

A Complaint to the Members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

Senator Lora Reinbold maintains an official social media account on Facebook from which she has deleted all of my comments and is permanently blocking me from any subsequent comments. This is an unconstitutional restriction of my rights to free speech and to petition the government.

Everyone is familiar with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, which guarantees free speech. Article 1, Section 5, of the Alaska Constitution also guarantees that “Every person may freely speak, write, and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right.” Like the U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 6, of the Alaska Constitution guarantees that “The right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government shall never be abridged.” Article 1, Section 1, guarantees, among other things, the inherent right that “all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law.”

Sen. Reinbold has abridged or violated my Constitutional rights on all counts. As such, I ask the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics to direct Sen. Reinbold to unblock me and anyone else she has blocked illegally and to stop deleting comments that she disagrees with. In addition, Sen. Reinbold should be fined or censured for not upholding her oath of office to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as Senator to the best of my ability.”

I am no expert on the State of Alaska’s Legislative Ethics Act; however, a failure to uphold an oath of office would appear to violate Sec. 24.60.010, in particular (1) high moral and ethical standards are essential to assure the trust, respect, and confidence of the people of this state, (6) no code of conduct, however comprehensive, can anticipate all situations in which violations may occur, and (9) a fair and open government requires that constituents have unencumbered access to legislators about issues important to the state by protecting the right of a person to petition the government.

Background information

A public official may block users from accessing his or her *personal* social media account in accordance with the First Amendment; however, a public official may not block a member of the public from accessing or commenting on an official government website, including a personal social media site that serves the same purpose as an official one.

Is Sen. Reinbold’s Facebook account personal or an official government account? I don’t know if her account is supported or sanctioned by our state government or merely a “personal” account set up by Sen. Reinbold for her business as a public official. Legal precedent has found that it doesn’t matter, that an elected official violates the First Amendment when they discriminate against users solely because of their viewpoint on a social media account used primarily for conducting government business.

In this complaint I have relied on a legal analysis of the unconstitutional use of social media by elected officials prepared by the First Amendment Watch at New York University (<https://firstamendmentwatch.org/deep-dive/can-elected-officials-block-critics-on-their-social-media-pages/>). That analysis refers to the Second Circuit court’s decision in *Trump v. Knight First Amendment Institute* that the President cannot block critics on his so-called personal Twitter account, as well as similar court decisions involving elected officials in several states. Because the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear an appeal, the Second Circuit court’s decision is the law of the land.

According to legal precedent established in various state and federal cases, Sen. Reinbold's Facebook account is "official" because of the following:

- 1) She identifies herself as a Senator and "Government Official" at the top of the page and repeatedly alludes to her role as a government official in her posts and reposts.
- 2) According to Facebook, she established the account on 25 January 2013, 10 days after she first assumed office as an elected state representative.
- 3) She has at least one other Facebook account, established in 2009, in which she doesn't identify herself as a senator and government official at the top of the page (although she does so repeatedly in her posts).
- 4) She appears to share no personal or family information on her "official" Facebook account. All her posts involve public policy and matters of official capacity.
- 5) She uses the account as an extension of her public office, announcing major policy initiatives, sharing information about upcoming hearings and other meetings, advocating for and against proposed legislation, and soliciting public comments about issues related to government.
- 6) Both her posts and the comments of her supporters indicate that Sen. Reinbold's website is a key channel for communication between her and the public.

My complaint

Every one of my comments made over a three-week period in late January and early February 2021 were deleted and I was blocked from Sen. Reinbold's Facebook page from using three separate accounts under my name. I remain blocked to this day. Here are the details.

Round 1: On or about January 16, 2021, I was made aware of Sen. Reinbold's Facebook page, and I posted several comments in response to misleading information in her posts over the next two or three days. A day or two after posting my last comment I noticed that I no longer had the option of commenting on her page. Both the "comment" and "like" buttons were disabled. Clearly, and for the first time, I had been blocked by a Facebook user. I then noticed that all of my previous comments had been deleted.

