

State of Kansas



Tom Sawyer House Democratic Leader

January 22, 2021

House Select Investigating Committee Representative John Barker, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Kansas House Democratic Leadership. My name is Tom Sawyer, State Representative of the 95th House District and Minority Leader for the Kansas House Democratic Caucus. Today, I rise in support of censure procedures including the consideration of expulsion of Representative Aaron Coleman. House Democratic Leadership has consistently outlined the reasons why Representative Coleman is unfit for office. His past and present actions exhibit a pattern of egregious behavior, for which he has shown no remorse or regret. It is absolutely necessary that he be removed from office to ensure the safety and wellbeing of legislators, Capitol staff, and his constituents.

The complaint filed to the Chief Clerk contained attachments outlining some, but not all of Representative Coleman's appalling offenses - including a public threat against the Governor of Kansas, recent physical abuse of a woman, and harassment of another woman that resulted in the need to file a request for a court protective order. They are included with my testimony today for your reference.

I will address each of the attachments in the order as they appear in your handout.

1. Representative Coleman directly and publicly threatened the Governor of Kansas with a "hit" through Twitter on November 4, 2020. The tweet read:
"I'm not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit on you it's real. the Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win."
2. Representative Coleman harassed and threatened an elected official in Wyandotte County, who had obtained a criminal Do Not Contact Order.

3. Representative Coleman told former Republican state lawmaker John Whitmer:
“John, I’m going to laugh and giggle when you get COVID and die [...] At least we can say you died doing what you love. Ask your buddy Herman Cain how it worked out for him.”
4. Representative Coleman admitted to physically abusing his girlfriend. When she broke up with him because of this behavior, he choked and hit her multiple times. Following that incident, she provided news outlets with text messages that again, he admits to sending. Some of the texts messages stated:
 - i. “Air out the clip into your head”
 - ii. “Mag dump yourself. Do that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again, then I’ll know what happened.”
 - iii. “I hope you get abducted raped chopped up and have ya pieces scattered around and Burnt in different locations. You might get lucky and they might kill you first then rape your corpse.”
5. Representative Coleman distributed revenge porn of a young female student and harassed another fellow female student to the point of attempted suicide. He had told her to kill herself. He also blackmailed a different female student for nude photos.
6. Representative Coleman threatened to shoot up Turner High School.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, this may not be an exhaustive list, but these are not isolated events. These all occurred within the last 5 years, the most recent being last November. Representative Coleman time and time again has made excuses, stating that he will learn from his mistakes, that it was just bad judgment, and to forgive and forget his actions. I would argue that he has not learned from his mistakes. He has not shown any personal or professional growth. “I was only 19”, he says. “I was only 19”. Representative Coleman was only 19 as of last year.

It is clear to me, to the House Democratic Leadership team, to the multiple members within our caucus who signed onto the complaint, and to his own constituents in the 37th House District that Representative Coleman has a history of violence and abusive public rhetoric. It has no place in the People’s House and threatens to tarnish the integrity of the sacred trust of elected office. Representative Coleman is unfit to serve in the Kansas Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Respectfully,



Representative Tom Sawyer
House Democratic Leader

Offenses of Aaron Coleman

1. Directly and publicly threatened the Governor of Kansas with a “hit” through Twitter on November 4, 2020. The tweet read:

“I’m not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit on you it’s real. the Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win.”

 - https://www.kctv5.com/politics/state-rep-elect-from-kck-vows-to-call-out-a-hit-on-kansas-governor-says/article_037d3d6e-2026-11eb-95b4-8b128bc61d2e.html
2. Harassed and threatened an elected official in Wyandotte County, who had obtained a criminal Do Not Contact Order.
3. Told former Republican state lawmaker John Whitmer, “John, I’m going to laugh and giggle when you get COVID and die.” “At least we can say you died doing what you love. Ask your buddy Herman Cain how it worked out for him.”
 - <https://kansasreflector.com/2020/07/31/mask-it-or-casket-democratic-house-candidate-hopes-gop-stricken-by-covid-19/>
4. Admits to physically abusing his girlfriend. When she broke up with him because of this behavior, he choked and hit her multiple times. Following that incident, she provided news outlets with text messages that again, he admits to sending.
 - <https://www.vice.com/en/article/pky44m/teen-candidate-who-blackmailed-a-girl-f-or-nudes-admits-he-abused-his-ex-girlfriend>
 - <https://theintercept.com/2020/08/25/aaron-coleman-ex-girlfriend-assault/>
 - “Air out the clip into your head.”
 - “Mag dump yourself. Do that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again, then I’ll know what happened.”
 - “I hope you get abducted raped chopped up and have ya pieces scattered around and Burnt in different locations. You might get lucky and they might kill you first then rape your corpse.”
5. Revenge porn of a young female student; harassed a fellow female student to the point of attempted suicide--telling her to kill herself; blackmailed a female student for nude photos
 - <https://www.themarysue.com/aaron-coleman-kansas-still-harassing-women/>
6. Threatened to shoot up a school
 - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-jewish-candidate-for-kansas-state-house-arrested-for-gun-threat-as-teen/>

