



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

April 22, 2025

Senator Brian Collamore  
Chair, Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Vermont State House  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Senator Collamore,

In his April 4, 2025, testimony to this Committee in opposition to H.1, former Representative Tristan Roberts made a number of false and misleading statements that I feel compelled to correct. First, please note that his statements relate to a complaint made against him while he was a Representative, that I referred to the House Ethics Panel following an investigation, and the complaint was in regard to him acting inappropriately. Because of the nature of the complaint, I will be omitting the details of the complaint from this memorandum. Now that Mr. Roberts has chosen to make false and misleading statements to this Committee about members of the House, the House Ethics Panel, and legislative staff, I feel the need to correct the record, because Mr. Roberts is attempting to deflect responsibility for his own actions and disparage the very people who were trying to hold him accountable.

Mr. Roberts claims that he had no notice of the rule or rules that he was accused of violating. This is false. He was informed of the specific House Rules at issue.

Mr. Roberts also claimed in his testimony that he was not afforded due process in proceedings before the House Ethics Panel. This is also false. He was represented by an experienced attorney from the Office of Legislative Counsel, provided with all information relevant to his defense, and presented with the options afforded to Respondents under that Panel's procedures.

Mr. Roberts stated in his testimony to this Committee that he requested a private meeting with Legislative Human Resources to discuss his case, but that this opportunity was denied. This is misleading. While Mr. Roberts was not given the opportunity for a private meeting in accordance with investigatory best practices, he was offered the opportunity to set out whatever questions or concerns that he had in writing.

Mr. Roberts claimed in his testimony that his medical condition was “disparaged” and not afforded adequate consideration. This is false. Mr. Roberts never raised any medical condition in any discussion relevant to this situation.

Mr. Roberts also claimed in his testimony that the Ethics Panel is appointed by me and suggested that I can direct its actions. This is false. The members of the Ethics Panel are appointed by the House Rules Committee, they are bound by confidentiality, and I have no involvement in how the Ethics Panel handles any complaint it receives.

Mr. Roberts also testified that the Ethics Panel did not allow him full participation in the complaint that was made against him. This is false. Instead of a hearing, which was an option for him, on April 3, 2024, Mr. Roberts chose to enter into a stipulation to resolve that complaint. He agreed to all of the terms in the stipulation, which included apologizing for his actions and taking responsibility for his conduct. I was made aware of the stipulation pursuant to the terms of the stipulation after it was agreed upon and signed. And as the Complainant in the matter, I am not bound by the confidentiality provisions as the members and staff of the Ethics Panel are.

Mr. Roberts testified that the Ethics Panel and legislative staff were biased against him because of his gender. This is false. The rules and procedures governing the Ethics Panel ensure that all Respondents receive the same information, representation, and process; and I have full confidence in its members and legislative staff.

In the documents submitted with his testimony, Mr. Roberts states that Respondents in ethics inquiries have the right to a confidential process. Mr. Roberts’ case was and is protected by the Ethics Panel’s comprehensive confidentiality provisions, which I, the Ethics Panel members, and Ethics Panel staff take very seriously.

Since Mr. Roberts’ Ethics Panel case concluded, he has taken multiple opportunities to attempt to avoid accountability for his actions and deflect blame. Now he has done so in testimony to your committee. Repeatedly he has unfairly disparaged House members, the House Ethics Panel, legislative staff, and me.

It is my hope that this Committee will take these corrections into consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Krowinski".

Jill Krowinski  
Speaker of the House  
Vermont House of Representative

Cc: Senate Committee on Government Operations