I had not kept copies of those comments; however, I can recall the posts that I commented on and the tenor of my comments, as follows:

- **New York Post article, "23 die in Norway after receiving Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine: officials" that Sen. Reinbold posted on January 15 at 3:37 PM.** My comment pointed out that the vaccine hadn't been tested on older people, that only 13 of the 23 deaths were attributed to side effects of the vaccination, and that all of the casualties were older than 80 and in nursing homes. Thus, the headline was misleading and older people needed to assess the risk of getting the disease vs. getting vaccinated.
- **A "first hand account of the Patriot Protest" that Sen. Reinbold reposted on January 15 at 3:11 AM.** The "first hand account" found nothing wrong with the occupation of the U.S. Capitol. My comment pointed out that if the person had only attended the initial rally her observations might be correct, but if she had marched to the Capitol or paid any attention to the news since that day, it was clear that her "first hand account" was intentionally misleading.
- **A quote attributed to Dr. Anne Zink from Feb. 2020 that Sen. Reinbold posted on January 7 at 9:49 PM.** The quote was, "A mask is a wet, moist environment that's collecting viruses and bacteria ... it's not useful to protect you from other people." Sen. Reinbold wrote "Things that didn't age well last year." My comment pointed out that

many health officials questioned the efficacy of masks, particularly cloth masks, in the early days of the pandemic but that most of them had changed their minds once the virus and its spread were better known. I included a subsequent quote by Dr. Zink (and a link) in which she absolutely recommended the use of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- **A video showing the July 2019 special session of the Legislature that was interrupted by protestors that Sen. Reinbold posted on January 6 at 7:07 PM.** Her intent was to compare her experience with that of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. My comments argued that, although any such “storming” and occupation of a government facility by force was wrong, surely the Capitol riot – which was orchestrated or exacerbated by the President and intended to disrupt Congress on the day the presidential election was being certified with the ultimate objective of overturning a fair election – was a different matter.

Round 2: Because my comments had all been deleted, I have no concrete evidence that they ever existed, although it was clear that I was being blocked. Therefore, after waiting about a week, I used another Gmail account to set up a second Facebook account and logged back into Sen. Reinbold’s Facebook page. It didn’t take many days to accumulate a series of posts that were as intentionally false and misleading as the ones from which my previous comments had been expunged.

I am attaching screenshots of four posts and their public comments, including mine, on the day I made them (**Exhibits 1a, 2a, 2a(1), 2a(2), 3a, 4a**). I searched for these comments several days later and found that they had all been deleted, either individually, leaving the rest of the post intact, or by deleting the entire post. I am attaching screenshots of the same posts with my comments deleted (**Exhibits 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b**). In addition, my second Facebook account was blocked.

Here is a brief summary of the information documented by the attached screenshots regarding my comments on the four posts I commented on in Round 2 and the subsequent fates of those comments:

- **Exhibit 1a:** On January 24 Sen. Reinbold posted an article from Townhall.com that purported to prove that masks are not effective against the spread of COVID-19. On January 26 I commented on the post, offering a detailed scientific analysis of why the Townhall.com article was inaccurate and misleading. By January 31 my comment had been deleted; however, all other comments remained (**Exhibit 1b**).
- **Exhibit 2a:** On January 25 Sen. Reinbold posted a YouTube video by Dr. Carrie Madej that criticized the existing COVID-19 vaccines. On January 29 I provided a link to a BBC article entitled “Coronavirus: False and misleading claims about vaccines debunked” in which Dr. Madej was indicted as a vaccine denier. My comment was “According to an independent analysis, Dr. Madej is a wing nut.” **Exhibit 2a(1):** A few minutes later I replied to another commentator, Ms. Braendel, who was agreeing with Sen. Reinbold that the vaccines were unsafe. Her comment included the claim that “this vaccine has not gone thru the mandated 7 years of development...” I responded that “I’m not aware of any ‘mandate’ that a vaccine take 7 years to develop. Most of that time is government red tape. Are you in favor of government red tape?” and provided a link to a fact check by Snopes.com that reinforced what I said. **Exhibit 2a(2):** Shortly after that I replied to another commenter, Mr. Brewer, who had attached a link to an article featuring the viewpoint of Dr. Lee Merritt regarding her perceived problems with the COVID-19 vaccines. The interview was entitled “Bio-warfare & weaponization of medicine amid Covid.” I pointed out that Dr. Merritt is a former president of the Association of American

