February 2, 2016

The Honorable Todd Richardson, Speaker

MO House of Representatives

Room 308, State Capitol

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Speaker Richardson:

Michael Butler from 1426 Salisbury St. in St. Louis Missouri 63101 and Courtney Allen Curtis from 60B Arbor Village Ct. Ferguson, Missouri 63135 had an event of misconduct that needs to be reviewed by the Ethics Committee.

Representative Butler and I have always had different views on a plethora of issues. That being said, I invited him to live with me last session, I have allowed him to participate in the Special Committee of Urban Issues in St. Louis County, and I have also requested that the Black Caucus chairman ask him to the committee on the University of Missouri problems in order to deal with the day-to-day issues that arise. Our intellectual differences have had no impact in my working or personal relationship with Rep. Butler.

However, today, I would like to file a complaint regarding an incident that took place this past Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at the AFL-CIO Legislative Reception. Upon my arrival to the legislative reception, I encountered Rep. Butler inside of Bones. When he saw me he proceeded to say, “You a bold mother fucker for coming in here” because of my stance on the “Right to Work” issue. I felt verbally abused by this and we began to scream at each other, this is when Representative Ellington first intervened and the altercation ended. After Rep. Ellington separated us, we proceeded to sit at the table in Bones with other colleagues, where there was alcohol being served; I was not drinking, however, as I had a headache at the time.

I left the legislative reception roughly half an hour after our verbal altercation was separated because I had to return to the Capitol to finish some work. As I was leaving Bones, I exit through the alley. At which point, Rep. Butler followed me out of the restaurant and said, “Talk that shit now.” The real misconduct from part of Rep. Butler however came after this second instance of verbal abuse when he went as far as to take a swing at me. This of course, made feel very threatened and I protected myself. I felt threatened because Rep. Butler had finally gone as far as to assault me because of our intellectual differences. We came to blows and were separated by Rep. Ellington once again. After being separated by Rep. Ellington, Rep. Butler said to me, “Tell that to the police.”

This is not the first time that Rep. Butler makes me feel threatened over my ideals. Last session he tried to fight me in the House garage. Given this last altercation, however, I feel like it is necessary to file an ethics complaint against Rep. Butler today. I have filed a police report with the Jefferson City Police Department and have filed and Rep. Butler has been served with an emergency order of protection with the Cole County Circuit Clerk.

Respectfully,



Courtney Allen Curtis

State Representative, MO-73