

State Representative
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Member:
Health, Insurance &
Environment Committee
Public Health Care &
Human Services Committee

COLORADO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Capitol
Denver
80203

November 13, 2017

Crisanta Duran
Speaker of the House
Denver Capitol
200 East Colfax
Denver CO 80203

Dear Speaker Duran:

The Colorado House of Representatives deserves better. The women who work in the state Capitol building deserve better. Speaker Duran, as a member of the House of Representatives, I deserve better. The scandalous charges of sexual harassment brought to light this past week demand action and must be addressed immediately by someone other than House leadership.

Accusations of members sexually and physically harassing other members, lobbyists and interns are very serious. The fact that none of us were made aware of these charges is even more horrifying. And beyond that, the fact that you placed a *known* harasser with multiple accusations against him in a position of power over us, lobbyists and interns shows an incredible lapse of judgement. You put us all at great risk.

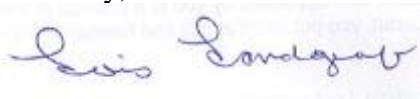
To address a specific case that has come to light, I was horrified to learn that you have known for more than 16 months that Representative Steve Lebsack had verbally harassed a fellow state representative with sexual suggestions and moreover, physically restrained her from leaving his company, so much so that another member of your caucus had to intervene to end the harassment. As Majority Leader and then Speaker, you knew of Representative Lubbock's behavior for 16 months and did nothing! In fact, rather than sideline or call for his resignation, you, as Speaker, promoted Representative Lebsack to a leadership position; Chairman of the Local Government committee!

I cannot imagine why a man that you knew had sexually harassed a member of your caucus, who physically restrained her when she tried to leave, and who didn't stop until another male member of your caucus intervened, was appointed by you to a position of authority in the House. In doing so Speaker Duran, you put us all at risk and blemished the House of Representatives.

So now- after 16 months of doing *nothing*, if not putting more women at risk, you are calling for a review of harassment policies at the Capitol. With due respect, I guess better late than never but I find this to be a troubling lack of leadership. Instead, I believe the leadership of the House is incapable of policing members, or reviewing its policy and rules on this matter because you and other members of House leadership are complicit in sidelining and minimizing very serious charges of sexual harassment.

In light of the recent allegations of sexual harassment, and considering an apparent 16 month lapse of judgement on the part of these allegations, I demand that the Attorney General's office, a department outside the influence of the House of Representatives, appoint a special counsel to review these charges, to review current policies and procedures in the House and to make recommendations to the *entire* House of Representatives on what we must do to ensure that this type of dangerous situation cannot be covered-up in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Landgraf". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular stamp.

Lois Landgraf
State Representative
House District 21

C: The Honorable John Hickenlooper
The Honorable Donna Lynne
The Honorable Cynthia Coffman, Attorney General
Representative Patrick Neville, House Minority Leader
Senator Kevin Grantham, Senate President
Senator Lucia Guzman, Senate Minority Leader
Ms. Sharon Eubanks, Director of Legislative Legal Services