Clerk of the House

House Select Investigating Committee
Date 1/22/21
Attachment # 3

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee:

Thank you for permitting me to appear before you today.

At 20 years old, I am humbled to be in this building representing my constituents. At 20 years old, I am also embarrassed to be standing before you. I have said things that were offensive and hurtful to others and then convinced myself that my own personal issues or my passion for a particular cause somehow absolved me. I was wrong. I apologize not only for what I said but the impact on the persons to whom these words were directed. In some cases, I have been able to offer the apologies directly and received forgiveness. For others, I am only able to offer these words today.

I am sorry.

As this Committee is aware, I recently settled a civil matter with my opponent's campaign manager by issuance of a joint statement. I believe that a portion of the statement – edited in a manner to remove the names – is relevant here:

“In service to our constituents, we have resolved the civil case by an agreed upon dismissal. There is no written agreement. Rather, there is this public promise to treat each other with dignity and respect. Both of us hope that the manner in

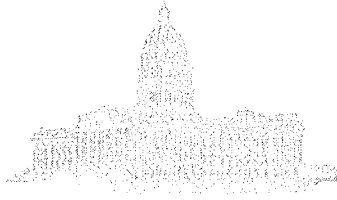
House Select Investigating Committee
Date 1/22/21
Attachment # 4

which we have sought to resolve this case will serve as a reminder to other persons in public service.”

Chairman Barker and members of this Committee, I know that prior to becoming a member of the House of Representative I have not always lived up to my own ideals of treating others with dignity and respect. And I know that being 20 years old, having my own personal issues and being passionate about various causes do not absolve me of the words I used just like they do not diminish the pain the words caused. With the same force of those words, I hope that the sincerity of my words today will give you confidence that I come to Topeka ready to do what needs to be done for my constituents, and further, that I understand that if my words and my actions do not match my own ideals that I have publicly set forth today that this Committee will call me back to account.

Thank you.

State of Kansas



Tom Sawyer
House Democratic Leader

January 22, 2021

House Select Investigating Committee
Representative John Barker, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Kansas House Democratic Leadership. My name is Tom Sawyer, State Representative of the 95th House District and Minority Leader for the Kansas House Democratic Caucus. Today, I rise in support of censure procedures including the consideration of expulsion of Representative Aaron Coleman. House Democratic Leadership has consistently outlined the reasons why Representative Coleman is unfit for office. His past and present actions exhibit a pattern of egregious behavior, for which he has shown no remorse or regret. It is absolutely necessary that he be removed from office to ensure the safety and wellbeing of legislators, Capitol staff, and his constituents.

The complaint filed to the Chief Clerk contained attachments outlining some, but not all of Representative Coleman's appalling offenses - including a public threat against the Governor of Kansas, recent physical abuse of a woman, and harassment of another woman that resulted in the need to file a request for a court protective order. They are included with my testimony today for your reference.

I will address each of the attachments in the order as they appear in your handout.

1. Representative Coleman directly and publicly threatened the Governor of Kansas with a "hit" through Twitter on November 4, 2020. The tweet read:
"I'm not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit on you it's real. the Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win."
2. Representative Coleman harassed and threatened an elected official in Wyandotte County, who had obtained a criminal Do Not Contact Order.

STATE CAPITOL, RM. 359-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7630
tom.sawyer@house.ks.gov

House Select Investigating Committee
Date 1/22/21
Attachment # 5

3. Representative Coleman told former Republican state lawmaker John Whitmer:
“John, I’m going to laugh and giggle when you get COVID and die [...] At least we can say you died doing what you love. Ask your buddy Herman Cain how it worked out for him.”
4. Representative Coleman admitted to physically abusing his girlfriend. When she broke up with him because of this behavior, he choked and hit her multiple times. Following that incident, she provided news outlets with text messages that again, he admits to sending. Some of the texts messages stated:
 - i. “Air out the clip into your head”
 - ii. “Mag dump yourself. Do that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again, then I’ll know what happened.”
 - iii. “I hope you get abducted raped chopped up and have ya pieces scattered around and Burnt in different locations. You might get lucky and they might kill you first then rape your corpse.”
5. Representative Coleman distributed revenge porn of a young female student and harassed another fellow female student to the point of attempted suicide. He had told her to kill herself. He also blackmailed a different female student for nude photos.
6. Representative Coleman threatened to shoot up Turner High School.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, this may not be an exhaustive list, but these are not isolated events. These all occurred within the last 5 years, the most recent being last November. Representative Coleman time and time again has made excuses, stating that he will learn from his mistakes, that it was just bad judgment, and to forgive and forget his actions. I would argue that he has not learned from his mistakes. He has not shown any personal or professional growth. “I was only 19”, he says. “I was only 19”. Representative Coleman was only 19 as of last year.

It is clear to me, to the House Democratic Leadership team, to the multiple members within our caucus who signed onto the complaint, and to his own constituents in the 37th House District that Representative Coleman has a history of violence and abusive public rhetoric. It has no place in the People’s House and threatens to tarnish the integrity of the sacred trust of elected office. Representative Coleman is unfit to serve in the Kansas Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Respectfully,



Representative Tom Sawyer
House Democratic Leader

Offenses of Aaron Coleman

1. Directly and publicly threatened the Governor of Kansas with a “hit” through Twitter on November 4, 2020. The tweet read:

“I’m not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit on you it’s real. the Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win.”

➤ https://www.kctv5.com/politics/state-rep-elect-from-kck-vows-to-call-out-a-hit-on-kansas-governor-says/article_037d3d6e-2026-11eb-95b4-8b128bc61d2e.html
2. Harassed and threatened an elected official in Wyandotte County, who had obtained a criminal Do Not Contact Order.
3. Told former Republican state lawmaker John Whitmer, “John, I’m going to laugh and giggle when you get COVID and die.” “At least we can say you died doing what you love. Ask your buddy Herman Cain how it worked out for him.”

➤ <https://kansasreflector.com/2020/07/31/mask-it-or-casket-democratic-house-candidate-hopes-gop-stricken-by-covid-19/>
4. Admits to physically abusing his girlfriend. When she broke up with him because of this behavior, he choked and hit her multiple times. Following that incident, she provided news outlets with text messages that again, he admits to sending.

➤ <https://www.vice.com/en/article/pky44m/teen-candidate-who-blackmailed-a-girl-friend-or-nudes-admits-he-abused-his-ex-girlfriend>

➤ <https://theintercept.com/2020/08/25/aaron-coleman-ex-girlfriend-assault/>

 - “Air out the clip into your head.”
 - “Mag dump yourself. Do that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again, then I’ll know what happened.”
 - “I hope you get abducted raped chopped up and have ya pieces scattered around and Burnt in different locations. You might get lucky and they might kill you first then rape your corpse.”
5. Revenge porn of a young female student; harassed a fellow female student to the point of attempted suicide--telling her to kill herself; blackmailed a female student for nude photos

➤ <https://www.themarysue.com/aaron-coleman-kansas-still-harassing-women/>
6. Threatened to shoot up a school

➤ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-jewish-candidate-for-kansas-state-house-arrested-for-gun-threat-as-teen/>

D

https://www.kctv5.com/politics/state-rep-elect-from-kck-vows-to-call-out-a-hit-on-kansas-governor-says/article_037d3d6e-2026-11eb-95b4-8b128bc61d2e.html

State Rep-elect from KCK vows to "call out a hit" on Kansas governor, says 2022 primary will be "extremely bloody"

SHAIN BERGAN
POSTED NOV 6, 2020



KANSAS CITY, KS (KCTV) -- The 20 year old who defeated a seven-term legislator to capture KCK's representation in the Kansas House of Representatives released a tirade of tweets in the days after being elected, calling Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly a Republican and saying he will "call a hit out on you."

Aaron Coleman (D-KS 37) has been critical of Democratic leadership in the state, highlighting his credentials as a socialist in tune with young people's desires in the political process.

5-4

On Wednesday, in a since-deleted Tweet, Coleman wrote, "I'm not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit out on you it's real. the Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win."



Rep.-elect Aaron Coleman @Aaron4KS37 · 13h

I'm not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit out on you it's real.

The Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win

10 6

Show this thread

Coleman has since said that he was speaking figuratively and that he meant a "political hit," not a threat of violence.

The governor's spokeswoman Lauren Fitzgerald responded to Coleman's tweets by saying in an email to the Associated Press, "Aaron Coleman is unfit to serve in the Legislature."

Coleman in August upset seven-term House Democrat Stan Frownfelter in the Democratic primary for Kansas' District 37 House seat. He immediately came under fire after details emerged that he pleaded guilty in a 2015 criminal case in which Coleman threatened to go to a girl's high school, shoot her, and turn the gun on himself.

According to the Associated Press, Coleman acknowledged in a June post on Facebook that allegations of revenge porn and harassing middle school girls online were true but called them the actions of a "sick and troubled 14-year-old boy."

The state Democratic Party disowned Coleman in August when an ex-girlfriend accused him of being physically abusive to her in late December.

Democratic legislators have vowed to try to oust Coleman when he takes office in January, but acknowledged there may be little they can do before he actually takes office.

Kansas House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer, a Wichita Democrat, said he or other Democrats in the House will file a complaint against Coleman when he's sworn in and work for the two-thirds vote in the House needed to remove Coleman from his seat. The state Democratic Party already had disowned Coleman in August, and state Chairwoman Vicki Hiatt publicly backed such an effort Thursday, with both she and Sawyer calling Coleman unfit to serve, according to the Associated Press.

Some information from the Associated Press was used in this story.

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Kansas Democrats could oust 20-year-old candidate following 'hit' tweet directed at Gov. Kelly

Shain Bergan
Assignment Editor

2

DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

Brandie N Armstrong
Plaintiff

vs.
Aaron Coleman
Respondent 1316 S. 52nd St
Kansas City, KS 66106

PETITION
NOTICE OF HEARING
RESTRAINING ORDER

SUMMONS
(Abuse or Stalking)

2020-DM-002241

To the above named defendant:

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in this court.

You may appear Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 02:00 PM via ZOOM, to give any evidence you may have why orders sought in the attached petition should not be granted. Instructions for zoom hearing on in attached documents.

If you do not attend the hearing, final orders may be made against you. You have the right to appear and opposed the petition with or without an attorney.



Kristi L. Hill
Clerk of the District Court
[Signature]
Deputy Clerk

Dated: 12/4/2020

***** RETURN OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS *****

I hereby certify that I have served this summons:

- (1) Personal service By delivering a copy of the summons and a copy of the petition to each of the following defendants on the dates indicated: _____, 20_____.
- (2) Residence service. By leaving a copy of the summons and a copy of the petition at the usual place of residence of each of the following defendants on the dates indicated: _____, 20_____.
- (3) Residence Service and Mailing. By leaving a copy of such summons and a copy of the petition at the usual place of residence of the defendant and mailing by first-class mail a notice that such copies have been left on _____, 20_____ at _____.
- (4) Agent Service. By delivering a copy of such summons and a copy of the petition to the agent, _____, authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process on _____, 20_____.
- (5) No service. The following defendants were not found in this county:

Dated: _____

(Signature)

2020 DEC -4 AM 9:48

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

Brandie N. Armstrong
Plaintiff

vs.