Physicians and Surgeons, a group that has “promoted many other scientifically discredited ideas, including the belief that HIV does not cause AIDS, that human activity has not contributed to climate change, that efforts to stop smoking are misguided, and that masks do not effectively prevent the spread of coronavirus.” By January 31 the initial post and all comments had been deleted (**Exhibit 2b**).

- **Exhibit 3a:** On January 28 Sen. Reinbold posted a link to an article by America's Frontline Doctors with her endorsement that it included “outstanding physician resources about Covid, excellent treatment options and things you can do to help your immune system.” On January 29 I commented that this was another small group of doctors (some of them ophthalmologists) who make diagnoses based on their political beliefs instead of science and medicine. I provided a link to a USA Today article that presented evidence that following the advice of America's Frontline Doctors could be dangerous and I asked “Where DO you find these people, Lora?” By January 31 my comment had been deleted, although others remained (**Exhibit 3b**).
- **Exhibit 4a:** On January 29 Sen. Reinbold posted a link to a Rumble.com article about a nursing home whistleblower who is claiming that seniors in nursing homes are “dying like flies after COVID injections.” Sen. Reinbold noted that this was “the other side of the vaccine story.” A few minutes later on January 29 I was the first to respond. I provided a link to a Media Bias/Fact Check review of Rumble that gave the site a “LOW” rating for factual reporting and concluded that “Overall we rate Rumble Right Biased and Questionable based on the promotion of right-wing propaganda and conspiracy theories as well as false information, use of poor sources, and a lack of transparency.” I didn't look at the senator's Facebook page for two days, but by January 31 the initial post and my comment were both deleted (**Exhibit 4b**).

I believe these examples demonstrate a pattern of ignoring and erasing reasonable comments that Sen. Reinbold disagrees with. Every comment that I posted on her official Facebook page during this period, a total of 10, was deleted on or before January 31.

Round 3: Because I believe I am being censored, because I value my constitutional rights, because I'm persistent, and because I'd rather spend my time and energy righting the wrongs on Sen. Reinbold's Facebook page than documenting my grievances for this Select Committee, I created yet another Gmail account, which let me create a new Facebook account. I want to stress that all three accounts that I have used to comment on Sen. Reinbold's Facebook page are in my name. I haven't used an alias or anyone else's account.

Here is a brief summary of the information documented by the attached screenshots regarding the six posts I commented on in Round 3, some of them multiple times (**Exhibits 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a, 8a(1), 8a(2), 8a(3), 8a(4), 8a(5), 9a, 9a(1), 10a**), and the subsequent fates of those comments (**Exhibits 5b, 6b, 7b, 8b, 8b(1), 9b, 10b**):

