



## The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho

PO Box 15893, Boise, ID 83715

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
Speaker of the Idaho House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0038

Subject: Complaint re: Behavior of Representative Heather Scott against Joseph L. Kibbe

Dear Speaker Bedke:

On the evening of Thursday, January 14, 2016, a peaceful, quiet, respectful demonstration was held in the hallway outside the Lincoln Auditorium in the Statehouse, from approximately 5pm until almost 7pm, sponsored by The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho and Healing Our Future.

As President of the Board of Directors for the Interfaith Alliance of Idaho, I feel responsible to be aware of my Board Members when we are in public as a group. That evening, I was disturbed by interaction I saw, but couldn't hear, of Representative Heather Scott with Joseph Kibbe, a Board member. Because of the aggressiveness of her action, physically taking hold of his arm and directing him into the corner, I watched vigilantly, concerned about his safety, and considering whether to intervene or call to one of the State Police or Security personnel who were down the hall. I didn't want to escalate the situation, so I watched to see if Joseph was able to extricate himself, without calling a lot of attention to it. There was enough tension in the area already, and our purpose in being there was to show a compassionate presence in support of our Muslim friends and Refugee neighbors, while very negative pictures were being painted of them inside the Auditorium! We wanted to be a calming presence amidst the slurs and derogatory comments that were hurled at them (and us) by some of the attendees as they came and went.

I applaud Joseph's ability to stay calm during the attack. I've asked him to describe the interaction in his own words:

On January 14, 2016, an anti-Muslim / anti-refugee "educational program" was held at the State Capitol building. As a board member of The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho, we organized and executed a peaceful, silent and respectful counter demonstration.

During this demonstration, I was moving up and down our lines outside of the meeting to ensure the safety of the people who had gathered. During the event, Representative Heather Scott had approached several youth who were participating in the demonstration, and began to engage them and invite them into the meeting. I made a decision to block the escalating exchange. At this point Representative Scott engaged me and moved me into a corner. Her questioning, in my opinion, was very out-of-line as the conversation began as: " I know you, you are one of the queers;" " you are one of the gays who should burn in hell." She then moved in closer to me and began telling me how we rape and harm people and I needed to come into the room and learn the truth how Muslims want to rape us, kill us, murder gay individuals. The behavior and language used was very intimidating and very volatile.

I would like to request when a Representative addresses an individual, that the exchange doesn't begin with the use of the words "queer" or "gay" as this was anything but a civil discourse.

I respect Representative Scott as a leader of our State, and address her as such. I would request the issue to be addressed and discussed with her, about the use of language in this situation and this level of intimidation that is dangerous and incites fear.

Joseph L Kibbe, 2417 W Menlo Dr, Boise Idaho 83702

Not sure of the protocol for such matters, we mentioned this to Representative Melissa Wintrow and Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb from my and Joseph's District 19. We were directed to Director Eric Milstead of the Legislative Services Office. He directed us to you.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. Our intent in sharing this with you is not to make a big, public issue of this, but to call to your attention, behavior which is unbecoming a Representative of the people of the State of Idaho. Had this attack been directed at someone less able to maintain composure, the scene could have become very serious, and even violent. If I had been close enough to hear what she was saying to Joseph, I would have called upon the State Police who were down the hall, so they could intervene, for his safety.

As an organization committed to peaceful, respectful dialogue, supporting civility in democracy, and challenging divisive extremism, we truly hope to be a force for good in our state. Thank you so much for your attention!

Sincerely,

Judy Cross



cc: Eric Milstead, Director, Legislative Services Office  
Cherie Buckner-Webb, Senator, District 19  
Melissa Wintrow, Representative, District 19  
Jack Moline, Executive Director, The Interfaith Alliance, Washington, DC

The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho

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## **House of Representatives State of Idaho**

The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho  
PO Box 15893  
Boise, ID 83715

1-22-16

Dear Ms. Cross,

I was just made aware of the letter delivered to Speaker Bedke by you on behalf of the Interfaith Alliance of Idaho and feel that I would like to respond to it, as it contains information that runs counter to what I stand for, believe in, and the way I conduct myself.

I recall chatting with Mr. Kibbe, however, my contact with him was friendly, informative, and the language he quotes is certainly not part of my vocabulary.

I apologize for any misunderstandings and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and Mr. Kibbe in order to clear up any misconceptions.

Please contact Speaker Bedke's office if you would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Representative Heather Scott

Cc:

Speaker Scott Bedke, Speaker of the House

Eric Milstead, Legislative Services Office Director

Cherie Buckner-Webb, Senator District 19

Melissa Winthrow, Representative, District 19

Jack Moline, Executive Director, The Interfaith Alliance, Washington, DC