Case No. 2020 DM 2241

Aaron Coleman
Defendant

Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

**PETITION FOR PROTECTION FROM STALKING, SEXUAL ASSAULT,
OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING ORDER**
(K.S.A. 60-31a01 et seq.)

1. Plaintiff seeks an order for protection from stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking for:

a. myself;

OR

b. a minor child (under age 18)

Plaintiff is:

- the parent of the child
- an adult who resides with the child
- the child's court appointed legal custodian
- the child's court-appointed legal guardian
- a county or district attorney
- the Kansas attorney general

The minor child's name and year of birth are:

Minor Child's Name: _____

Year of Birth: _____

2. Defendant can be served at: *(please provide all available addresses)*

HOME: street 1316 S 52nd Street city Kansas City
state KS zip code 66106 phone number 913-216-9929 and 913-272-

4486

5-8

times when defendant is usually there all day I believe

WORK: street _____ city _____
state _____ zip code _____ phone number _____
times when defendant is usually there _____

OTHER: street _____ city _____
state _____ zip code _____ phone number _____
times when defendant is usually there _____

- 4. If the defendant is a minor, a Minor Defendant Addendum is attached.
- 5. List any other related court cases involving Plaintiff, minor child *(if applicable)*, or Defendant.
(give type of case, county filed in, case number and date filed, if known)

Plaintiff:

Minor Child:

Defendant:

Plead guilty to harrasment in Wvandotte County in 2015

- 6. *Select and complete either section A, B, or C. Attach more pages as needed.*

A. Describe the incidents of stalking. Include specific facts, dates and locations:

Incident #1: See attached document

Incident #2: see attached document

Additional Incident(s), if any:
see attached document for incidents 3-7

OR

- B. Describe the incident of sexual assault. Include specific facts, dates and locations:

OR

- C. Describe the incident of human trafficking. Include specific facts, dates, and locations:

Attached Incident Exhibit

Incident #1

My contact with Aaron Coleman (Defendant) began in February 2020. At that time Mr. Coleman began to repeatedly question me about becoming treasurer for the Wyandotte County Young Democrats. He remained persistent despite my refusals. Then in March 2020 he asked me to help him with his campaign for State Representative for the 37th district. I again told him no and in May I accepted a position as campaign manager for his opponent Stan Frownfelter. The Defendant still continued to message me including on mother's day harassing me about the campaign and allegations against Mr. Frownfelter after again telling him repeatedly to stop. On June 20, 2020 in response to allegations regarding the Defendant I released a statement from the campaign regarding these allegations. The next day June 21, the Defendant, Mr. Coleman, then messaged me on my personal Facebook Messenger threatening me with the statement "Don't throw stones at glass houses" because of the post. I told him to not contact me again. He then released Facebook post attempting to blackmail the campaign and release false information against my candidate if the post was not removed. He removed the post a few hours later but I did capture a screen shot of the message to me and the Facebook post with the blackmail threat.

Incident #2

I also serve as the Secretary for the Wyandotte County Democratic Party. I had also told the Defendant multiple times that if he had any questions relating to party business he was to send those questions to the Party's Facebook messenger directly and not to me that way the other board members could respond and I did not have to have direct interaction with him given the prior incidences with him. He contacted me on June 24, 2020 once again trying to find out information regarding party business on my personal messenger account. I did not respond.

Incident #3

The Defendant sent another message to my personal messenger account with an article and the threat of a lawsuit if he was not immediately unbanned from the county page. I had not banned him and did not have the authority to unban him on my own and the Defendant was aware of that.

Incident #4

On June 29, 2020 the Defendant came to my home. He proceeded to knock very loudly and aggressively on the door. I was on a phone call at the time and saw who it was and did not answer, the incident was also captured on my home security cameras. The Defendant left political literature in my door. The Defendant then proceeded to go to my neighbor's house and proceeded to get into a verbal altercation with him where my neighbor then told him to leave the property. My neighbor is also my landlord and his family. The Defendant had the verbal altercation with my landlord's father who also resides at the property and was out in the garage when Mr. Coleman came by.

Incident #5

On September 3, 2020 I was notified by my landlord that he was having to terminate our lease and gave us a 30-day notice. One of the reasons that came up when I was discussing the reasoning behind the termination, was the Defendant knew my landlord and was attempting to file false and bogus complaints against my landlord in retaliation for me living at his rental property. We were able to talk with my landlord and come up with an arrangement but our rent was increased by \$400.

Incident #6

On October 16, 2020 the Defendant came again to my home. I have him on my home security camera again as well as a photo of the literature he left on the inside of my door. I was not home at the time.

Incident #7

On November 5, 2020 the Defendant called my cell phone from a 913-272-4486 number. The Defendant is aware that this is my phone number and not the number to my candidate Mr. Frownfelter, whom he had also called and left a message for that day. My voicemail also has a recorded message that plays and announces my first and last name so the Defendant was aware that it was my number he was calling. He left a message saying he was trying to reach Mr. Frownfelter because he wanted to collaborate on projects.

7. Plaintiff/child needs a protection from stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking order because: The Defendant, Mr. Coleman, has been told by myself and my husband multiple times to never contact me again. Each time the Defendant has not listened and has continued to contact me. This not only disturbs my peace but it disturbs the peace of my husband and 3 children one of whom is special needs due to his autism. The Defendant has a criminal and violent history against women. The fact that he still continues to harrass me even after the election makes me fear for my safety and the safety of my family. I do not believe the Defendant will stop disrupting my life and harrassing me without the courts or police stepping in and telling him not to.

8. Plaintiff requests that the court issue an ex parte Temporary Order of Protection and Final Order of Protection restraining defendant from:

- abusing, molesting or interfering with the privacy or rights of the protected person.
- following, harassing, telephoning, contacting or otherwise communicating with the protected person.
- committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault upon the protected person.
- following, harassing, telephoning, contacting, recruiting, harboring, transporting, or committing or attempting to commit human trafficking upon the protected person.
- entering or coming around the residence or area of the protected person.
- other: _____
- other: _____

9. *(Check box if you are asking for the transfer of wireless telephone numbers. Leave box blank if you are not asking for the transfer of wireless telephone numbers.)*

- Plaintiff asks the court to order the transfer of rights to and billing responsibility for the wireless telephone number of
 - Plaintiff and/or minor child(ren) in the care of Plaintiff.

10. The court should give copies of orders to the appropriate law enforcement agencies; set a date, time and hearing on this matter; and issue summons to Defendant, notifying Defendant of this action and the relief requested.
11. After a hearing, the court should issue a Final Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking prohibiting Defendant from committing any acts of stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking against the protected person; order Defendant to pay court costs and attorney fees if appropriate; and order any other relief necessary for the safety of the protected person including:

VERIFICATION

I verify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Kansas that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on December 03, 2020.

/s/ Brandie N. Armstrong

Plaintiff's Signature

Plaintiff's Name: Brandie N. Armstrong

(DO NOT include the residential address of Plaintiff in this petition. Plaintiff must complete the Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking Confidential Information form and include it with this petition.)

Attorney representing Plaintiff (if any)

Attorney's Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS
 Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking (K.S.A. 60-31a01 *et seq.*)

Temporary Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking

Judge or Division:	Case Number: <u>2020 Dm 2241</u> Court ORI Number:																														
Plaintiff: <u>Brandie N Armstrong</u> vs.	Protected Person Identifiers: Name: <u>Brandie N. Armstrong</u> Year of Birth <u>1987</u> Sex: <u>Female</u> (Date File Stamp)																														
Defendant: <u>Aaron Coleman</u> Address <u>1316 S 52nd Street</u> <u>Kansas City Kansas 66106</u>	Defendant Identifiers: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>SEX</td> <td>RACE</td> <td>YOB</td> <td>HT</td> <td>WT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M</td> <td>W</td> <td>2000</td> <td>5'7</td> <td>175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAIR</td> <td>EYES</td> <td colspan="3">LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN (IF KNOWN)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dirty blonde</td> <td></td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">DRIVERS LICENSE #</td> <td>DL STATE</td> <td colspan="2">DL EXP. DATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td></td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>	SEX	RACE	YOB	HT	WT	M	W	2000	5'7	175	HAIR	EYES	LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN (IF KNOWN)			Dirty blonde					DRIVERS LICENSE #		DL STATE	DL EXP. DATE						
SEX	RACE	YOB	HT	WT																											
M	W	2000	5'7	175																											
HAIR	EYES	LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN (IF KNOWN)																													
Dirty blonde																															
DRIVERS LICENSE #		DL STATE	DL EXP. DATE																												

Protected Person: Brandie N. Armstrong (name)

This order and its terms are directed at and apply to Defendant only.

THIS TEMPORARY ORDER SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL SERVICE OF THE FINAL ORDER OR UNTIL TERMINATED BY ORDER OF THE COURT.

ONLY THE COURT CAN CHANGE THIS ORDER.

The Court Finds: (Only the provision(s) initialed by the judge apply.)

km1 Plaintiff filed a written verified petition on 12/4, 2020 requesting a Temporary Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking.

km1 This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff, Defendant and subject matter.

km1 Plaintiff has established a *prima facie* case of stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking sufficient for the court to issue a temporary order of protection from stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking.

km1 A hearing has been set for 12/16, 2020, at 2:00 a.m. p.m. at via zoom see below (Court) and summons has been issued.

Time: Dec 16, 2020 02:00 PM
 Join Zoom Meeting www.zoom.us/join
 Meeting ID: 814 1392 7795
 Passcode: 762690

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Order

The Court Orders:

- Plaintiff's address and telephone number shall remain confidential for the protection of the Protected Person.
- Defendant shall not follow, harass, abuse, molest, assault, threaten, stalk, or interfere with the privacy rights of the Protected Person, and the Protected Person's family or household. [NCIC 01 & 02]
- Defendant shall not enter or come on or around the premises, the residence, the property, school, or place of employment of the Protected Person or other family or household member. [NCIC 04]
- Defendant shall not communicate in any manner with the Protected Person, the Protected Person's employer, employees, fellow workers, or others with whom the communication would be likely to cause annoyance or alarm the Protected Person. [NCIC 05]
- Defendant shall not direct or request another to contact the Protected Person, either directly or indirectly. [NCIC 04 & 05]
- Defendant shall not commit or attempt to commit a nonconsensual sexual act against the Protected Person.
- Defendant shall not commit or attempt to commit a sexual act against the Protected Person by force, threat of force, duress, or when the Protected Person is incapable of giving consent.
- Defendant shall not follow, harass, telephone, contact, recruit, harbor, transport, or commit or attempt to commit human trafficking upon the Protected Person.

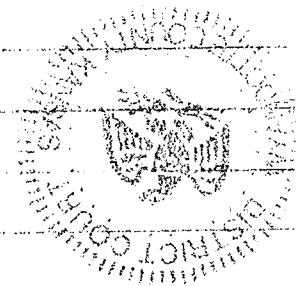
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA):

This Order meets all the requirements of the Violence Against Women Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2265. This Court has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter; Defendant has been afforded notice and a timely opportunity to be heard as provided by the laws of Kansas. This Order is enforceable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, all Indian tribal courts and all United States territories and shall be enforced as if it were an order of that jurisdiction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2265.

Additional terms of this order are set forth below, if any.