State Rep-elect from KCK vows to "call out a hit" on Kansas governor, says 2022 primary will be "extremely bloody"

SHAIN BERGAN

POSTED NOV 6, 2020



KANSAS CITY, KS (KCTV) -- The 20 year old who defeated a seven-term legislator to capture KCK's representation in the Kansas House of Representatives released a tirade of tweets in the days after being elected, calling Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly a Republican and saying he will "call a hit out on you."

Aaron Coleman (D-KS 37) has been critical of Democratic leadership in the state, highlighting his credentials as a socialist in tune with young people's desires in the political process.

On Wednesday, in a since-deleted Tweet, Coleman wrote, "I'm not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit out on you it's real. the Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win."



Rep.-elect Aaron Coleman 📍 @Aaron4KS37 · 13h

I'm not playing around. People will realize one day when I call a hit out on you it's real.

The Democratic gubernatorial primary will be extremely bloody in 2022. This will allow the progressive third-party candidate a chance to win

💬 10



❤️ 6

[Show this thread](#)

Coleman has since said that he was speaking figuratively and that he meant a "political hit," not a threat of violence.

The governor's spokeswoman Lauren Fitzgerald responded to Coleman's tweets by saying in an email to the Associated Press, "Aaron Coleman is unfit to serve in the Legislature."

Coleman in August upset seven-term House Democrat Stan Frownfelter in the Democratic primary for Kansas' District 37 House seat. He immediately came under fire after details emerged that he pleaded guilty in a 2015 criminal case in which Coleman threatened to go to a girl's high school, shoot her, and turn the gun on himself.

According to the Associated Press, Coleman acknowledged in a June post on Facebook that allegations of revenge porn and harassing middle school girls online were true but called them the actions of a "sick and troubled 14-year-old boy."

The state Democratic Party disowned Coleman in August when an ex-girlfriend accused him of being physically abusive to her in late December.

Democratic legislators have vowed to try to oust Coleman when he takes office in January, but acknowledged there may be little they can do before he actually takes office.

Kansas House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer, a Wichita Democrat, said he or other Democrats in the House will file a complaint against Coleman when he's sworn in and work for the two-thirds vote in the House needed to remove Coleman from his seat. The state Democratic Party already had disowned Coleman in August, and state Chairwoman Vicki Hiatt publicly backed such an effort Thursday, with both she and Sawyer calling Coleman unfit to serve, according to the Associated Press.

Some information from the Associated Press was used in this story.

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Kansas Democrats could oust 20-year-old candidate following 'hit' tweet directed at Gov. Kelly

Shain Bergan
Assignment Editor

DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

Brandie N Armstrong
Plaintiff

vs.
Aaron Coleman
Respondent 1316 S. 52nd St
Kansas City, KS 66106

FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

2

PETITION
NOTICE OF HEARING
RESTRAINING ORDER

SUMMONS
(Abuse or Stalking)

2020-DM-002241

To the above named defendant:

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in this court.

You may appear Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 02:00 PM via ZOOM, to give any evidence you may have why orders sought in the attached petition should not be granted. Instructions for zoom hearing on in attached documents.

If you do not attend the hearing, final orders may be made against you. You have the right to appear and opposed the petition with or without an attorney.



Kristi L. Hill
Clerk of the District Court

[Handwritten Signature]

Deputy Clerk

Dated: 12/4/2020

***** RETURN OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS *****

I hereby certify that I have served this summons:

- (1) Personal service By delivering a copy of the summons and a copy of the petition to each of the following defendants on the dates indicated: _____, 20____.
- (2) Residence service. By leaving a copy of the summons and a copy of the petition at the usual place of residence of each of the following defendants on the dates indicated: _____, 20____.
- (3) Residence Service and Mailing. By leaving a copy of such summons and a copy of the petition at the usual place of residence of the defendant and mailing by first-class mail a notice that such copies have been left on _____, 20____ at _____.
- (4) Agent Service. By delivering a copy of such summons and a copy of the petition to the agent, _____, authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process on _____, 20____.
- (5) No service. The following defendants were not found in this county:

Dated: _____

(Signature)

2020 DEC -4 AM 9:48

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

Brandie N. Armstrong
Plaintiff

vs.

