

February 22, 2022

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Via Email Only

Re: Open Letter Requesting Resignation Due to Sexual Harassment

Mr. Ivey-Soto:

I am writing this letter to you and releasing it to the public because I find it necessary to hold you, as a legislator, accountable for the sexual assaults and sexual harassment that you have perpetrated against me and several other women. According to Senate rules, members of the senate shall conduct themselves in a manner that justifies the confidence placed in them by the people. Your actions against myself and others have broken that confidence.

Over the last eight years, my advocacy work has focused on helping individuals and families gain access to what they need - from better working conditions and quality education to access to healthcare and expanded voting rights. Over the years, I have collaborated with legislators who share these values and honor their positions by doing good work for the people of our community. Unfortunately, several of my interactions with you have made it clear that you do not respect the authority you have as a legislator, but rather, abuse the position.

In 2015, as a young staffer for then Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham, I attended an NEA reception at the Drury hotel, a reception you also attended. You and I stood at a cocktail table next to each other and you slid your hand across my side and disgustingly groped and pinched my buttocks. I froze and felt an overwhelming sense of embarrassment wondering if the other person standing at our table saw. I did not know what to do or what to say – I just hoped that it would not happen again.

Fast forward to 2021. The state is watching you berate your colleague on the senate floor, live, via the legislative webcast. I am on the board of an organization that decides that your behavior is unacceptable. When the members of the board meet to talk about calling for your resignation, I disclose to them that you sexually harassed me back in 2015. Another member of the organization discloses that you also groped her. As a board, we decide to move forward with calling for your resignation for the actions you displayed on the senate floor, informed by the pattern of abuse of power that we know about behind the scenes.

This year, you and I were required to work with one another in our dealings with the Voting Rights Act. In my first meeting with you on January 18, 2022, your behavior was inexcusable. You skirted talking about the bill in order to chastise me for my prior calls for your resignation. When I confronted you about groping me, you acknowledged the event happened yet avoided responsibility for the harm you caused by saying “I’m sorry you experienced it that way.” You proceeded to tell me that “it’s a bad time to be a legislator, because you get called out” – presumably for your disgusting behavior with women. You were drinking throughout our conversation. When you emptied a bottle of wine into my glass and I said it was too much, you told me it was *not* too much, and then forcefully told me to drink it. When I left, you asked if you could give me a “non-creepy hug”. I quickly left your office.

On January 24, I asked to meet you in a public place, for dinner, because I still needed to talk to you about the Voting Rights Act. It was here that you displayed more abusive behavior starting when you left me sitting alone at the table for over 20 minutes while you drank with other people and paraded around the restaurant, making deals with your republican colleagues and shouting they could have their legislative demands met because you were promised a spot on the conference committee for the forthcoming bill I was preparing to lobby and came to talk with you about.

When you returned to the table, drink in hand, you said “can you believe I’ve been drinking since 2pm?” and whispered “come here, come on, come closer to me” expecting me to move toward you in the booth. When I turned the conversation to the contents of the forthcoming bill, you began shouting at me and multiple times I had to tell you “Daniel, stop yelling at me”. Finally, I had to tell you we needed to stop talking about work because you became too aggressive. I tried to switch subjects and tell you about a home renovation project that I had completed. Instead of engaging in a respectful manner, you sexualized the situation and asked me “Were you wearing a tool belt?”

What else were you wearing?” Our dinner did not last much longer after that, and I was relieved that the evening finally ended.

It was after I denied your advances that the Voting Rights Act was filed, referred to your committee, and began to suffer. You deliberately prevented the bill from receiving a timely hearing, knowing that such delays were an effective death sentence for any piece of important legislation during a short session. When the bill was heard, you allowed the same individuals to speak in opposition multiple times. Even your own colleagues called out your bad behavior in this last instance. We stayed in committee for nearly eight hours because you, and only you, wanted us to. Your conduct throughout this session was an unjust abuse of your powers as a legislator and the Voting Rights Act stalled and eventually died because of you.

During this time, your abusive tactics continued. You sought me out in the hall, held your phone to my face, screamed at me and blamed me for a tweet that someone else sent because you were not mature enough to deal with that person yourself. My name rolled off your mouth as you bad-mouthed me in backdoor meetings where individuals could not understand why you were so angry with me.

You are unfit to be a legislator. The people of New Mexico trust you to treat your legislative duties as sacred, and yet you continue to abuse your power - not only with legislation and your position as chair of the rules committee, but also in the way that you use your elected office to force yourself upon women like me... and all the other women I have spoken to who have had similar, or worse, interactions with you.

I know about the intervention that other women tried to have with you. I know about your severe harassment of others. I know about other women confronting you about your sexual abuses of power and harassment of them. They said the same thing I did... *that we would stay quiet and not report it if you never did it to another woman again*. But you did. And you continue to do so, as reflected in our most recent interactions.

That is why I decided to speak about this publicly. You have a pattern of sexually abusive behavior and abuse of your power as a legislator, and I want every woman who has to work with you to know about your actions and hold you accountable.

Through this open letter, I am calling for your resignation from the Senate. However, I do not believe you are self-reflective enough to take responsibility for your actions and step down. Therefore, I will also be filing a formal Anti-Harassment complaint and asking your colleagues to expel you.

I am sickened by your behavior. For years, so many women have remained silent and carried unjust burdens because we were made to believe that silence and acceptance were a prerequisite to advocating on behalf of the causes we hold dear. Despite your participation in the creation of a culture of fear and silence in our legislature, I am not afraid of you. It is time for you to be held accountable for your abuses of power and the office you hold.

Please do not contact me. If you want to discuss any of this, you may contact my advocate, an attorney named Levi Monagle. You can reach him by phone at (505) 255-6300, or by email at levi@hallmonagle.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marianna', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Marianna Anaya

cc. Santa Fe New Mexican
Santa Fe Reporter
NM Political Report
Albuquerque Journal
Las Cruces Sun News
Gallup Independent
The Source
Associated Press
Bloomberg Media
KOB
KOAT
KRQE
KUNM