Other Provisions:

1. Other orders necessary to promote the safety of the Protected Person:



Digitally signed by Kathleen Lynch
DN: cn=Kathleen Lynch, o=Division 10
Judge, ou=29th Judicial District Court,
email=klynchewycofak.org, c=US
Date: 2020.12.04 09:24:27 -0600

SO ORDERED:

Kathleen Lynch

Judge of the District Court

Date

12/4/2020
Kathleen Lynch

5-16

WARNINGS TO DEFENDANT

- This order is effective when signed by the judge. Law enforcement officials shall immediately enforce this order.
- Violation of this order may constitute an offense under chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, including, but not limited to: violation of a protective order as provided in K.S.A. 21-5924, and amendments thereto; a sex offense under article 55 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto; stalking as provided in K.S.A. 21-5427, and amendments thereto; assault as provided in K.S.A. 21-5412(a), and amendments thereto; battery as provided in K.S.A. 21-5413(a), and amendments thereto; and criminal trespass as provided in K.S.A. 21-5808(a)(1)(C), and amendments thereto, and may result in prosecution and conviction under Kansas criminal statutes.
- Violation of this order may also be punishable as contempt of this court.
- If Defendant has a concealed carry license, that license is subject to revocation pursuant to K.S.A. 75-7c07, and amendments thereto. After a defendant's concealed carry license has been revoked, continuing to carry a concealed weapon may constitute a violation of K.S.A. 21-6302, and amendments thereto.
- Violation of this order may subject Defendant to prosecution for such federal crimes, including but not limited to: Interstate travel to commit domestic violence; Interstate stalking; and Interstate violation of a protection order.

Notice of Extension of this Temporary Order

(Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-31a05)

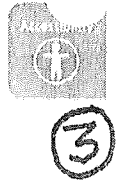
If a hearing on the petition for protection is continued, the court may extend this Temporary Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking for additional periods of time as it deems necessary.

Notice of Default

(Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-255)

If you fail to appear at the hearing, a default order may be entered against you and this Temporary Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking may turn into a Final Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking without further notice to you.

'Mask it or casket': Democratic House candidate hopes GOP stricken by COVID-19



By Tim Carpenter - July 31, 2020



Democrat Aaron Coleman, of Kansas City, Kan., was elected to the Kansas House in November. His future colleagues and others have called for him to resign or be removed from office due to allegations of his violence against women. (Submitted to Kansas Reflector)

LAWRENCE — Kansas House Democratic candidate Aaron Coleman on Friday urged Republican candidates not to wear a mask during the pandemic in anticipation they would be stricken by COVID-19 and do poorly in the November general elections.

Coleman, a 19-year-old candidate for a Wyandotte County seat in the Legislature and a 2018 independent candidate for governor, doubled down on his recent social media posts. He made light of the death of former GOP presidential candidate Herman Cain, who contracted coronavirus and declined to wear a mask at an Oklahoma rally for President Donald Trump. He also said he would “giggle” if former state Rep. John Whitmer, a Wichita radio talk show host, was killed by COVID-19.

“Mask it or casket is a factual statement,” Coleman said in an interview. “It’s not politics. It’s a factual statement.”

Coleman said he was amused by the prospect of COVID-19 spreading among Kansas Republican candidates for benefit Democrats in the general election. He said that result would be darkly comedic in the way “we laugh” when someone talking on a cellphone while driving gets into an automobile accident.

He said he was responsible for a post to Facebook that expressed glee at the reality of Cain’s death and prospects of Whitmer’s demise. It offered an image of Jesus lifting his clothing to reveal a portion of his rear end and the text: “Don’t wear a mask so we can be together forever.”

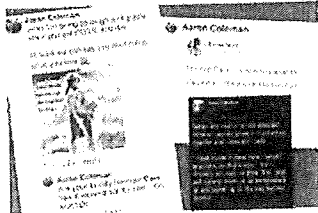
5-19



"John, I'm going to laugh and giggle when you get COVID and die," Coleman said on the post. "At least we can say you died doing what you love. Ask your buddy Herman Cain how it worked out for him."

Whitmer responded on Facebook by questioning Coleman's mockery of the lethal nature of COVID-19, which has killed more than 150,000 people in the United States and more than 350 in Kansas.

"I'll make sure your tolerance and fair-minded nature are shared with your potential constituents," said Whitmer, who was in the Kansas House from 2015 to 2019.



Kansas House candidate Aaron Coleman, a Democrat running for a seat from Wyandotte County, posted to social media that he hopes Republicans catch COVID-19 so they'll become ill or die and do poorly in the November elections. (Illustration by Sherman Smith/Kansas Reflector)

In an interview, Whitmer said he objected to mask mandates issued by unelected county or state health officials. He also found it offensive that anyone would long for more death from coronavirus. He said Coleman's conduct as a candidate was "wholly inappropriate" and one consequence of the hyper-partisan political culture.

Coleman said he was irritated Whitmer was spreading to the KNSS radio audience his anti-mask "conspiracy theories" that could endanger the lives of thousands.

State Rep. Nick Hoheisel, a Wichita Republican, took to Facebook to express disdain for Coleman's rhetoric and to question why the Kansas Democratic Party hadn't denounced Coleman. He said

Coleman demonstrated a "complete lack of regard for life."

"It's disturbing that a Democratic candidate for office in Kansas has such a disregard for life, and even more disturbing that the Kansas Democratic Party has remained silent on this matter," Hoheisel said in a statement. "COVID-19 is a serious issue, and wishing it upon anyone is horrendous. Hopefully, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle call it out for what it is."

Rep. Stan Frownfelter, D-Kansas City, is running for re-election against Coleman to the House. In that Wyandotte County race, no Republican filed.

Frownfelter said he was aware of some of Coleman's social media commentary, but hadn't been informed about his latest remarks on COVID-19.

"He is embarrassing our party," Frownfelter said. "This is pretty extreme. He's self-imploded. I had no idea this comment came out. I have tried to stay out of it. I'm spiritual. I'm a Catholic. I'm running on what I've done, my record."

Coleman said he wasn't able to engage in door-to-door campaigning because he's in quarantine due to possibility he was infected by the virus. If the test comes back positive, he said, it would likely be the result of community spread resulting from individuals not wearing a mask in public.

In April, Coleman announced his candidacy for Frownfelter's seat in District 37 in Kansas City, Kan. Coleman said he was from Turner and served as a precinct committeeman for the Wyandotte County Democratic Party. He also was secretary of Wyandotte County Young Democrats, but was forced to resign.

He said his candidacy was inspired by a belief that he would help bring about a Kansas that "works for every citizen, and not policies drafted by statehouse lobbyists." He learned from his unsuccessful campaign for governor that some lawmakers stay in office too long.

"I seek to bring a fresh and caring view of every bill and issue that the Legislature confronts," he said.



Coleman said he completed requirements of a GED after his health issues prevented him from earning the traditional high school diploma. He said his challenges in public school resulted from three years of abuse at Turner Elementary, where he was "locked in a closet" in solitary confinement and damaged neurologically.

"I'm lucky to be alive, and I don't want any child to suffer as I did," Coleman said.

Tim Carpenter

Tim Carpenter has reported on Kansas for 35 years. He covered the Capitol for 16 years at the Topeka Capital-Journal and previously worked for the Lawrence Journal-World and United Press International. He has been recognized for investigative reporting on Kansas government and politics. He won the Kansas Press Association's Victor Murdock Award six times. The William Allen White Foundation honored him four times with its Burton Marvin News Enterprise Award.

The Kansas City Press Club twice presented him its Journalist of the Year Award and more recently its Lifetime Achievement Award. He earned an agriculture degree at Kansas State University and grew up on a small dairy and beef cattle farm in Missouri. He is an amateur woodworker and drives Studebaker cars.



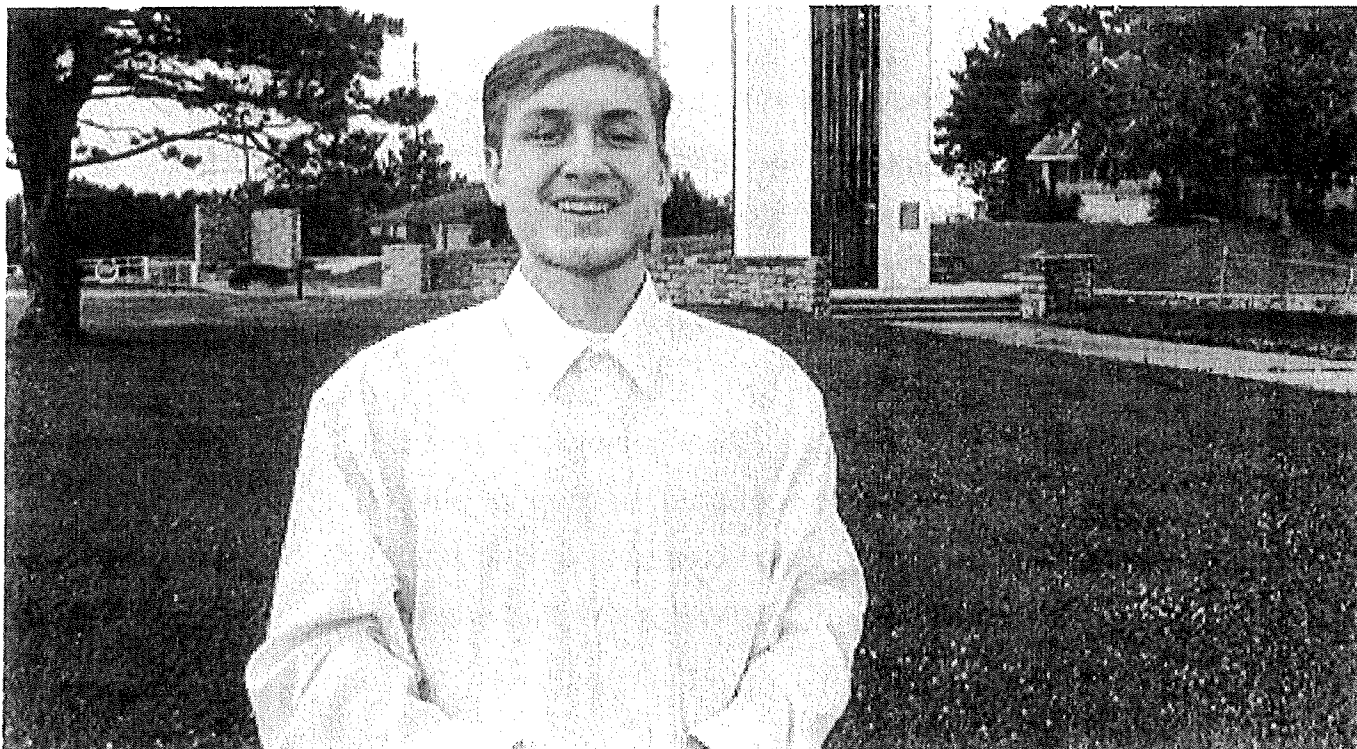
VICE News

Teen Candidate Who Blackmailed a Girl for Nudes Admits He Abused His Ex-Girlfriend

Aaron Coleman won a Democratic primary for a Kansas state House seat.

