

Rep. Julianne Young  
275 N. 400 W.  
Blackfoot, ID 83221

November 21, 2023

LD 32 Committee  
Idaho Falls, ID

To whom it may concern:

I write today as a legislative colleague of Representative Wendy Horman. In that capacity, I have seen, first hand, many things that members of the public do not and cannot see. This firsthand knowledge of Representative Horman's service and personal sacrifice leads me to believe that, if this committee understood the things that I know, they would recognize that, rather than meriting censor, Representative Horman merits the sincere appreciation and support of this committee.

During the legislative session I consistently arrive at the capitol building before 7 AM. When I pull into the legislative parking lot, usually at around 6:30, there is only one other vehicle there—consistently, day after day. It is Representative Horman's. When I leave late each night there is only one car still left in the parking lot—consistently, day after day. It is Representative Horman's. For two years I had the privilege of having office space directly across from hers. Frequently, when I would arrive at my office in the morning, her door would be open and we would talk about the things we anticipated during the day and the challenges we faced.

Contrary to the image that she has somehow failed to uphold the Republican platform or stem the tide of big spending, I have personally seen her proactively lead out in exposing corruption and fraud, opposing pornography and inappropriate content in education, and tirelessly working to root out entrenched administrative practices that undermine our ability, as a legislature, to reign in out-of-control state agencies and bureaucracies.

Talk is cheap. Many go to Boise talking big about doing the kinds of things that Representative Horman is actually, quietly, consistently, and articulately accomplishing. Few have succeeded in moving the ball or bringing about meaningful change as she has. She is one of my heroes.

In spite of pressures that would have overwhelmed many other people, Representative Horman has stood apart from and refused to become a tool for the political elite or to participate with the leftist political machinery that seeks to weaken and destroy the conservative voice of the Idaho Republican Party. She has been one of only a handful who have deliberately avoided association with the Main Street Caucus, in spite of being in the political minority, and she has been a stalwart strength to me and others. Again, she is truly one of my heroes.

Exhibit E

In fact, as I consider our current struggle to maintain a semblance of fiscal and moral sanity against the overbearing pressures of amoral government expansion, I see Representative Horman plugging the hole in the dike with one arm while, at the same time, building brand new infrastructure to empower the rest of us to stem the flood with the other arm. It has truly been an exhausting labor of love for her, and the changes she is in now the process of successfully implementing will undoubtedly help to curb government growth for years to come. Truly, her accomplishments in this regard are remarkable! As I said before, she is one of my heroes.

I have watched Representative Horman stand like a stone wall in the face of incredible pressure, tirelessly advocating for greater fiscal conservatism (in spite of a committee and bureaucratic establishment that regularly undermine her efforts), for reform that strengthens the voice of the people's representatives, and for the moral values that are fundamental to civil society. Her knowledge, which is the direct result of tireless hours of study of state budgets and processes gives her an edge that even entrenched bureaucrats cannot compete with. If you were to ask me to name a single Most Valuable Conservative Player in the Idaho House, it would be Representative Horman. She is accomplishing things no one else could possibly get done, and those accomplishments are placing every conservative representative on stronger footing.

Do Representative Horman and I agree on every vote? No. But there is no doubt in my mind that our differences are the result of perspective and experience and not a difference in allegiance to principle. Are there things that still need to be done? Absolutely! But that is not the result of a lack of effort or desire on her part. It is the reality of an incredibly challenging political environment. It can be easy to criticize the execution of a battle plan when you are not on the field.

I remember my Grand-dad telling me, with a twinkle in his wise eyes, that one can be right and still do wrong. Time has taught me that rightness or wrongness is not just a question of logic in regard to details, it is a question of big-picture effect. I have not read the complaint, and we could probably spend a long time examining the accuracy, or not, of individual points, but censoring Representative Horman is the wrong thing to do. I appreciate the role of political parties in providing clarity and accountability, but this prerogative can be exercised to the detriment of the very principles we are organized to support if we are not careful.

I have spent significant time in discussions surrounding our House Ethics Committee hearing process. Like the House ethics process, this hearing process has the potential to be abused. The reality is that the process IS the punishment. Contrary to being a neutral event, just exercising the authority to call an investigation is an act of hostility. It requires the individual so called up to divert precious time and resources away from other responsibilities in order to with what could be characterized as "friendly fire," although I'm not sure what is friendly about it beyond the fact that it comes from those who ought to be friends. **The exercise of this power to investigate and censor should be reserved for circumstances where legislators express open hostility toward or opposition to the party platform**, not situations where there are nuanced disagreements and reasonable explanations for differences; certainly not just

as an ordinary exercise to require someone to 'justify a vote.' To exercise this power where it is not truly justified strips the process of meaningful significance where it IS justified.

Not only does broad exercise of this authority sow discord and distrust, it impedes our capacity to accomplish the real objectives that are critical to our future success. This is the most brutal and punishing aspect of the process. As public servants, we care much more about our ability to make a difference than we do about ourselves! We have already placed everything on the altar in order to make a difference. When those who should support our efforts choose, instead, to impede those efforts by taking up precious, irreplaceable time, and making the already challenging struggle even more difficult, I can see how this could be perceived as a form of betrayal. The fact that this comes at a time when the good Representative is already pressing forward in spite of significant personal challenges that others do not and cannot see only adds insult to injury.

Rather than making the fight more challenging for those striving to defend the summit, I encourage the committee to seek to understand how they can support the objectives the good Representative is so tirelessly laboring for; objectives which are consistent, in every way, with the conservative platform of the Idaho Republican Party.

I'm not only happy to vouch for the character and values of my colleague, I would be glad to stand beside her on the worst of days, and I feel, in a genuine way, that our ability to effectively advocate for the Republican values we both espouse is inextricably intertwined. I urge discretion, discernment, and temperate compassion on the part of committee members and respectfully encourage the prompt dismissal and termination of the complaint process in regard to Representative Horman.

In the Interest of Faith, Family, and Freedom,

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julianne Young". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Representative Julianne Young