- **Exhibit 5a:** On January 28 Sen. Reinbold posted a link to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) website, adding “Watch this site!” On February 5 I asked her audience to keep in mind that the site contained raw and unprocessed data. I mentioned the Alaska Watchman blog that had already bungled an article using the information provided by the website (see next bullet point below). I provided a link to the Anchorage Daily News article. On February 6 my comment was deleted and I was blocked (**Exhibit 5b**). I know that I was blocked on February 6 because it happened in real time while I was commenting on another post (see **Exhibit 10a** below).
- **Exhibit 6a:** On February 3 Sen. Reinbold posted a link to the Alaska Watchman article that claimed at least five Alaskans died and 111 suffered adverse reactions after COVID vaccinations. The post was flagged because, according to Facebook, “independent fact-

checkers say this information could mislead people.” On February 5 I reminded Sen. Reinbold that I had already commented on that same claim on another of her posts. I told her that Alaska Watchman’s claim had been shown to be wrong by an Anchorage Daily News article and I provided a link to that article. I wrote that no one has died in Alaska as a result of getting a COVID-19 vaccination and the most common adverse reactions have been sore arms and anxiety attacks. On February 6 my comment was deleted and I was blocked (**Exhibit 6b**). Despite the fact check by Facebook, the post remains.

- **Exhibit 7a:** On February 3 Sen. Reinbold posted a link to KTOO’s Gavel Alaska that covered the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on extending the disaster declaration. Sen. Reinbold praised a speech made before the committee by a high school student and wrote “students shouldn’t be collateral damage because of a ‘pandemic.’” On February 4 I watched the video that included the testimony of the student and her teacher. I applauded the student for her speech and said I didn’t disagree with a single thing she or the teacher had said. However, I did object to Sen. Reinbold’s use of air quotes around “pandemic” as if it wasn’t a real thing. I reminded her that COVID-19 had killed more than 450,000 Americans in less than a year and 2.3 million people worldwide. I told her COVID-19 had killed more Americans than the combined combat deaths in all of America’s wars of the 20th and 21st centuries. I told her she seemed to want to blame school districts and government officials for trying to deal with a once-in-a-lifetime disaster. A better solution would be to work together, by wearing masks for example. I pointed out that right now the student wanted to bring all students back to school, but that someday she might be a teacher with elderly parents who she doesn’t want to infect with a deadly virus. My comment was deleted in less than 24 hours, on or before February 5 (**Exhibit 7b**); however, I was not blocked at that time, not until February 6.
- **Exhibit 8a:** On February 3 Sen. Reinbold posted another link to KTOO’s Gavel Alaska which covered Senate Bill 56 Extending the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency Declaration, adding her opinion that the declaration has “serious constitutional and legal concerns.” One commentator, Mr. Madden, offered his opinion that hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment for COVID-19 based on his experience. On February 5 I observed that his personal experience was anecdotal, not actual science. Another commentator, Ms. Kay, claimed that COVID-19 vaccines are “shedding and spreading the virus.” On February 5 I asked if she could provide a source for that information. Another commentator, Mr. Herman, unleashed a diatribe in which he called Democrats “Demoncratic traitors,” among other things. On February 5 I suggested that if conservatives want to unite the country, calling the other side “Demon(?)cratic traitors” probably isn’t a good start. Another commentator, Ms. Spencer, claimed President Trump had threatened states that were trying to extend their emergencies “fraudulently” and said he would withhold “ALL federal aid” to those “dishonest” states. On February 5 I reminded her that Trump was no longer our President. Ms. Spencer commented in a later thread that “A Christian is a Truth-speaker.” I apparently drafted a reply, which is shown in the screenshot (**Exhibit 8a**), but I may have failed to post it (at any rate, it was no longer in the thread on February 6). My draft response didn’t seem to be addressing Ms. Spencer’s comment, so something weird happened there (I took another opportunity to respond to Ms. Spencer’s Truth-speaker comment a day later). Another commentator, Ms. Caffroy, claimed that the COVID-19 vaccinations were “untested” and that masks and physical distancing did not work. On February 5 I told her the vaccines had been tested and found to be effective but that the “other medications” she had mentioned in other comments had not proven to be.
- By the following day several of the commentators had responded to my comments as follows. **Exhibit 8a(1):** Ms. Spencer replied that it doesn’t matter who the President is

