

Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

April 7, 2014

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos
Room 211 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Speaker Vos,

We are writing today to ask that you keep open the option of forming an ethics committee to examine potential sanctions against Representative Kramer. We believe he should resign and think it is a mistake to close the door to an ethics committee.

The ethics committee can be conducted in a deliberative, delicate and careful manner by attorneys that serve on and advise it in a way that will not jeopardize the criminal investigation. We have members willing to participate that are very well acquainted with the rules of evidence and would make certain they are not violated. Additionally, our Legislative Council attorneys could provide oversight and ensure the correct process is followed.


The committee could hear valuable evidence, provide useful information, and its formation may even encourage Representative Kramer to resign. It would have a series of options to consider given the evidence they hear including reprimanding, censuring, or expelling him.

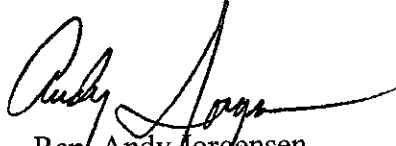
The actions you are willing to take do not go far enough given the two pending felony charges, the sexual assault allegations against an Assembly staff member and a lobbyist, and Representative Kramer's extremely inappropriate response to the criminal investigation. Suggesting his district can start a recall is impractical because by the time signatures could be collected, candidates will already almost certainly be filed for the November election. Removing him from his leadership post does not go far enough, especially since concerns over his behavior were raised before the vote, yet went ignored.

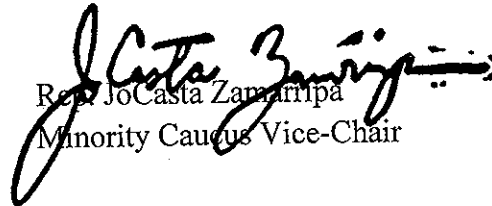
We have a responsibility to the public to maintain the ethics of the Legislature and therefore we should keep all doors open in reviewing these allegations. We have heard from members that they are considering calling for the formation of an ethics committee and at a minimum we ask that you keep this possibility open and consider meeting with us to discuss this option.

Sincerely,


Rep. Peter Barca
Minority Leader


Rep. Sandy Pasch
Assistant Minority Leader


Rep. Andy Morgensen
Minority Caucus Chair


Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa
Minority Caucus Vice-Chair

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