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Hon. Amy Nielsen
State Representative
House District 77
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

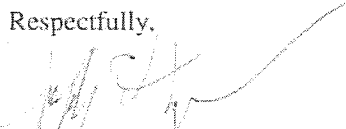
Representative Nielsen,

Jack Ewing's October 26, 2018 email to the Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) was promptly forwarded by DAS to my office to provide a response. Let me begin by apologizing for the late response. I lost track of the email until Director Phipps followed up and reminded me of the importance of your request.

The information you have requested relates to complaints and investigations of alleged sexual harassment involving employees of the executive branch. As you know, the State, when acting as an employer, is generally obligated to maintain the confidentiality of personnel matters and investigations. There are of course, exceptions, none of which apply to the information you seek. Indeed, even where the State acts in its enforcement capacity – as the Civil Rights Commission does under Chapter 216 – the statutory framework requires confidentiality of the complaint process. Thus, the information you seek is protected from disclosure by Iowa law.

As members of the General Assembly, however, you do have the ability obtain access to otherwise confidential information from State agencies if requested in accordance with Chapter 2A.3 by the Legislative Services Agency. This provides an alternative avenue to obtain information relevant to your work as a legislator while protecting the confidential nature of the that information. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about that process.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey S. Thompson
Solicitor General