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Legislative
Ethics Commission

Government, at its best, is where ordinary people make an extraordinary difference. That belief is what brought me to Springfield as a young staffer, and it's what I planned to build my career on. What changed my mind was not the grueling hours or the modest wages. It was watching leaders I admired put their own desires before the work for the people who elected them.

Let me be clear: sexual harassment is not a lapse in judgment. It is not something to be swept under the rug. It is an abuse of power, an abuse of the trust that voters place in that office. The workers who keep our state government running, many of them young people who showed up eager to serve, deserve to work without fear. And every young person watching learns from what our leaders do, not what they say. Those lessons ripple far beyond one office and one news cycle.

Workers' rights, women's rights, and basic human dignity in the workplace are not Democratic issues or Republican issues. They are American issues. They are Illinois issues. This moment is not an opportunity to pit one party against the other; we have enough of that. My hope is that this experience, my experience, leads to something more important: honest reflection on the culture change, the policy change, and the personal change Springfield needs to attract and keep its brightest talent, and to make it a place where the work that matters is the focus.

Serving as an elected official is a privilege, not a right. With that privilege comes scrutiny, and it should. If you cannot put the people you serve ahead of yourself, this profession is not for you. But to those who can, and I believe most can, this is your moment. Hold your colleagues accountable. Protect the people who work for you. Let down the ladder. And leave this state better than you found it, for the generations coming behind us.

Complainant