



Jo Anne Simon
Assemblymember 52nd District

District Office
341 Smith Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231
Telephone: 718-246-4889
Fax: 718-246-4895

**THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY**

CHAIR
Committee on Ethics and Guidance

Co-CHAIR
Legislative Ethics Commission

COMMITTEES
Codes
Higher Education
Judiciary
Transportation
Ways and Means

May 30, 2024

CONFIDENTIAL

Via Email

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

As you know, the Assembly Committee on Ethics and Guidance (“Committee”) has jurisdiction over, and is responsible for, investigating possible violations of the Assembly’s Policy Prohibiting Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation, revised 3/12/2019 (“the Policy”, “Policy”). We are writing to summarize the results of a recent investigation and to communicate our findings and recommendations to you, in accordance with the Policy.

Counsel to the Committee received reports of potential violations of the Policy concerning Assemblymember Scott Bendett. Counsel referred the matter to outside independent investigator Christopher Massaroni of the law firm of Hodgson Ross LLP to conduct an investigation into the allegations. In conformity with the Policy’s requirements, Chair Simon sent Assembly Member Bendett a letter indicating that an investigation had commenced, a Written Plan to Prevent Retaliation, Preserve Documents, and Ensure Non-Interference with Witnesses (“Written Plan”), and a Notice to Preserve Evidence.

Christopher Massaroni conducted a thorough investigation, in which Member Bendett cooperated. Christopher Massaroni reported to the Committee, which accepted his report on the matter at its meeting on May 15, 2024. In accordance with the Policy, Member Bendett was given an opportunity to be heard by the Committee. On May 29, 2024, the Committee met again to discuss and accept the report’s finding and discuss its recommendation(s).

Having heard from the investigator, the Committee concludes that Member Bendett made two statements related to religion and national origin to an international intern in violation of the Policy. Based on the report, and given Member Bendett’s sincere remorse and honest, active, and forthcoming participation in the process, coupled with the current highly emotional climate related to international strife, and pursuant

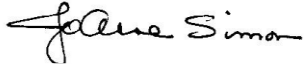
CONFIDENTIAL

May 30, 2024

to Section VIII.C of the Policy Prohibiting Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation, the Committee recommends that:

Member Bendett be ordered to undergo sensitivity training.

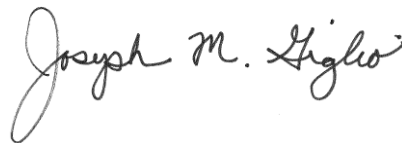
Respectfully submitted,



Jo Anne Simon,
Chair, Committee on Ethics and Guidance



Charles Lavine, Committee Member



Joseph Giglio, Ranking Member



Kenneth Zebrowski, Committee Member



Angelo Morinello, Interim Committee Member*



Catalina Cruz, Committee Member



Joseph Angelino, Committee Member



Brian Curran, Committee Member

*Committee Member Marjorie Byrnes was excused from this matter