By [Carter Sherman](#)

September 8, 2020, 1:09pm



AARON COLEMAN ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR HIS KANSAS STATE HOUSE CAMPAIGN. (PHOTO: FACEBOOK)

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“While it is true I was abusive to my ex-girlfriend, I do not agree with the characterization being made about our experience in the hot tub the day after Christmas,” Coleman said in a statement released over the weekend. “I did not choke her. I also don’t think she is intentionally lying, as I know large quantities of alcohol could be affecting both of our memories.”

“The two months I dated Taylor were mutually abusive, and this is not a justification for what I did but the reason why I must lead by example.”

In an Intercept report published in late August, Taylor Passow said that on December 27, 2019, she and Coleman were sitting in a hot tub when she suggested that she’d temporarily break up with him so that he could have a threesome.

“He sat there for a few seconds, then he jumped on top of me, put his hands around my throat and started squeezing, and slapped me three times, and said, ‘I don’t know where the fuck you think you’re going,’” Passow told the Intercept. Passow said she pushed Coleman off of her.

A childhood friend told the Intercept that Passow had told her about the incident shortly after it occurred. In texts published by the Intercept, Passow and Coleman texted about what had happened a few days later. Coleman told Passow that she had a “funny memory” of the incident.

“You dumped me and I smacked you and you smacked me and I immediately got up and stormed out of the hot tub,” he said.

News

**Teen
Democratic
Candidate
Aaron
Coleman
Accused of
Choking His
Girlfriend**

CARTER SHERMAN

08.26.20

On December 31, Coleman told Passow to kill herself over text, the Intercept reported.

“Air out the clip into your head,” he told her, in texts that the Intercept also published. “Mag dump yourself. Do that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again, then I’ll know what happened.”

In another exchange, reported by Gen, a Medium publication, Passow and Coleman discussed Passow hitchhiking to see him.

“I hope you get abducted raped chopped up and have ya pieces scattered around and Burnt in different locations,” said Coleman, who also suggested that women who hitchhike get brutalized. “You might get lucky and they might kill you first then rape your corpse.”

“We must strive to create a society safe for women, which we do not currently do,” Coleman said in his statement admitting to abusing Passow.

While Passow’s allegations are recent, Coleman also stands accused of abuse of women that dates back to his middle-school days. Kati Hampton told the New York Times that she was just 13 when Coleman blackmailed her. After obtaining a nude photo of her, he demanded that she send more and threatened to distribute the photo if she didn’t. When she refused, Coleman circulated the photo.

In addition to blackmailing Hampton, Coleman has also previously admitted to verbally bullying girls in middle school. One woman said that this abuse led her to attempt suicide.

In a June Facebook post, Coleman characterized what he'd done as "the actions of a sick and troubled 14-yo boy."

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, text TALK to 741741, or visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org> for more information.

Cover: Facebook/Aaron Coleman For Kansas. Aaron Coleman, pictured, is running for a seat in the Kansas state House.

TAGGED: DEMOCRAT, KANSAS, BLACKMAIL, DOMESTIC ABUSE, ELECTION 2020, AARON COLEMAN

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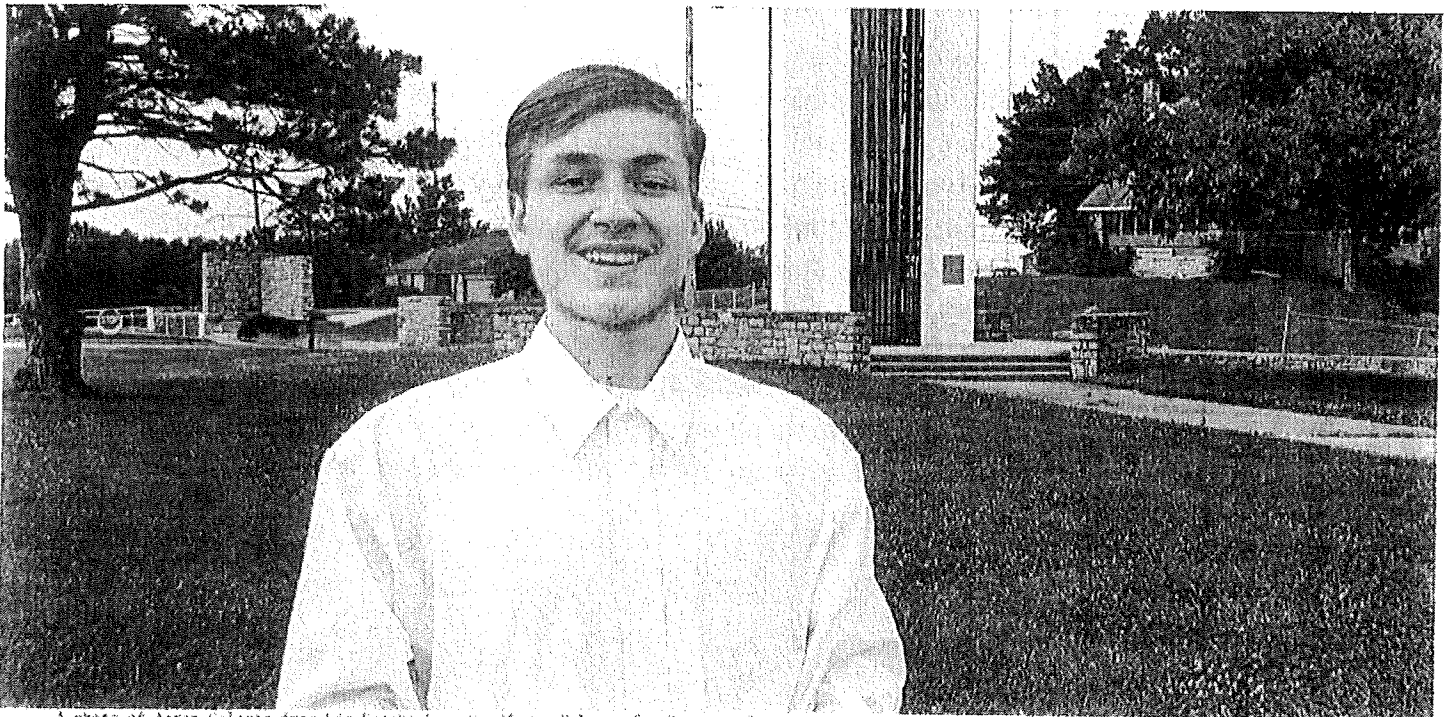
5-24

AARON COLEMAN'S EX-GIRLFRIEND SAYS HE SLAPPED AND CHOKED HER IN THE PAST YEAR

Accusations that a Kansas insurgent posted revenge porn in middle school led to a national debate about accountability and redemption.

Ryan Grim

August 25 2020, 9:18 p.m.



A photo of Aaron Coleman from his Facebook page, "Aaron Coleman for Congress."

When Taylor Passow first met Aaron Coleman last November, she was impressed by his drive and his passion for a better world. "I had never been with somebody who seemed so focused on a career, and how he wanted to change the country. He seemed so much more mature than anybody I'd ever been with," Passow, who is 21 years old, told The Intercept.

Early in their relationship, he told her about his troubled childhood, confessing to her that he had blackmailed a girl in middle school over nude photos. Passow, a host at a restaurant in Topeka, Kansas, said she believed that he had grown and changed, that the behavior was behind him — that he deserved a second chance.

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Coleman's story touched off a national debate after his recent upset victory in a Democratic primary in a Kansas state House district and a story by the New York Times, which reported that the 19-year-old winner, when he was 12, had blackmailed a classmate. After obtaining a nude photo of her, he demanded more and said that he would widely share the one he had if she didn't comply with his demand. She refused, and he circulated the photo. Coleman admitted to the offense, adding that he had been cruel to other girls over the next two years. He told The Intercept's Glenn Greenwald that he hoped by acknowledging what he had done, and condemning it, he might be able to positively influence other angry boys. The girls that he had hurt, he said, would have to live with that the rest of their lives, and he'd have to live with the knowledge of what he'd done.

Passow's relationship with Coleman ran into trouble quickly, even as she remained impressed by the drive of the young political candidate, and the two spoke of starting a life together. According to Passow, one particular incident irreparably broke their relationship. In a hot tub at an Airbnb in Kansas City, she said, the two were discussing Coleman's interest in a threesome on December 27, 2019. Passow said it wasn't her thing, but maybe as a birthday present she'd break up with him for just one day and he could have one. Coleman didn't like the joke, she recalled. "He sat there for a few seconds, then he jumped on top of me, put his hands around my throat and started squeezing, and slapped me three times, and said, 'I don't know where the fuck you think you're going,'" Passow recalled and said she pushed him off her.

Next, Passow said, Coleman demanded that she apologize for threatening to break up with him, stormed out of the hot tub, and went to the car. She didn't want to lose him, she said, and texted him an apology. He said he was only warming up the car. "I'm sorry baby I failed your shit test," he texted back. The texts, reviewed by The Intercept, were sent to a number associated with Coleman's campaign finance registration.

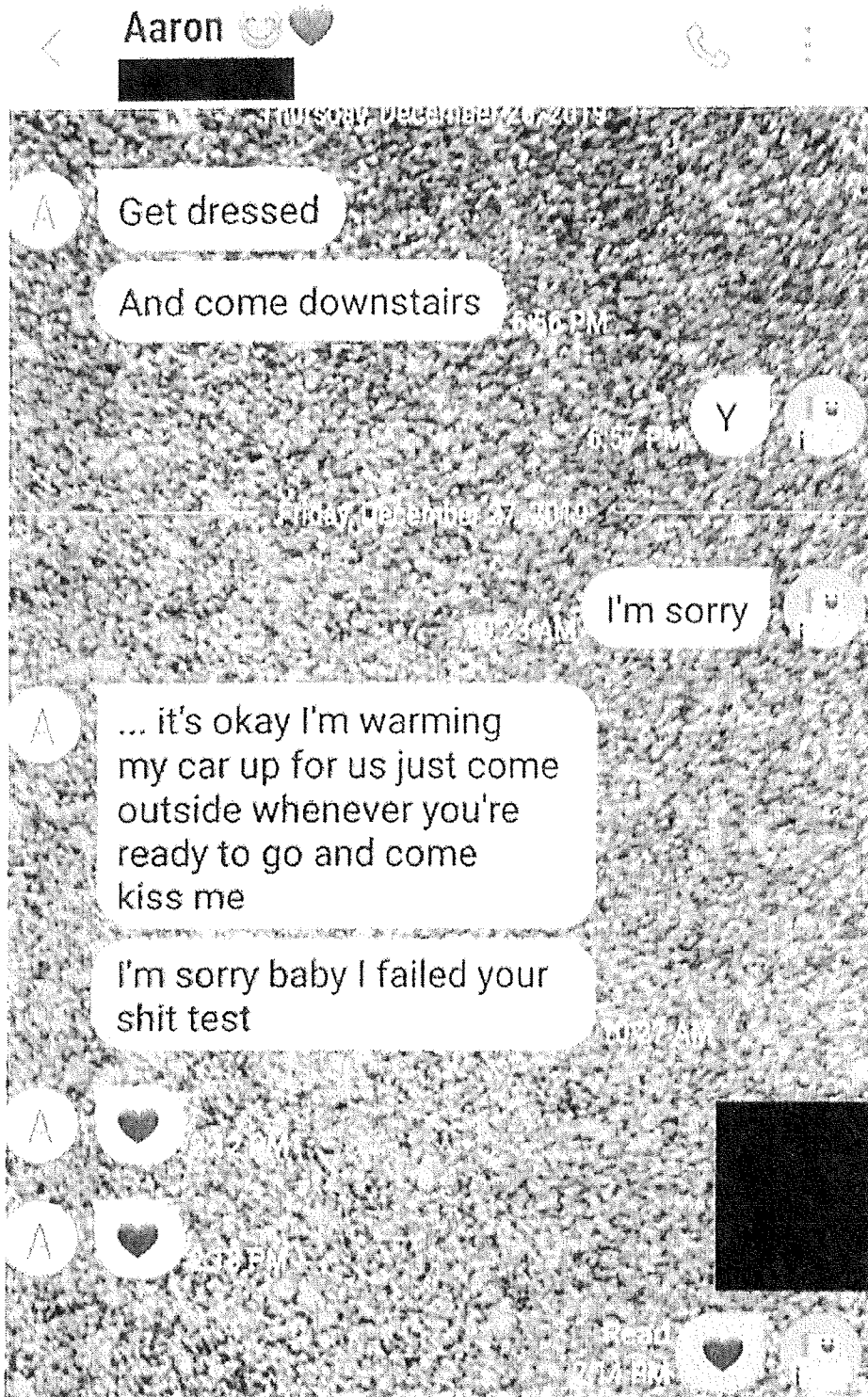


Photo: Obtained by The Intercept

Four days later, in text messages with Passow, Coleman disputed her recollection. "You have a finny memory," he said. "You dumped me and I smacked you and you smacked me and I immediately got up and stormed out of the hot tub."

