

July 29, 2026

RESPONSE TO REPORT

There are inaccuracies in the Legislative Inspector General's report that must be addressed. It is likely that these errors stem from the fact that LIG McCuskey did not record our one-on-one interview or take contemporaneous notes.

The inaccuracies in the LIG report on my experience are as follows:

1. I did not report the incident to the Speaker's office. The incident was reported by someone else without my knowledge.
2. Harry Benton never said to me, "You want to get out of here and have some fun?," as the LIG report states. I never claimed that Benton made this statement to me. What Benton did say to me was the following: "I look like a five, but I fuck like a ten," "I am not hitting on you, unless you are interested," and "Let's just say you are too hot to be a lobbyist." I shared this directly with the LIG throughout the interview and in multiple subsequent phone conversations.
3. I did not "immediately" turn to the other male state representative, as the LIG report states. Rather, I called him the next day to share what had happened the night before. I did so in the hopes that the state representative would address the problem directly with Benton to attempt to prevent him from addressing women in this manner in the future.
4. The other state representative did not respond: "What do you want me to do about it?" as depicted in the LIG report. I never claimed that and do not know why this is stated in this report. Rather, the state representative listened to my story, shared my concern and indicated to me that what Benton said to me was not an isolated incident.
5. In his supplemental response letter to Speaker Welch dated July 24, 2026, LIG McCuskey said that another victim and I both stated that we "had no objections or redactions and thanked [McCuskey] for preserving" our confidentiality. In fact, I raised the inaccuracy noted in item (3) above to LIG McCuskey in that conversation, and he responded to me that it "doesn't matter." It is also important to note that he did not read me the report, but only gave me a high-level summary in advance.
6. Despite the LIG's statement that he was unable to substantiate any claims that Benton had shown people photos of women on his phone, I did inform the LIG that Benton showed me photos on his phone of women that he claimed to be sleeping with. I do not know why the LIG disregarded this information, and thereby concluded that the allegation is unfounded.

While the errors in the report are concerning, the underlying facts remain the same. Harry Benton did make inappropriate sexual comments to me despite my protestations, and his resignation was appropriate.

I request that the Legislative Ethics Commission correct these inaccuracies and ensure that the record accurately reflects the information I provided during the investigation.

Respectfully,

Lobbyist as referenced in Item 2 on page 6