

**GEORGIA**  **SENATE**  
**P R E S S** **O F F I C E**

February 7, 2018

Giovanna Drpic  
CBS 46  
425 14th Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
Via electronic mail: giovanna.drpic@cbs46.com

Dear Ms. Drpic:

Last week, I requested a meeting with you in Senate Press Office (“SPO”). For the second time in as many sessions, you reportedly ambushed a Senate Member for an interview despite ignoring specific instructions from SPO regarding the interview. Unconvinced of the report, my request for a meeting was not only a courtesy but an example of me giving you the benefit of the doubt; we simply wanted to hear your side of the story. You responded by barging in with your cameraman and insisted on rolling film. When reminded that we’d requested a meeting and not discussed an interview, you were combative.

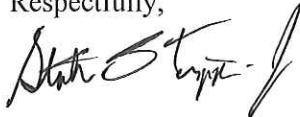
The “freedom of the press,” like the right to redress and the freedom to peaceably assemble and other First Amendment rights, is a right which the Senate and the General Assembly hold dear. We would never dare chill speech; as a lawyer, I know that a free press matters too much in a well-ordered republic. The “freedom of the press” is not, however, all-encompassing. It does not, for example, extend to the media credentials that are given here by agreement. The First Amendment, you see, guarantees *rights*. Media credentials are *privileges* and may be revoked when the revocation is not based on the content of your reporting. Per the Senate Press Office rules, to which you agreed:

Senate Leadership may prescribe other limitations as appropriate under special circumstances. These limitations may be given through Senate Leadership, Senate Press Office Staff or the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms.

Violations of these rules and/or failure to comply with the instructions of the Senate Leadership, Senate Press Office Staff, or Sergeant-at-Arms could result in reporters, photographers, and/or camerapersons being removed from the floor of the Senate...

This is a written notice that if you or your cameraman ignore these instructions and continue to operate in the same manner, your credentials will be revoked. Such revocation would not preclude you from reporting from the Capitol or the CLOB. But it would preclude you from access to the chamber floor. Credentials, again, are a privilege.

Respectfully,



Steve Tippins,  
Chief of Staff, Senate Committee on Administrative Affairs

Cc by electronic mail: Steve Doerr, News Director  
Rudy Murrieta, Assistant News Director  
Senate Press Corps