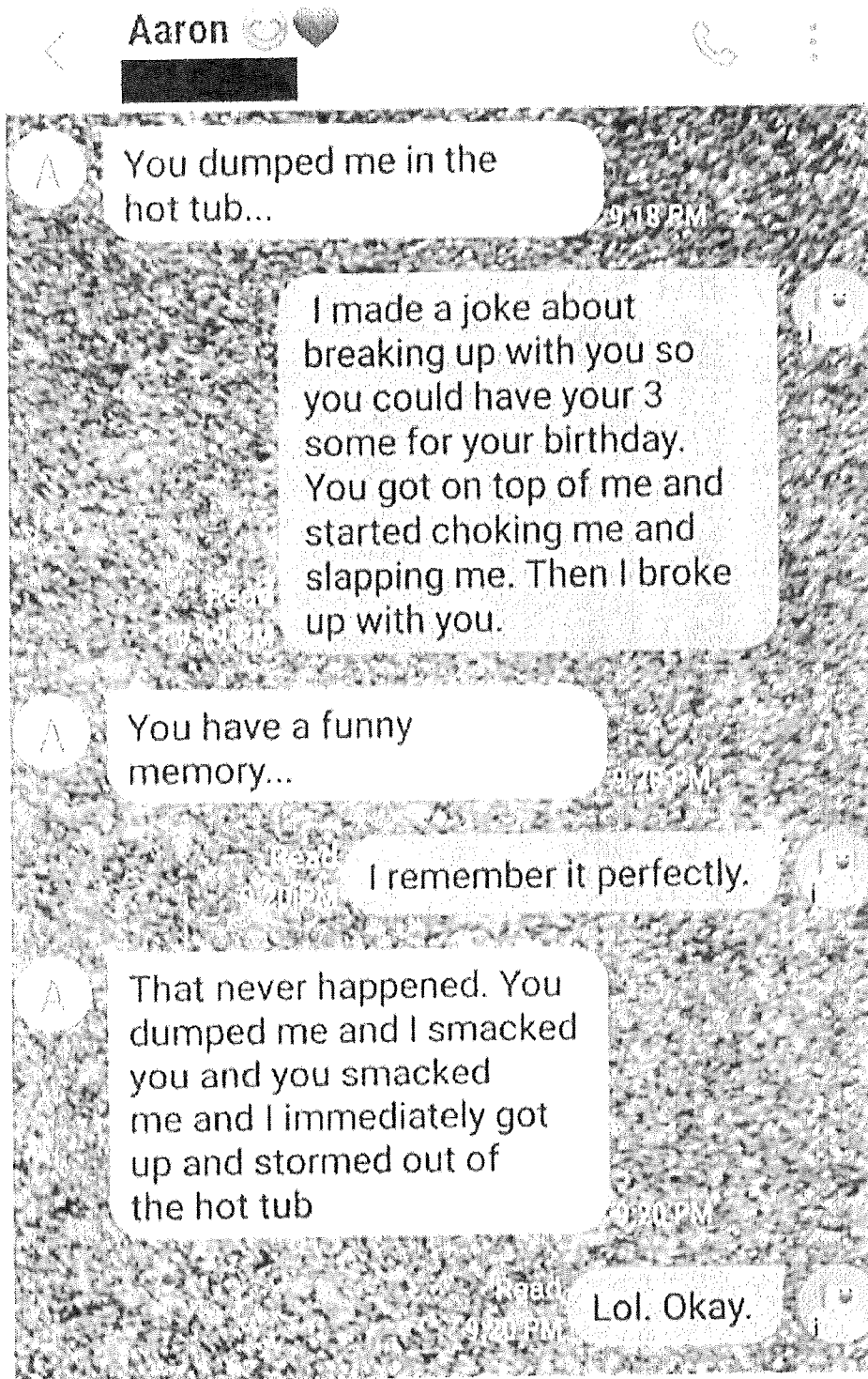


Photo: Obtained by The Intercept

Passow said she told her childhood friend about the incident a few days later. The friend agreed to speak as long as she could remain anonymous and relayed many of the same stories to The Intercept without being prompted, including that Passow told her on New Year's Eve about being slapped and choked by Coleman in Kansas City.

That night, the two were fighting again, and Coleman told Passow over text that she should kill herself. "Air out the clip into your head," he told her on December 31. "Mag dump yourself. Do

that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again then I'll know what happened."

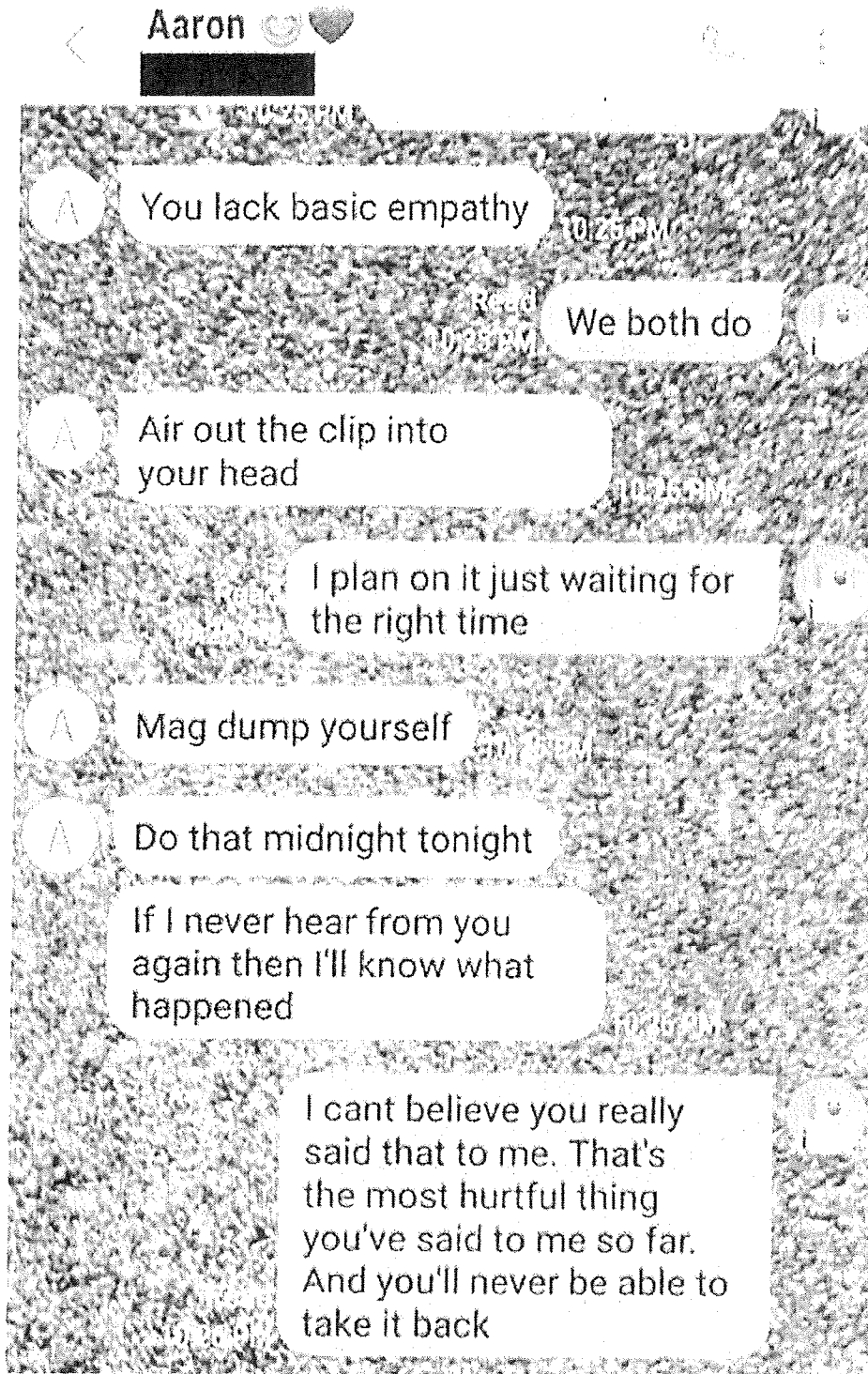


Photo: Obtained by The Intercept

In January, Passow told The Intercept, she sent Coleman a long letter breaking up with him, unable to move past the assault. "I just didn't feel the same about him anymore," she said.

Multiple attempts to reach Coleman through a variety of channels were unsuccessful. After initially announcing that he was withdrawing from the race, Coleman on Tuesday morning reversed course, saying that he would remain on the ballot for the general election, campaign door to door, and leave the question to voters. In a statement on Twitter posted after publication, Coleman admitted being "abusive" to his ex-girlfriend but denied choking her. "I know large quantities of alcohol could be affecting both our memories," he wrote.

When the New York Times story ran last week, some believed that if Coleman had changed and grown, he deserved his equal place in society. Others argued that his crime, regardless of his age, was so heinous that he ought to be barred from public life, at least until he made meaningful amends. Still others argued that what he did in middle school should be factored in to an understanding of who he is today given his relative youth – still just 19 years old – but that what mattered was how he has comported himself as an adult. Ultimately, a strong contingent of progressive commentators determined that anything less than a swift condemnation of Coleman was rooted in misogyny.


Passow said that on Sunday night, Coleman had called her to say he was staying in the race, asking what he could do to make amends. She refused to engage, telling him she would speak publicly, and he followed up by text. "I deeply apologize for any mistakes I might have made. I know I wasn't a perfect boyfriend," he wrote. "But I'm not dropping out of the race. I've been honest with the public about everything that I've done, if you want to accuse me of something, you're welcome to do that, and I'll be honest then as well. No one is perfect. I'm not gonna try to stop you if you want to tell your story to the papers or whoever, but I'm gonna make sure that story is told truthfully."


