

From: Stace Nelson <Stace.Nelson@sdlegislature.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 8:59 AM
To: Flannery, Tim; Guindon, Marty; Tapio, Neal; Sutton, Billie; Wismer, Susan; Peters, Deb; Hunhoff, Jean; Cronin, Justin; Anderson, David; Tieszen, Craig; Steinhauer, Wayne; Greenfield, Brock; May, Elizabeth; Russell, Lance; Jackley, Marty; bcurd@sfsh.com
Cc: akennecke@keloland.com; dferguson@argusleader.com; samual.blackstone@rapidcityjournal.com; jnord@ap.org; cory@dakotafreepress.com; greg.belfrage@mwcradio.com; bridget.bennett@ksfy.com; jhult@argusleader.com; news@wnax.com
Subject: [EXT] Response to Senator Cronin's Question & information submitted as per Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedures § 800 ¶6

ALCON,

As requested, and as per my right to submit information to the committee as per cited legislative rule and procedure.

Attached are statements made to me by Mrs. LuAnn Wardell regarding her knowledge of state employees collusion in the GEAR UP corruption scandal and her firing for whistleblower actions:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2hlhNbAbgYyMDhXLS02UUw2X2M>

I am aware of threats made by a fellow committee member, that if I do not drop my efforts to have this GEAR UP corruption looked into, that I will be "charged" with 'obstruction." I will have a separate written response to that illegal threat to influence me from my official duties as well as Senator Peters letter of August 18th.

Attached below are my correspondences with the Attorney General informing him of this information for his consideration. The information contained within Mrs. Wardell's statements, as well as other sources of information, were disclosed in large part to the GOAC within the numerous questions I submitted, GOAC accepted, and proposed by the GOAC to Sec Schopp & Ms. Darnell, and others.

As per cited rule, this email and information is submitted for inclusion in its entirety within the minutes of today's GOAC meeting.
Senator Nelson

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stace Nelson <Stace.Nelson@sdlegislature.gov>
Date: July 25, 2017 at 23:16:19 CDT
To: Marty Jackley <marty.jackley@state.sd.us>
Cc: Elizabeth May <Elizabeth.May@sdlegislature.gov>, Lance Russell <Lance.Russell@sdlegislature.gov>
Subject: Re: False Testimony Before the GOAC

AG Jackley,

I had an interesting conversation with a LuAnn Werdel early this evening. I inform you of this out of my ethical obligations as a legislator in that I believe the information provided is evidence

of criminal misconduct of several current and former state officials, and that a potential material witness fears for their personal safety. She is a former program manager for the SD DOE's GEAR UP program. She provided accounts of meeting with Keith Moore, Scott Westerhuis, Dan Guericke, Stacy Phelps in which she stated she complained of their specific acts she felt were fraud, and demanded they cease and desist. She also provided access to an email she sent upon her firing (which she stated was in retaliation for reporting criminal misconduct to DOE officials) in which she detailed these accusations to numerous persons addressed in the email, to include Secretary Schopp. Her statement, and information provided, is accepted at face value. She effectively asked for anonymity and expressed concerns about her personal safety and made statements she was instructed by state officials not to disclose this information. Her concerns for her safety, and information of apparent criminal activity, outweigh her requests for anonymity.

It was relayed to me by colleagues that you confirmed your office did not interview her as a witness. Please advise if my interactions with Ms. Werdel require further documentation with your office.

Senator Nelson