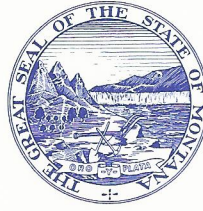


Montana State Senate



SENATOR DEE L. BROWN
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The Big Sky Country

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LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

October 24, 2016

Montana Legislators
Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Re: Investigation into Whistleblowers & Retaliation

Dear Legislators,

Several serious allegations have surfaced in recent months accusing this administration of retaliation and payouts in confidential settlements. Are you as concerned as we are that employees get a fair hearing and that taxpayer money is spent wisely? We are writing to ask you to join us in calling for a special legislative committee to investigate state employee allegations recently reported in the news including confidential settlements of about a million dollars since 2013.

As legislators we believe we should at least address the following allegations:

***Former internal agency auditors discouraged from investigating fraudulent payments - *Helena Independent Record* on 9/11/16**

***Seven long-tenured DPHHS employees fired after raising red flags about agency activity - *Helena Independent Record* on 9/11/16**

***DPHHS agency auditors bullied by state officials after speaking up about potentially fraudulent payments made to undocumented welfare recipients - *Helena Independent Record* on 9/11/16**

***Employees stripped of responsibilities, isolated from colleagues and eventually forced into retirement after refusing to perform fraudulent behavior - *Helena Independent Record* on 9/11/16**

***Officials accusing employees of insubordination as a means of getting rid of those who speak out - *Helena Independent Record* on 9/11/16**

***Auditors discouraged or prevented from fully investigating transactions, sometimes through bullying - *Helena Independent Record* on 9/11/16**

***Investigate the nature of confidential settlement payments made to former state employees since January of 2013, as well as allegations that some of the settlements were the result of wrongful termination complaints brought against the state - *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* on 10/13/16**

Our constituents depend on us to 'guard the henhouse'. State employees depend on us to ensure their fair treatment with competent leadership. Will you join us in asking legislative leadership to jointly appoint an investigative committee of legislators during next month's caucus to look at these serious issues?

We cannot sit idly by and hear or read of retaliation, bullying or wrongly used tax money without asking some questions. Thanks for your thoughtfulness in this matter. See you in November.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Dee Brown and Bob Keenan in blue ink. The signature of Dee Brown is written above the signature of Bob Keenan.

**Senator Dee Brown
Senator Bob Keenan**