but that according to Alaska's disaster act "it's un-lawful to abuse Emergencies." On February 6 I quoted the definition of "disaster" from Sec. 26.23.900(2), reminded her that 255 Alaskans had reportedly died from COVID-19, and provided a link that suggested twice as many may have actually died (an estimate based on comparing the "excess" deaths with the previous year). I told her I couldn't recall anyone complaining when the State declared an emergency after the November 2018 earthquake, which killed no one. In fact COVID-19 has killed approximately four times as many Alaskans as the 1964 Good Friday earthquake. **Exhibit 8a(2):** I again noticed Ms. Spencer's comment claiming "A Christian is a Truth-speaker." I observed that in my experience Christians were no more truthful than members of other religions or even atheists. I asked her if Donald Trump is a Christian, because he told at least 30,573 documented falsehoods during his four years in office – at the astounding rate of 1 ½ lies per hour over the course of his last year. I provided a recent link to the Washington Post fact checker. **Exhibit 8a(3):** On February 6 Ms. Caffroy responded to my comment about the "untested" vaccines. She claimed the CDC had been "walking back" their previous statements about hydroxychloroquine and that a "whole panel" of doctors was contradicting the CDC's recommendations. On the same day I pointed out that the term "whole panel" wasn't very useful and that the CDC deferred to the National Institutes of Health, whose current guidelines also recommended against the use of hydroxychloroquine. I provided a link to the current NIH guidelines. Ms. Caffroy responded immediately to tell me the "whole panel" of doctors was "frontline doctors," a reference to America's Frontline Doctors, a group often cited on Sen. Reinbold's Facebook pages. Then she launched into an extended complaint about how "corrupt" and "morally bankrupt" the CDC is. She told me to "do a tiny bit of research." Then she claimed "there are plenty of people out there now that are either sick from or dead from these untested vaccines." I responded immediately, telling Ms. Caffroy that I was familiar with America's Frontline Doctors, that they have a bad reputation for promoting conspiracy theories. I provided a link that investigated some of the most outrageously unscientific claims of members of the group. I asked her to name one person who had died as a result of getting a COVID-19 vaccination. I told her to stop fear-mongering and take a little time to educate herself. **Exhibit 8a(4):** Ms. Caffroy replied that I "understand so little of religion and true spirituality"! She claimed vaccines have been used to "go after religion." She claimed that "many of the doctors in the CDC and outside of the cdc have crazy beliefs" too. On February 6 I responded that I didn't like to mix religion and spirituality with science because that's what led to the Dark Ages. I told her she didn't know a single thing about the "many doctors in the CDC and outside of the CDC," that she just pretended to so she could make loose accusations with no evidence whatsoever. This comment was deleted the same day (**Exhibit 8b[1]**). **Exhibit 8a(5):** On February 6 Mr. Madden responded to my earlier comment on his recommendation on the use of hydroxychloroquine. He told me thousands of people had had his experience, and included a link to an article about a study conducted by the Henry Ford Health System that claimed hydroxychloroquine had cut the death rate of test participants significantly and a second article from the NIH that claimed hydroxychloroquine is a potent inhibitor of SARS coronavirus infection and spread. On February 6 I thanked him for providing links to actual medical research – it was a novel approach on Sen. Reinbold's Facebook page – but noted that these results often change over time. I told him the NIH study was published in 2005, it involved a different coronavirus, and the research entailed introducing hydroxychloroquine to cell cultures in a laboratory 24 hours before and 3-5 hours after the cells had been infected with the SARS virus. The researchers had advised that their results be interpreted with some caution and required further confirmation, including randomized controlled trials on actual people. The Henry Ford study had deliberately excluded patients with heart

abnormalities, for ethical reasons, because those were “routinely pointed to as a reason to avoid the drug as a treatment for COVID-19.” I provided a link to a subsequent article that reported that the Henry Ford experiments had been “quietly shut down” due to lack of participants. I told him both the NIH and CDC recommend not using hydroxychloroquine at this time, and that was good enough for me. Later that evening, on February 6, all of my comments were deleted and I was blocked (**Exhibit 8b**).

