

Members of the Ethics Committee  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 W Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Ethics Complaint regarding Representative Kevin Payne

Dear Members of the Committee:

By this letter, I submit a formal ethics complaint against Representative Kevin Payne. I have personal knowledge and there is both audio and video recording of the following information. During the House Government and Elections Committee hearing on February 10, 2021, Representative Payne continuously disrupted public testimony and in a comment to himself, said “So it doesn’t know who it is?” in reference to the child of one of the community members who testified virtually. Referencing any person as “it”, particularly a child, is discriminatory and cannot be tolerated. By his actions, Representative Payne has engaged in conduct that compromises the character of himself, the integrity of the Arizona State House of Representatives, and shows a lack of respect for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Ethics Committee has the power to investigate complaints against members, A.R.S. § 38-519, as well as claims of disorderly conduct, Arizona Constitution Article 4, Part 2 § 11. Unethical, unprofessional, and even immoral conduct is no less disorderly when that behavior affects the integrity of the Arizona State House of Representatives and its duty to the people of Arizona.

I declare under penalty of perjury the factual matters and things stated in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my own personal knowledge, information, and belief. Based on the foregoing, I request the Ethics Committee investigate and make recommendations, including whether Representative Kevin Payne should be subject to censure and other disciplinary actions.

Sincerely,

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Riley Behrens