When Coleman had first told her about his troubled and impoverished childhood and the harm he'd caused, Passow hoped it was behind him. "At the time, I did think he wasn't that person anymore," she said. "He's not changed; this isn't in his past. I just want people to know he's not the person he says he is, and if you still want to vote for somebody who's like that, I guess that's your prerogative."


Update: September 8, 2020


The article has been updated to include a statement by Coleman posted on Twitter on September 6.




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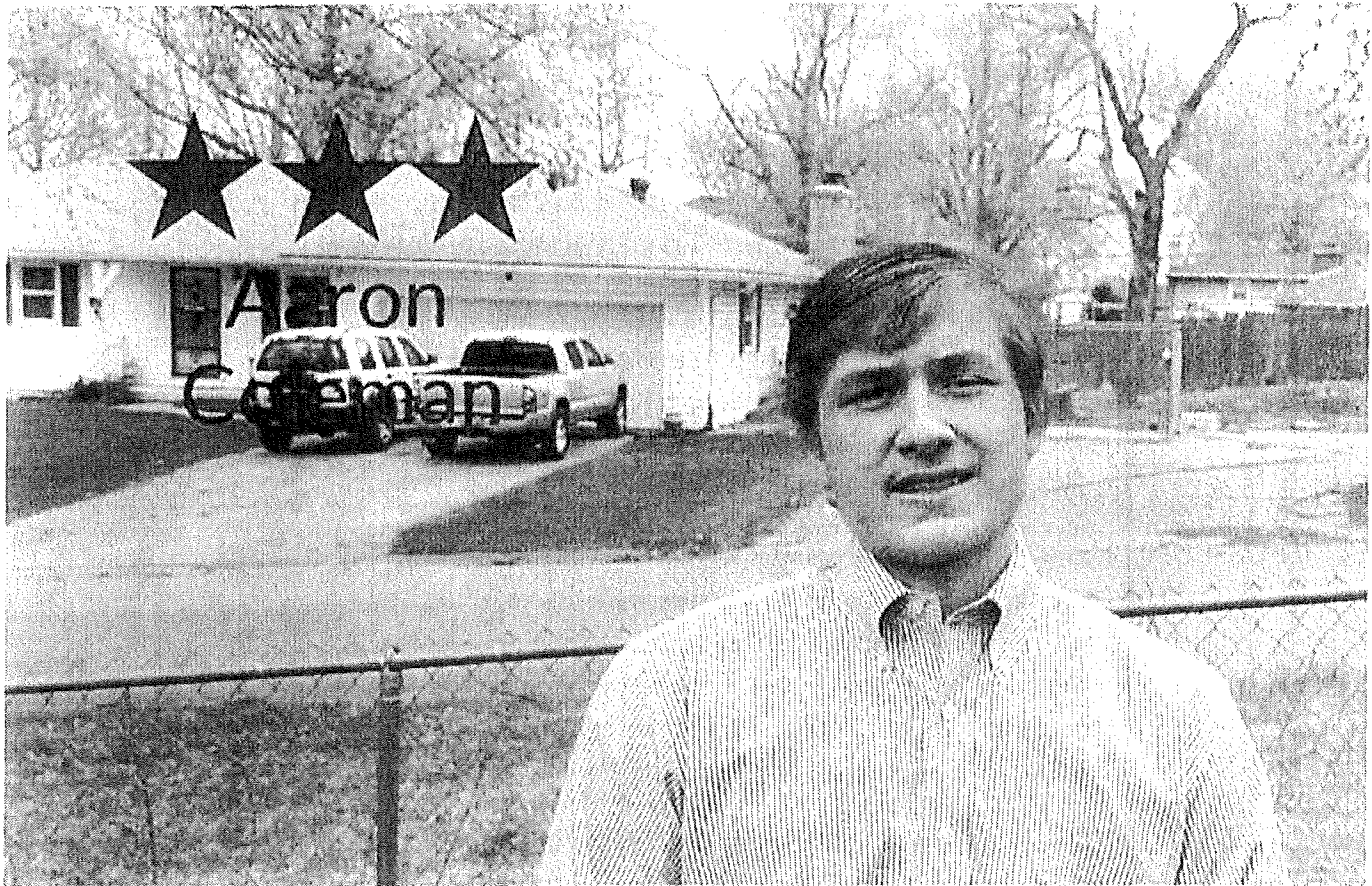
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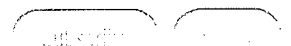
 **Here Are the Policies Joe Biden Will Change TODAY**

Aaron Coleman, the Abusive Teenager Elected to Kansas House, Reportedly Still Harassing Women

By Vivian Kane Dec 4th, 2020, 6:04 pm 140 comments



Aaron Coleman was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in November, despite having admitted to circulating nude photos of a 12-year-old girl when he was 14 after she refused to send him nudes directly. He has also admitted to pressuring another girl to attempt suicide at the same age. In many cases, most of us would be hesitant to bring up something a



When challenged about his past, he blamed feminism for making drop out of the election (which he quickly un-dropped out of). He also subsequently admitted to having physically assaulted his ex-girlfriend as recently as last year. He also threatened to “call a hit out” on Kansas Governor Laura Kelly just last month, saying her reelection race in 2022 will be “extremely bloody.”

Despite showing voters exactly who he is, Coleman ended up winning his primary race against the incumbent candidate, Stan Frownfelter, by a mere fourteen votes. He then ran unopposed in the general election. Which is a great reminder that every single vote really does count.

Now that he’s about to take office, Coleman has been accused of continuing to harass women, specifically Frownfelter’s campaign manager Brandie Armstrong. Armstrong told the *Kansas City Star* that Coleman has been harassing her by phone and that she planned to file a no-contact order (similar to a restraining order but for criminal court cases rather than civil) against him this week.

“I’m filing the no-contact order to protect myself and my family, but also because it’s time someone tells this boy the way he behaves is despicable and has consequences. It may not be much, but it’s something,” she told the *Star*.

Meanwhile, the other women who have come forward with allegations against Coleman say they’re being harassed by his supporters online. (Both on Twitter and in a statement to the newspaper, Coleman denies that he or his supporter are harassing Armstrong but didn’t address the other allegations of harassment. He also misspelled Brandie Armstrong’s name in both.)

Not only is Coleman about to take office but he’s nominated himself for an even greater leadership position as the sergeant-at-arms of the Wyandotte County Democratic Party. That internal election will take place next week and I guess that’s when we’ll see how Coleman’s new colleagues plan to deal with him. So far, they’ve done nothing. They disavowed him before he won his primary but there have been crickets since then.



“They’re not stopping him. They’re not standing up,” she said. “They have not stood up since June 17 when this all came out. We need more people to stand up for these girls and say, ‘Hey, you know what? We’re not going to allow Aaron Coleman to have power; we don’t want Aaron Coleman to represent our county.’”

Throughout all of this, Coleman continues to insist that he’s a great choice to represent women, specifically calling out Frownfelter as being anti-abortion. And while Frownfelter’s centrist politics weren’t always great for women, he did have the endorsement of Planned Parenthood in his race against Coleman. If the only way that you can tell people how great you are for women is to talk over women’s organizations and individual women claiming otherwise, it’s a pretty good indication that you’re not the ally you think you are.

(via [Kansas City Star](#), image: Aaron Coleman, YouTube)

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VIVIAN KANE - POLITICS EDITOR

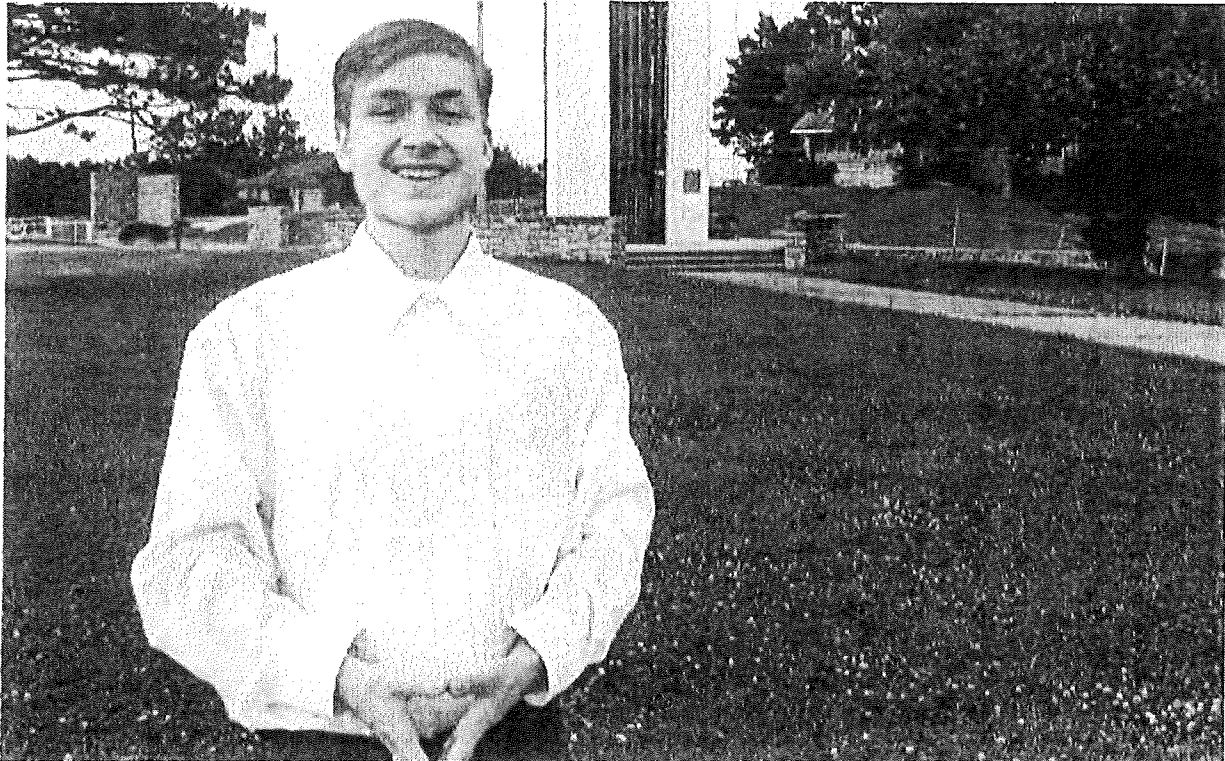
Vivian Kane (she/her) has a lot of opinions about a lot of things. Born in San Francisco and radicalized in Los Angeles, she now lives in Kansas City, Missouri with her husband Brock Wilbur and too many cats.



Report: Jewish candidate for Kansas state House arrested for gun threat as teen

Kansas City paper reports that Aaron Coleman was charged with felony for making a criminal threat, and later pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of harassment

By MARCY OSTER
5 October 2018, 6:39 pm



Aaron Coleman. (Facebook/ Aaron Coleman for Kansas via JTA)

JTA — Aaron Coleman, the 20-year-old Jewish student and Democratic nominee for a state House seat in Kansas, was arrested in 2015 for threatening to shoot a female student at a local high school.

Coleman was 14 at the time, the Kansas City Star reported on Saturday. He was charged with a felony for making a criminal threat and later pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of harassment.

