

**DEAN BURKE**

District 11  
301-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
18 Capitol Square, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Phone: (404) 656-0040

District Mailing Address:  
1906 Legette Drive  
Bainbridge, Georgia 39819

E-mail: Dean.Burke@senate.ga.gov



**The State Senate**  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**COMMITTEES:**

Ethics, Chairman  
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs  
Appropriations  
Health and Human Services, Vice-Chairman

Appropriations:  
Community Health Subcommittee, Chairman  
Human Development, DBHDD, and Public Health  
Subcommittee, Vice-Chairman

April 13, 2018

Honorable David Shafer  
Senator, District 48  
121-G State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Senator Shafer:

The Senate Ethics Committee received an ethics complaint concerning you on March 6, 2018, a copy of which was provided to you. In accordance with the rules of the Senate, a subcommittee was appointed to make a preliminary investigation of the complaint. The subcommittee met on March 8, 2018. After a review of the allegations of the complaint, although the subcommittee had reservations as to whether the committee had jurisdiction over the complaint in terms of standing, staleness, and subject matter, the subcommittee decided, due to the significance of the complaint, to obtain the services of an outside independent counsel to investigate the allegations of the complaint. The independent counsel proceeded to undertake a thorough and detailed examination of the allegations, involving the interview of a significant number of witnesses and the review and analysis of many pages of documentary evidence.

The subcommittee met again on April 12, 2018, to receive the report of the independent counsel and reviewed the findings of the independent counsel in detail. Based upon this review, the subcommittee recommended to the full committee that the complaint be dismissed.

The full Senate Ethics Committee met on April 12, 2018, following the meeting of the subcommittee and also engaged in a careful and thorough review of the report of the independent counsel. Although the full committee shared the concerns of the subcommittee regarding the jurisdiction of the committee, because of the serious nature of the allegations, the committee decided to consider the complaint on its merits.

Based upon the findings of fact reported by the independent counsel, the committee found that there is a lack of credible evidence to support the allegations in the complaint. Further, the evidence contradicted the essential elements of the complaint. The investigation failed to find credible evidence of sexual harassment or a violation of the Senate Rules. Thus, pursuant to the Senate Rules, the committee found that there was not reasonable cause to believe that a violation has occurred.

Therefore, the committee voted to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee and dismiss the complaint, subject to the complaint being reopened upon discovery of additional evidence or relevant material. In accordance with Senate Rule 1-4.10, this matter and all records and information regarding the complaint will therefore remain confidential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Burke".

Dean Burke  
Chairman  
Senate Ethics Committee