

Statement to the Select Committee to Examine
the Qualifications of Representatives Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser

I humbly request and would accept a public censure from the Michigan House of Representatives for my role in the misconduct that led to the investigation by the Select Committee to Examine the Qualifications of Representatives Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser. In my opinion, censure is an appropriate resolution for me, my family, the people of the 80th District who I serve, and the People of the great State of Michigan who we all serve. I ask for and am willing to accept censure for several reasons, including seeking forgiveness for my transgressions, including my affair, as well as avoiding further erosion of respect and faith in this great institution. With this humble request, I am seeking to pull myself up and out of this situation both personally and professionally.

I admit that Representative Courser and I spoke just prior to and during his meeting with Ben Graham on May 19, 2015, the meeting that was recorded and eventually made public by the *Detroit News* on August 7, 2015. Being coerced to resign within days by an unknown source was very stressful for me. It was so much stress that I allowed my fear to take over. Representative Courser and I discussed a number of options, including an over-the-top email, to identify the source and also mitigate the potential negative publicity. At one point I understood that Representative Courser would have a discussion with Ben Graham, who had been a friend and political consultant to him for years, to reveal the situation and request Ben's input and assistance in getting out in front of a revelation of private circumstances. While I did not know in advance of the specific and offensive things that were in the false email that was eventually circulated, I take full responsibility for my role in Representative Courser's plan and the resulting harm that it has caused. For this, I offer my genuine apology.

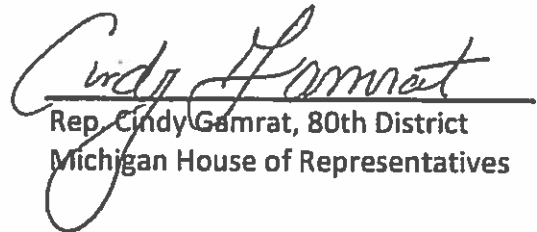
I further agree that the combined staff of Representative Courser and myself were treated poorly several times during their employment with the Michigan House of Representatives. While I did not berate them or otherwise mistreat them, I should have done more to stop it. After reviewing the emails and audio recordings in the record compiled by the House Business Office, combining staff with Representative Courser was a mistake that I regret. I wish I had not agreed to it.

Finally, I agree with the House Business Office's finding of official misconduct, as well as of the misuse of state resources. The emails and audio that led to those findings are accurate and those conclusions are appropriate. I understand and am willing to accept any conditions placed on my office by the House of Representatives related to my requested censure. I am asking for and willing to accept censure to save this esteemed body from spending further time and resources on this difficult chapter. I believe that this is the best outcome because it preserves the sanctity of the voice of the people of the 80th District who elected me to this office. I have my own personal chapter that I now have to face but as to my duty to my constituents, I have invested time and effort under difficult circumstances with the House Business Office staff

to improve the operation of the 80th District's Lansing office, and I look forward to a renewed focus and restoration for the 80th District.

September 4, 2015

Humbly submitted to the Select
Committee to Examine the Quali-
fications of Representatives Cindy
Gamrat and Todd Courser,


Rep. Cindy Gamrat, 80th District
Michigan House of Representatives