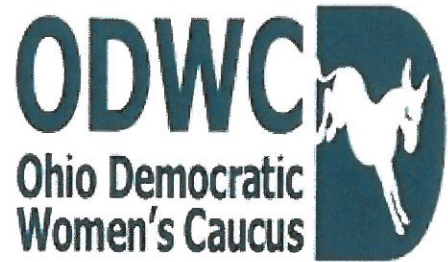


Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus
340 E. Fulton St
Columbus, OH 43215



September 4, 2014

Hon. R. Michael DeWine
Ohio Attorney General
30 E. Broad St – 17th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Attorney General DeWine:

Enclosed you will find a petition signed by concerned citizens that calls for an independent investigation of the handling of a 2013 sexual harassment claim in your office. Ohio media has reported extensively on this case, and a troubling set of facts have emerged regarding alleged harassment of an intern by a senior official. The alleged harasser was never identified.

These types of incidents and the failure to properly investigate them continue to hold back women in the work place. As the state's top legal official, it is your responsibility to set the standard for how investigations like this one should be run. Women in your office deserve to know that they can safely report sexual harassment, even against senior staff, and have a thorough, professional investigation carried out. This includes protecting the confidentiality of witnesses when necessary.

Your deep level of personal involvement in a case where the harasser is alleged to be a close personal friend has cast a shadow over the integrity of your office's internal investigation of this sexual harassment claim. Multiple experts cited in media reports have condemned the manner in which your office handled this case, specifically singling out your demand to know the identity of a confidential informant as an inappropriate step.

The people of Ohio deserve an independent investigation of this case, including into whether anyone working at the Attorney General's Office inappropriately interfered in this investigation.

We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy DiCristofaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathy DiCristofaro
Chair, Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus

Ohio Democratic Party, Chris Redfern, Chairman
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