- **Exhibit 9a:** On February 4 I reread Sen. Reinbold’s January 7, 2021, post that included a quote attributed to Dr. Anne Zink, from Feb. 2020, regarding the inadvisability of wearing masks to prevent COVID-19. I had originally commented on this post in Round 1, but that comment had been deleted and my previous Facebook account blocked. I noticed that many people had commented on the Dr. Zink quote, so I commented once again. I noted that Must Read Alaska and Sen. Reinbold liked to play “gotcha” with old news. I provided a more recent quote from Dr. Zink, from last April, in which she strongly advised people to wear masks. I provided a link to the article. One commentator, Ms. Rox, had responded to the disinformation provided by Sen. Reinbold by writing “I heard today from a reputable source there are no virus’ [sic] you can ‘catch’ just germs and bacteria” and then went on to disparage politicians, “so-called experts,” the media, and billionaires and provide other misinformation. On February 4 I responded by asking if it was kosher to claim you had a “reputable source” without naming it. I pointed out that her “reputable source” seemed to have overlooked a whole host of viral diseases, some of them highly contagious, like smallpox, measles, rubella, chickenpox/shingles, norovirus, ebola, HIV, hantavirus, and rabies, not to mention influenza, the common cold and SARS-CoV. I related the death tolls of two of the most contagious viruses: HIV and smallpox. **Exhibit 9a(1):** On February 6 Ms. Rox claimed “This whole plandemic [sic] was designed to let them cheat the election so they could get back control over the people.” She called COVID-19 a “bad cold” and claimed doctors and hospitals are covering it up so they can get insurance payoffs for covid deaths and diagnosis [sic].” She finished up with “Do some research outside the usual sphere and ask yourself if you had all the money in the world and knew how to shape the world by fear & mass manipulation, would you do it?” I immediately asked if she had heard that baloney from another “reputable source”. I told her she had no proof of anything she had just claimed and that it was incomprehensible that a virus that began in China and spread throughout the world was somehow orchestrated by the Democrats(?) to win an election. I told her COVID-19 was not a “bad cold.” It has killed millions of people worldwide in less than a year. Later that evening, on February 6, all of my comments were deleted and I was blocked (**Exhibit 9b**).
- **Exhibit 10a:** On February 6 Sen. Reinbold posted a video clip of a February 12, 2020, Senate Health & Social Services Committee meeting and once again claimed Dr. Anne Zink said masks don’t work. On the same day, at approximately 10:40 PM, I began to draft a comment informing her that this was the third or fourth time I had commented on this very issue. As I typed the first sentence the screen flashed a message that I was either being blocked or something else was happening. After the initial warning, I was only able to type one letter at a time, at which point the same warning would pop up. So I composed my comment in a Word document and cut-and-pasted it into the comment box. In my comment, I reiterated that Dr. Zink had changed her mind after more information became available in the early months of the pandemic. Since as early as April 2020 and up to the present day Dr. Zink and many other doctors and health care professionals have continually advised us to wear masks on multiple occasions, including on radio and TV and in newspaper articles. I told Sen. Reinbold that citing year-old news was a form of disinformation, and I asked her to stop doing it. When I posted the draft, the comment was immediately encircled in red with a red exclamation point next to my name. A note under the comment box said “Unable to post comment.”

A button next to that asked if I wanted to try again. I did. But, obviously, Sen. Reinbold had just blocked me for the third time (**Exhibit 10b**).

For the third time in three weeks Sen. Reinbold had deleted all of my comments, at least 20 of them in Round 3, and blocked me from commenting further on her Facebook page.

I am attaching screen shots of the posts where my comments were deleted and screen shots of a search for keywords on posts that were entirely deleted. You can compare the initial screenshots, which show buttons for “comment” and “like” in the menu bar after each post, with the follow-up screenshots of her Facebook page, which allow only “sharing” the post. Clearly, Sen. Reinbold has deleted all of my comments and blocked me repeatedly from commenting on her Facebook page.

