

# Legislative Ethics Board

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COMPLAINT 2023 – No. 15

*In re Walsh*

November 28, 2023

## BOARD COUNSEL'S ORDER OF DISMISSAL

### I. NATURE OF COMPLAINT

The complaint alleges that Respondent spoke at a rally held in opposition to the Washington State Supreme Court's ruling upholding transgender rights. The complaint further alleges that Respondent was scheduled to speak at another event at an undisclosed location at which the III% were allegedly going to be present. The complaint does not cite a section of the Ethics Act alleged to have been violated by Respondent.

### II. JURISDICTION

The Board has both personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

### III. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The complaint was received by Board Counsel on August 14, 2023.

### IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

There is reasonable cause to believe the following are the pertinent facts of the case.

1. Respondent is a member of the House of Representatives representing the 19<sup>th</sup> legislative district. He was first elected in 2016.
2. On June 17, 2023, Respondent spoke at a rally in Lynnwood, Washington protesting the Supreme Court's ruling against the Spa regarding transgender rights.
3. Respondent stated the following at the rally: "What we are here for is what is good. We want to support Olympus Spa, and what we want to support is something that our state constitution recognizes in Article 1, Section 11 of the Washington State Constitution. The problem with this court decision against Olympus Spa is that the court is trying to force someone else's

beliefs on the spa and the family that runs this business. That is unconstitutional, immoral, and illegal. Although this decision currently favors one group, it must ultimately be overturned.”

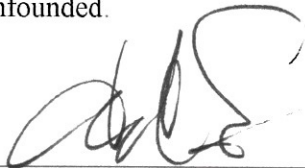
4. The other rally alleged in the complaint at which the Respondent was to have spoken did not occur.
5. On August 14, 2023, Board counsel sent Complainant a letter stating the Board had received the complaint and indicating that counsel needed to speak to her.
6. On September 20th and October 17th, 2023, Counsel emailed Complainant requesting an interview.
7. On November 7, 2023, Counsel sent a letter to Complainant requesting that she contact Counsel by November 21, 2023.
8. Complainant did not respond to any of the attempts to reach her.

V. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to RCW 42.52.425 and Board Rule D.(1), Board counsel has the authority to administratively dismiss this complaint.
2. In this Complaint, the ability of Board counsel to investigate the allegations is dependent upon interviewing the Complainant. Board counsel has not been able to interview Complainant despite repeated attempts to do so.
3. Under Board Rule D.(1)(b) Board counsel dismisses this complaint as being unfounded because Complainant did not respond to repeated attempts to interview her.

VI. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this complaint is dismissed, without prejudice, as being unfounded.



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Jennifer A. Strus  
Board Counsel

11/28/23

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Date