Coleman was being homeschooled at the time, but sent a text message saying he would shoot the girl, who had reportedly posted a revealing photo of Coleman on social media. Coleman told the Star that he wanted to hurt himself and did not have access to a firearm when he made the threat.

The latest news follows a report over the summer that Coleman, the great-grandson of a Holocaust survivor, had admitted to calling a girl fat and telling her to kill herself. The girl told the Star that she did in fact attempt suicide.

Coleman also blackmailed a second girl, threatening to disclose a nude photo of her unless she sent her more. When the girl did not comply, Coleman released the photo. A third woman told the newspaper that he had harassed her "for months."

Following his August primary win for the state representative seat in Kansas House District 37, Coleman said that he would drop out of the race over his past actions, but then changed his mind. There is no Republican challenger in the race. Coleman's primary challenger, Stan Frownfelter, who currently holds the seat, has mounted a write-in campaign.

If Coleman wins the election, he would be the youngest member of the Kansas House of Representatives, and the only Jewish member.

Kansas Democrats have mostly disavowed Coleman.

In a Facebook post on Wednesday, Coleman wrote: "If my opponent should be forgiven for his crimes against humanity which he hasn't apologized for, (voting to: criminalize abortions, gut the EPA, prevent healthcare insurance of abortions, support the KXL pipeline), Should I be forgiven for my sins that I have apologized for?"

**Written Testimony before the
House Select Investigating Committee
Representative John Barker, Chairman**

January 22, 2021

By Heather Sprague Scanlon

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Select Investigating Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the matter of Representative Coleman and the complaint filed against him by Kansas House Democratic Leadership.

Mr. Coleman has exhibited, and continues to exhibit, a clear and established pattern of disturbing behavior. He has threatened and executed several counts of abuse toward women. His actions – past and present – must not be tolerated or excused.

There is a long list of offenses he has committed, leaving each woman traumatized, broken, and fearful. His victims now see the person who stalked, choked, hit, verbally and physically abused, sexually extorted, and terrorized them rewarded with no consequences, but elected to office as a Kansas House Representative. I know some of these women. I have seen firsthand their fear, their suffering, and the damage that he has caused to so many lives.

During the 2020 election cycle, I spoke with Mr. Coleman many times. I can assure you that this man feels no remorse, no regret for his actions. In fact, he revels in them, because they place him in the spotlight and in the press. He has said several disturbing things to me in our conversations which led me to repulsion and fearful of what he would, and most certainly will, do next. When the official Kansas House Democratic Twitter page put out a post condemning him, he immediately called me and launched into a raging diatribe, threatening to "kick Tom Sawyer's ass," among other threats.

This was the ranting of a person without the capability of self-control. It occurred on more than one occasion. I ceased all communication with Mr. Coleman. When he won his November election, I received a text from him, which essentially read that I must apologize or else, and which I interpreted as threatening language. I did not respond. But this is not my story, and I did not experience a fraction of the terror and agony this man is capable of inflicting. I only know that I believe each of his victims, and that I stand with them.

House Select Investigating Committee
Date 1/22/21
Attachment # 6

Mr. Coleman is a dangerous and manipulative individual that is unfit to serve in a position of power such as he is. This position has only increased his boldness and pride. Not only is he a threat to every woman that enters this building, he is a dark stain on the Kansas Legislature and every elected official who does not condemn him nor discipline him. This committee has an opportunity here today to undo some of the anguish he has caused, to show Kansans decisively that it will not tolerate this behavior, and to finally show Mr. Coleman that actions do indeed have consequences.

Elected officials must be held to a higher standard and accountable for their actions. I urge you, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, to vote to expel or, at the very least, censure Mr. Coleman. Please show his victims and women across Kansas that there is no tolerance for this type of behavior, and that it will no longer darken the halls of the People's House.

Thank you for your time.

January 22, 2021

Select Investigating Committee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Taylor Passow. I'm writing this statement in regard to my experiences/relationship with Rep. Aaron Coleman. I matched with Aaron on Tinder in November of 2019. He was very upfront with his intent on holding a political position when we first started talking. He would say things like "Baby I'm a high-status man" and I'm looking for my future first lady of Kansas." These things were appealing to me in the beginning because he seemed very goal-oriented and driven.

I was hesitant on meeting up with him in person because I had never actually met someone from Tinder before. But I felt like if there was a safe place to start, it would be with somebody who wanted to run for office one day. We ended up setting up a plan to meet up later that week and get a hotel room for the night at the Traveler's Inn in Topeka, Kansas.

When he picked me up, we went for ice cream and sat in the parking lot for about 30 minutes. The atmosphere felt awkward. We did not have much to talk about and when we did talk it didn't seem that we had much in common. We went to the hotel, got our room, and things got physically intimate fast. That is when I encountered my first red flag with Aaron Coleman.

While we were intimate, Aaron grabbed his belt off the floor, looped it around my neck and pulled hard. I was caught by surprise and started pulling the belt away from my throat because I was struggling to breathe. He let go and finished. I stepped outside to smoke a cigarette and think about what had just happened. At the time, I decided what he did wasn't that big of a deal because it was apparent that this was just going to be a one time hook up, so we just went to bed.

The next morning, we went and had breakfast and went to a museum and he was being very sweet. After that we ended up talking more and meeting up more, and I started to notice more questionable behavior. One time when we were about to get intimate, he rolled me over on my stomach and pinned me down and said, "Maybe I'll just rape you instead." I tried to get him off me, but he just held me down. We didn't end up having sex that time, but I still stayed.

One time we stayed at an Air B&B in Topeka, and while intoxicated on various drugs and alcohol, he confessed to me about getting in legal trouble for blackmailing a girl for nudes in middle school. When I confronted him about it when we were sober, he acted like he didn't remember what I was talking about and changed the subject. He would also frequently talk about how fatal it would be to his life and career if I had gotten pregnant by him. Once he'd even said, "If you get pregnant and won't have an abortion, I'll have to kill you and the baby. This scared me so much that when I had a pregnancy scare in January of 2020 I went and stayed with a friend until I could make sure that I wasn't pregnant. While staying with my friend, she noticed some bruising around my neck and that is when I told her that Aaron assaulted me on December 27th, 2019.

We were staying at an Air B&B in KCMO, and it was the morning we were scheduled for check out. We were sitting in a hot tub, and he had been asking if I wanted to have a threesome. I repeatedly told him no, I'm sorry, I'm just not into that. But he kept asking so I made a joke about breaking up with him for his birthday so he could have a threesome. He jumped on top of me, started choking me, and slapped me

House Select Investigating Committee
Date 1/22/21
Attachment # 7

three times. I got one of my arms free and slapped him, causing him to fall back into the seat of the hot tub. I got out and said, "Maybe I'll just break up with you." He made a remark about "good luck finding a ride back to Topeka." I went inside and he followed me and began packing. He kept asking me if I was going to apologize for what I did, and I told him I had nothing to apologize for.

Before going out to his car he said, "You're really not going to say you're sorry?" I just ignored him and thought he left. I ended up texting him and apologizing because even if he did something bad, and gave me numerous red flags, being with him seemed better than being alone. We made up, but our relationship was never the same after that. I was just never able to be comfortable around him anymore.

That was the turning point of our relationship. We officially broke up January 13th, 2020. It took less than two months for me to realize that Aaron Coleman was somebody that made me feel bad about myself, unsafe, and uncomfortable. But the things he said to me are stuck in my head forever. Things like "I can't wait for you to lose weight." "I bet you'd be so pretty if you were skinny." "I can't wait to transform you into someone worthy of being the First Lady of Kansas." "I hope you get kidnapped and raped and chopped up and scatter in bits and pieces." "Mag dump yourself, Bempty the clip out into your head, if I never hear from you again I'll know what happened." "I miss having a personal sex slave"

These are not things someone who has political power should say or do. These are not things a mentally stable person would say or do. Aaron Coleman is not fit for a political position. And his campaign for "women's right" seem pretty disrespectful to me and the dozen other victims that have had to put up with his behavior.

Committee, thank you for your time.

Taylor Passow
taylorpassow@gmail.com
785-608-3880

Date: January 20, 2021

From: Faith Rivera

Ref: Opposition to KS Rep. Aaron Coleman efforts to show he is unfit to serve as a Kansas lawmaker

Chairman Baker and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Faith Rivera and I am a single Hispanic mother, grassroot activist, and a domestic abuse survivor here in Kansas City, Kansas. I am in opposition to Kansas Rep. Aaron Coleman staying in office. Because as a survivor I have learned that men with Coleman's past do not change their behavior even with professional help. They actually evolve their abuse to more heinous and disturbing acts. As I learned more and more about Aaron's victims and his abuse I saw many similarities to my ex boyfriend Gayle Alan Sanford, registered sex offender, kidnapper and rapist. From the start of this alarming revelation I could tell there were more victims than what we first discovered.

I met Rep. Aaron Coleman in early March of 2020 in Topeka. When my friend and I walked away from our introduction we felt Aaron was socially . I have said, talk to Coleman for 2 minutes you see him as a passionate person for change. But give him 10 minutes and you will see his instability and awkwardness. He was always harassing and bugging me and my organization Our Revolution, which I was Kansas Chair, for an endorsement. I cut ties with him June a few days later when his first victim, Ciera Marie, publicly told her truth about Rep. Aaron Coleman. Her post happened around June 17th via Facebook. This was the 1st post that revealed other victims, Kati Hampton and Jewell White. From then on it seemed as time went on more and more young women were coming out about Rep. Coleman. August 23rd, 2020 we learned about Taylor Passow, a recent ex-girlfriend of Aaron's. They dated from November 2019 to January 2020. She was at the time the most recent victim and the abuse was elevated from what we heard of his past. These were not threats via, photos, cyber or text. This was hands on. In October I was on the phone with Brandie Armstrong. She was on her way home and I was shopping at Target. Her voice quivered and she said he was at my house. I questioned her asking who was at her home. She explained, Aaron Coleman was at her door again after she asked him to not visit her residence. I knew her statement was true because I saw the two way communication about her ask not to come to her address. I advised Brandie she needs to call and speak to the police to see what legal steps can be done. He in my eyes had escalated his behavior and is becoming more obvious in his mistreatment of another woman.

We have found nine women within our community currently that have opened up publicly about their interactions with KS Rep. Aaron Coleman; Ciera Marie, Kati Hampton, Jewell White, Taylor Passow, Megan McQuinn, Brandie Armstrong, RJ, Cheyanne Dawn and Alexandra Cortez. Some in the past and some as current as a few months ago. I hope you will see his behavior is not one of an adolescent but has evolved into a 20 year old man who at one time threatened to shoot up a local high school. He is not stable to make laws that will protect us, especially with

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his behavior as a serial abuser. We do not need predator in office. Kansas and myself thank you for your time and consideration on my testimony. I urge you to expelling Kansas Rep. Aaron Coleman seeing he has very bad judgment calls personally and professionally.

Sincerely,

Faith Rivera

Email: rivera4rosedale@gmail.com

Cell: (913) 291-8020

To: Chairman Baker and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Rachel Fustini and I am a community activist, patient advocate and a family care taker in Kansas City. I am in opposition to Kansas Rep. Aaron Coleman holding any position where he wields power over people.