My comments on Sen. Reinbold’s Facebook page have been critical of the misinformation and disinformation she frequently posts; however, none of my comments have been personal attacks. Because of this I believe she is deleting my comments and blocking me solely because she does not agree with me.

Mine are not the only comments she has deleted. For example, on or about January 20, 2021, Vince Beltrami posted a comment referring to Sen. Reinbold’s January 15 repost of a “first hand account of the Patriot Protest” in which he claimed that the senator had deleted a previous comment, presumably on the same issue (**Exhibit 11a**). Another commentator, Dale Mulkey, had a comment deleted on two of Sen. Reinbold’s posts. In the first comment Mr. Mulkey was responding to Sen. Reinbold’s accusation that Dr. Anne Zink was no longer credible. Mr. Mulkey wrote “the only one not credible is you and your anti-vaxer party” (**Exhibit 12a**). That comment was posted on or about February 8 and deleted on or about February 10 (**Exhibit 12b**). In response to Sen. Reinbold’s praise of the high school student who testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Mulkey wrote “you need an education. your lack of knowledge of anything is frightening” (**Exhibit 13a**). That comment was posted on or about February 8 and deleted on or about February 10 (**Exhibit 13b**). Granted, Mr. Mulkey’s comments, while heartfelt and probably true, did not elevate the tone of the debate. However, they were not particularly rude or offensive. Sen. Reinbold is a very thin-skinned politician if she cannot shrug those comments off. Her practice of deleting comments disagreeable to her is abridging and violating the constitutional rights of Alaskans. I have conducted only a cursory search for these additional examples; it seems obvious that they represent only the tip of the iceberg.

I will note that some people have disagreed with her and their comments have not been deleted, at least not yet. Sen. Reinbold knows who I am and her one-sided vendetta may be, at least partly, personal. That’s certainly no excuse to abridge or violate my constitutional rights, just as President Trump had no legal excuse to block American citizens from commenting on his tweets.

It is unclear whether Sen. Reinbold subsequently blocked Mr. Beltrami and the others mentioned above from future comments; however, the senator’s Facebook page is largely bereft of adverse comments. I have become aware of The Blue Alaskan Facebook page in recent days. At least one commenter on that site, Cassandra Shaulis, claimed on February 10 that she had been blocked by Sen. Reinbold. My complaint doesn’t include others who have had their comments deleted and accounts blocked, of course. They are free to file their own complaints. I want, however, to note that I am not the sole person whose constitutional rights are being abridged and violated by Sen. Reinbold.

I reported this to the state ombudsman's office on January 26, after I had been blocked for the second time. That office told me that the Legislature's Select Committee on Legislative Ethics was the appropriate forum for complaints regarding state elected officials. So I am asking you to adjudicate this complaint and come up with a solution. In my mind the solution should entail something more than simply forcing Sen. Reinbold to unblock my account. Her cavalier attitude towards her oath to serve the public by protecting and preserving both the U.S. and Alaska State Constitution deserves some form of censure.

Summary

Once a public official begins using a social media account for official purposes they cannot, consistent with the Constitutions of the United States and Alaska, block others from accessing or responding to their posts. By doing so Sen. Reinbold is practicing viewpoint discrimination (aka censorship) in a public forum.

This is not only unconstitutional, it is hypocritical. At the top of Sen. Reinbold's Facebook page are images of the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, with its "We the People" prominently displayed. There is an image of the Alaska flag emblazoned with "Upholding and Defending Our Liberties." She is doing no such thing by blocking alternative views and credible news sources from her official government website. It seems as though Sen. Reinbold only embraces the Constitution when it suits her.

