

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, Missouri public officials, including the Governor, should be held to the highest ethical standards; and

Whereas, the Missouri Ethics Commission investigated a complaint against the Governor and his candidate committee, hereafter "committee," called "Greitens for Missouri"; and

Whereas, based upon such investigation, the Commission determined that reasonable grounds existed to believe that the Governor and his committee committed violations of ethics laws; and

Whereas, the Commission alleged that in early 2015 the committee received the benefit of a list of prospective donors for which the committee did not pay and which was not expressly contemplated in any contract executed by the committee; and

Whereas, the donor list came from The Mission Continues, a charity that the Governor co-founded; and

Whereas, the committee did not disclose the list as a contribution received on any disclosure report filed during the period in which the committee accepted the list; and

Whereas, it was only after a consent order was issued by the Commission that the committee finally filed an amended disclosure report that showed the list as an in-kind contribution with a value of \$600.00; and

Whereas, the committee has still not disclosed the name of the individual who provided the list to the committee; and

Whereas, this failure on the part of the Governor and his committee was a violation of Missouri law, specifically Section 130.041.1(3), RSMo, regarding a failure to report a contribution; and

Whereas, Section 130.058, RSMo, provides that the candidate is ultimately responsible for all reporting requirements for the candidate's committee; and

Whereas, as a result of this violation of law, the Commission issued a consent order in which a fee was imposed against the committee; and

Whereas, it is an untenable situation where the Governor of this state is the subject of consent order for unethical behavior; and

Whereas, the definition of a lobbyist under Section 105.470, RSMo, is an individual attempting to influence the state executive, state legislative, state judicial, or elected local government officials' actions; and

Whereas, the Governor's organization, A New Missouri, led by the Governor's senior adviser clearly and repeatedly meets this statutory definition but refuses to file as a lobbyist or lobbying organization; and

Whereas, because it's a nonprofit, A New Missouri can accept unlimited contributions and is not required to disclose contributors; and

Whereas, the Governor's senior adviser has made public statements admitting to coordinating the activities of Greitens for Missouri, A New Missouri, and the official Office of the Governor in its performance of official acts, an arrangement that, at best, circumvents current ethics law, and most likely constitutes illegal coordination between the Governor's office and A New Missouri; and

Whereas, because the Governor's use of a charity that he co-founded as a source of soliciting campaign contributions without being transparent about such activities raises questions that deserve investigation by a co-equal branch of state government; and

Whereas, the coordination between the governor's office and A New Missouri should also be investigated by a co-equal branch of state government; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Extraordinary Session, hereby establish an investigative committee to be comprised of three Senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two Senators appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and

Be It Further Resolved that the committee shall hold such hearings, and subpoena such witnesses and documents under the hand of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as necessary to investigate any misconduct, crimes, corruption in office, or any offense involving moral turpitude or oppression in office committed by Governor Greitens in connection with his illegal use of a donor list from The Mission Continues, the failure of the Governor's lobbying organization to register as such, and the clear coordination of the Governor's official office, political campaign and lobbying organization; and

Be It Further Resolved that the committee shall begin work upon adoption of this resolution and may continue its investigation until December 31, 2018; and

Be It Further Resolved that the committee shall, at the conclusion of its investigation, issue a report

on its findings to the full Senate and the Missouri House of Representatives and forward such findings to the appropriate state or federal law enforcement agency if needed.

Unofficial  
Resolution

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