I met Rep. Aaron Coleman in early 2020 when he effectively "slid into my DMs". While I was running for the KS Bernie Sanders Delegate and Coleman used that as his in. He was harmless enough and discussed politics a moment. He then started to question my age and commenting on my looks. This was within 10-15 minutes of messaging. Although this isn't uncommon for me or other people, I find it unprofessional and lacking in judgement for a person working on a career in representation. It concerns me to think how he might have escalated if I wasn't as assured in myself and as a single 30 something woman whose been dealing with thirsty guys for 15 or 20 years. What if I had met with him in person? As we can see by his not so distant past I could have been a victim of his. After asking a few activists friends about him I learned that he is not only awkward, forward and aggressive but abusive. I cut all my social media ties with him a few days later. Victims started to post around June 17th via Facebook.

As the summer 2020 went on more and more accounts of abuse and poor judgment came out via various females in the same community that he now is a representative for. Faith, other activists and myself worked hard to encourage and support Coleman's victims as they came forward. We encouraged Coleman to step down. He did not, well he did then he didn't. Again posting ill intended messages and admitting to his past abuse. Coleman didn't stop, he escalated In October he started stalking his opponent's staff.

Now, as he takes office he holds "town halls" where he address Erin's Law, one to protect victims of abuse, a slap in the face to his victims and his victims' allies. In these town halls he doesn't allow the community to talk, comment or participate in any way, unless they are Pro Aaron Coleman. Not only is this poor representation but it's illegal. Thus, him making a continuation of suppressive, dominating behavior.

We have found nine women within our community currently that have opened up publicly about their victimization by Coleman. These interactions have been continuous. Please see this behavior as I do; He is 20 year old who at minimum thinks with his penis and who at his current peak has threatened to shoot up a local high school, slapped and choked a human being and stalked another. He is not stable, smart or a good steward of his very important role. We do not need him in office. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. Urge you to expelling Kansas Rep. Aaron Coleman seeing he has overall lack of insight, extremely poor judgement and is abusive.

Rachel Fustini

Members of the committee:

My name is Megan McQuinn. I am an activist, storyteller, and resident of Wyandotte County. I first encountered Mr. Colman on twitter after I had an unfortunate encounter with former Representative Frownfelter. Coleman attempted to forge a friendship, but it became clear quite quickly that his true intention was to use me as a political prop in his campaign against Mr. Frownfelter. I made my wishes clear. Coleman continued to try to coerce my cooperation but eventually desisted. After this, I began to keep an eye on Coleman.

Over the next few months, a clear picture emerged of Coleman. It was that of a serial abuser who had no remorse for his actions. His first claims in defense were that the allegations of revenge porn were committed in his youth. However, more and more stories began to surface. It was clear that Coleman was still committing acts of violence against women.

Women are the canary in the coalmine, and they must be believed. Countless women have come forward with their stories. Stories of Coleman telling an ex that he hopes she was raped or of him chocking a woman who tried to end their relationship. When the first allegation was discovered I knew that more would come. His behavior is a pattern. He continues to play the victim. He attempted to have Frownfelter's campaign manager evicted. Eviction is violence.

I understand the seriousness of this situation. Coleman was elected, that is true. I do not believe his community truly understood the extent of his abuse. Coleman is not fit for office. He will continue his destructive behavior and be further emboldened by his position in the Statehouse.

Sincerely,

Megan McQuinn

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Date: January 21, 2021

From: Ciera Fuller

Ref: Dismissal of Kansas Rep. Aaron Coleman

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am one of Aaron Coleman's many victims,
This issue is very important to me due to the fact that I was affected by him.

This started while I was in 6th grade and lasted until middle school. I was dating one of Coleman's close friends. I couldn't handle Coleman's comments nor hurtful words anymore. So I decided to cut his friend out of my life hoping it would also cut Aaron Coleman out. It did not, it made things much worse.

Constantly commenting on my appearance, my looks, my weight etc.
I was a bigger girl, my confidence was already very low & Coleman knew that. I was a very easy target. Daily he told me to "kill myself" and that no one could possibly love someone like "me". Those words stuck with me forever, & still cross my mind at times. I came home crying everyday to my grandma. I didn't know what was wrong with me, nor why he was so mean to me. I questioned my worth everyday, the thoughts of suicide constantly crossed my mind because how could someone possibly love me?

I began thinking he was right, he reminded me daily. I attempted to starve myself, hoping to lose weight and that things would get better. I even tried to attempt suicide. Till this day, I still question my worth.

I find him unfit, he hasn't changed. He has caused so much hurt, to many. Us victims are tired and ready to start genuinely healing. I no longer look at myself as one of his "victims" I think he would like that too much. I am a survivor, along with many others. We do not need another man that doesn't respect women in power. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ciera Fuller
Kansas Rep. Aaron Coleman Victim
C: 913-907-5321
E: cierafuller22@gmail.com

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To Committee in Reference to Aaron Coleman:

If the committee has been following the recent court case Brandie Armstrong v. Aaron Coleman, I have come up passively within that case. At least in the news articles I have went unnamed. Brandie did this out of respect for my personal privacy. However, had Brandie asked I would have testified in a heartbeat.

I have done my best to stay silent, and say nothing in due respect to how Mrs. Armstrong chose to handle the situation to which I would have been a bystander at best. However, I feel compelled to speak on Brandie's behalf, and given I have independent knowledge of Mr. Coleman's continued patterns of behavior which clearly indicate that he is not ready for the position to which he now holds.

In Mrs. Armstrong's case I am her landlord. I can testify to the fact directly that Mr. Coleman, has been to the home. Of direct note is the incident in October, I live directly next to my tenants, in October Mr. Coleman knocked so loudly that it caused myself to look out the window to find out what was going on. There is a distance between the homes, a sign is quite clearly visible on the front door that an autistic child lives in the home. This shows Mr. Coleman's clear disregard for those around him clearly. I have also been informed by neighbors, and my own parents that Mr. Coleman was seen around the home on few more occasions until recently. Much of this newer information has come to light with the series of news articles surrounding Mr. Coleman. Many of the neighbors, and my own parents asking questions as to what I did or did not know in regards to the court case. Much to my shock, finding several neighbors indicating to me that they had seen who they believe to be Coleman on a few instances outside of what the Armstrong's were aware of themselves.

My direct semi-connection to Mr. Coleman ends at my being able to directly testify to his continued harassment of Mrs. Armstrong for the past nine months. Living next to your tenants you can clearly see comings and goings. We have a wonderful relationship, and I would hope we could serve as a model for both tenants and landlords during the Covid-19 crisis

In-directly, again thanks to recent news articles I have come to knowledge, that Mr. Coleman's behavior probably has not changed. It can be said as a matter public record that I have worked as a teacher in sub capacity for both Turner, Shawnee Mission, and as a full-time teacher within the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools. Over that time, I have made many connections many of which I keep. However, I have not taught myself full time in several years. But I keep in contact with teachers some of those at Shawnee Mission West, to which Mr. Coleman graduated after having been ungracefully removed from Turner. I still consider these people professional colleagues and more than that friends. Knowing that someday I will reenter the teaching profession.

Over the recent holidays, I met with a few of my friends. The connection between Shawnee Mission West, and Mr. Coleman had come up. They were surprised to find out I was the unnamed landlord in question. At that point, I was then given a flood of how Mr. Coleman's harassment of my tenant was completely within character according to them. But that they were afraid to speak given the optics of the situation at hand. Also having no prior knowledge to my semi-personal connection to the situation. They also indicated that Mr. Coleman had a few minor instances of questionable actions with the opposite sex while at West, but each time it was handled quietly by administration. I know that my

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friends fear reprimand by the school district for speaking to what they may or may not know. I treat the info as if it were given to me anonymously. Although I am sure Mr. Coleman would attempt to paint a very different picture.

I for my part again can speak directly to what I saw, and have firsthand knowledge to, and if the committee has further questions to which I know I have direct knowledge I would be more than happy to testify further in that regard.

Sincerely

Dustin Figge

913-980-9985

Dfigge@gmail.com

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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John E. Barker
Representative, 70th District

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT
CHAIR: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ROBERT G. (BOB) BETHELL JOINT
COMMITTEE ON HOME AND
COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES
AND KAN CARE OVERSIGHT

SELECT INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

February 16, 2021

Representative Aaron Coleman
Room 045-S, State Capitol Building
300 S.W. 10th Ave.
Topeka, Ks. 66612

Dear Representative Coleman,

On January 12, 2021, House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer and twelve other House members filed a complaint against you, pursuant to House Rule 4901, alleging that you have "a longstanding history of physically and emotionally abusive behavior" and that the alleged behavior makes you unfit to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives. In accordance with House Rule 4902, Speaker of the House Ron Ryckman, Jr., then appointed a Select Committee to consider the complaint.

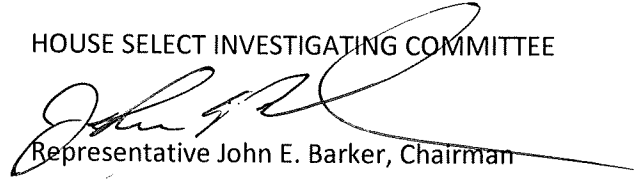
The Select Committee met on January 22, 2021 to conduct an inquiry into the complaint. The committee members asked you a number of questions regarding the allegations in the complaint. The committee determined that there was sufficient evidence presented in the complaint establishing a prima facie case that the allegations in the complaint are true. A hearing on the complaint was opened pursuant to House Rule 4902(b), and the Committee heard testimony from House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer. As part of the hearing, the Select Committee also considered written testimony from Dustin Figge, Ciera Fuller, Rachel Fustini, Megan McQuinn, Taylor Passow, Faith Rivera, Representative Tom Sawyer and Heather Scanlon.

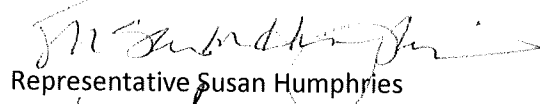
After conducting its hearing, the Select Committee finds your behavior to be unfitting for a member of the Kansas House of Representatives. However, because you were not sworn in as a member of the House of Representatives at the time the actions occurred, the Select Committee recommended the dismissal of the charges and that the dismissal include an informal letter of warning and admonishment. We offer you this letter as that warning and admonition. Additionally, the Select Committee directs you to accept a member of the House of Representatives to be your mentor. Such mentor shall be decided by you and House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer.

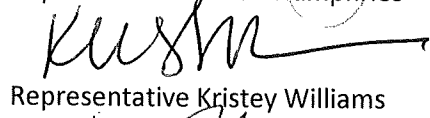
Be aware that noncompliance with the recommendations of the Select Committee may result in a complaint being filed against you pursuant to House Rules, which will likely result in a reprimand, censure or expulsion pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.

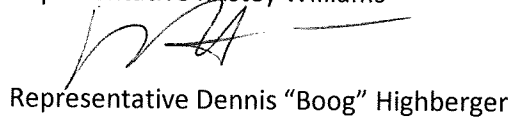
Yours,

HOUSE SELECT INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE


Representative John E. Barker, Chairman


Representative Susan Humphries


Representative Kristey Williams


Representative Dennis "Boog" Highberger

Representative Cindy Neighbor

Representative Susan Ruiz