There is a good reason why I and other citizens need to have access to comment on Sen. Reinbold's Facebook page. Her posts and reposts often involve conspiracy theories or disinformation promulgated by the likes of One America News Network, NewsMax, Breitbart, and Must Read Alaska, all sources that have been judged by independent journalists to be long on opinion and short on facts. Among her most frequent sources for reposting in the past month are Alaska Watchman and Rumble, a "right-biased and questionable" source of information that scored "low" on Media Bias/Fact Check (<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/rumble/>). She is allowed, of course, to express her opinion on any issue, biased or otherwise. What she is not allowed to do as a public official is to censor my right to free speech in a public forum.

I'm sorry if I have provided too much detail in this complaint, but I believe it is critical to understand the flow of events and the nature of the comments I posted on Sen. Reinbold's Facebook page. I recognize that her Facebook page includes a caveat to the effect that the "Intent of the page is to educate viewers about issues facing our state" and she urges readers to "Be respectful of those posting/commenting or your comments may not be up for long. No trollers, profanity, cruelty." I encourage you to read my actual comments in the attachments. At no time did I "troll" Sen. Reinbold or other commentators. Trolling is defined as intentionally upsetting people by using inflammatory, digressive, extraneous or off-topic messages with the intent of provoking an emotional response. Obviously, nothing I wrote was profane or cruel. "Respectfulness" may be in the eye of the beholder. In my experience – when one is engaged in a dialogue with purveyors of misinformation, disinformation, and clouds of conspiracy theories – it is very difficult to maintain a placid demeanor. The intent of my comments was to educate people about the issues posted on the site and to call into question any unsupported proclamations. I will leave it to you to decide whether or not I may have crossed the line on occasion. I certainly wasn't the least respectful person posting on that website and all of the comments I read over the period in question that supported Sen. Reinbold or her perspective remain to this day.

For example, in **Exhibit 1b** one of Sen. Reinbold's supporters calls the Anchorage Assembly the "Anchorage Reich." In **Exhibit 8b** one of her supporters called H&SS Commissioner Adam

Crum “ignorant.” Another called Democrats “Demoncratic traitors” and coined the phrase “same ol sh*t.” In **Exhibit 9b** one of her supporters called Dr. Anne Zink a “witch” and another supporter called a commentator a “socialist fool.”

Sen. Reinbold allows her like-minded followers to post disparaging remarks about liberals and moderates, doctors, state health officials, credible news sources, and anyone else who doesn't share their perspective and, by not blocking them, retain their right to speak freely. In doing so, she has created a social-media echo chamber. She and her like-minded constituents need to be informed that they are neither in the majority nor in the right on many of these issues (e.g., COVID vaccinations). The most appropriate forum for counter views (and links to credible sources of news) is the very Facebook page where she and others are disseminating and reinforcing incorrect and misleading information.

Ironically, Sen. Reinbold often posts comments critical of the “cancel culture” and of “big tech” suspending or terminating social media accounts (e.g., January 19 at 7:36 AM, January 19 at 7:02 PM, January 22 at 12:11 AM) at the same time as she is actively engaged, as a public official, in deleting and blocking comments on her official Facebook account.

As an aside, Sen. Reinbold's “personal” Facebook account, which was established in 2009, also seems to be an “official” means of communication with her constituents. Although she doesn't label herself a senator or government official at the top of the page, she repeatedly refers to herself as a government official in her posts. In addition, I scrolled back 2 ½ months and the posts on her “personal” page are almost identical to those she posts on her “official” Facebook page. I have not attempted to comment on any of the posts on her “personal” page; however, if she is blocking or deleting comments on that page I believe that would also constitute an unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment.

I believe you will clearly see by the evidence I have presented that Sen. Reinbold is deleting and blocking comments from me and others on her official Facebook social media account. This is unconstitutional because she, as an elected government official, is infringing on my right to free speech and my right to petition the government. When an elected official uses social media to communicate with the public to advance his or her agenda, that government official cannot pick and choose who gets to comment on that information.

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