Case No. 2020 Dm 2241

Aaron Coleman
Defendant

Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

**PETITION FOR PROTECTION FROM STALKING, SEXUAL ASSAULT,
OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING ORDER**
(K.S.A. 60-31a01 *et seq.*)

1. Plaintiff seeks an order for protection from stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking for:

a. myself;

OR

b. a minor child (under age 18)

Plaintiff is:

- the parent of the child
- an adult who resides with the child
- the child's court appointed legal custodian
- the child's court-appointed legal guardian
- a county or district attorney
- the Kansas attorney general

The minor child's name and year of birth are:

Minor Child's Name: _____

Year of Birth: _____

2. Defendant can be served at: *(please provide all available addresses)*

HOME: street 1316 S 52nd Street city Kansas City

state KS zip code 66106 phone number 913-216-9929 and 913-272-

4486

times when defendant is usually there all day I believe

WORK: street _____ city _____
state _____ zip code _____ phone number _____
times when defendant is usually there _____

OTHER: street _____ city _____
state _____ zip code _____ phone number _____
times when defendant is usually there _____

4. If the defendant is a minor, a Minor Defendant Addendum is attached.
5. List any other related court cases involving Plaintiff, minor child *(if applicable)*, or Defendant.
(give type of case, county filed in, case number and date filed, if known)

Plaintiff:

Minor Child:

Defendant:

Plead guilty to harrasment in Wvandotte County in 2015

6. *Select and complete either section A, B, or C. Attach more pages as needed.*

A. Describe the incidents of stalking. Include specific facts, dates and locations:

Incident #1: See attached document

Incident #2: see attached document

Additional Incident(s), if any:
see attached document for incidents 3-7

OR

- B.** Describe the incident of sexual assault. Include specific facts, dates and locations:

OR

- C.** Describe the incident of human trafficking. Include specific facts, dates, and locations:

Attached Incident Exhibit

Incident #1

My contact with Aaron Coleman (Defendant) began in February 2020. At that time Mr. Coleman began to repeatedly question me about becoming treasurer for the Wyandotte County Young Democrats. He remained persistent despite my refusals. Then in March 2020 he asked me to help him with his campaign for State Representative for the 37th district. I again told him no and in May I accepted a position as campaign manager for his opponent Stan Frownfelter. The Defendant still continued to message me including on mother's day harassing me about the campaign and allegations against Mr. Frownfelter after again telling him repeatedly to stop. On June 20, 2020 in response to allegations regarding the Defendant I released a statement from the campaign regarding these allegations. The next day June 21, the Defendant, Mr. Coleman, then messaged me on my personal Facebook Messenger threatening me with the statement "Don't throw stones at glass houses" because of the post. I told him to not contact me again. He then released Facebook post attempting to blackmail the campaign and release false information against my candidate if the post was not removed. He removed the post a few hours later but I did capture a screen shot of the message to me and the Facebook post with the blackmail threat.

Incident #2

I also serve as the Secretary for the Wyandotte County Democratic Party. I had also told the Defendant multiple times that if he had any questions relating to party business he was to send those questions to the Party's Facebook messenger directly and not to me that way the other board members could respond and I did not have to have direct interaction with him given the prior incidences with him. He contacted me on June 24, 2020 once again trying to find out information regarding party business on my personal messenger account. I did not respond.

Incident #3

The Defendant sent another message to my personal messenger account with an article and the threat of a lawsuit if he was not immediately unbanned from the county page. I had not banned him and did not have the authority to unban him on my own and the Defendant was aware of that.

Incident #4

On June 29, 2020 the Defendant came to my home. He proceeded to knock very loudly and aggressively on the door. I was on a phone call at the time and saw who it was and did not answer, the incident was also captured on my home security cameras. The Defendant left political literature in my door. The Defendant then proceeded to go to my neighbor's house and proceeded to get into a verbal altercation with him where my neighbor then told him to leave the property. My neighbor is also my landlord and his family. The Defendant had the verbal altercation with my landlord's father who also resides at the property and was out in the garage when Mr. Coleman came by.

Incident #5

On September 3, 2020 I was notified by my landlord that he was having to terminate our lease and gave us a 30-day notice. One of the reasons that came up when I was discussing the reasoning behind the termination, was the Defendant knew my landlord and was attempting to file false and bogus complaints against my landlord in retaliation for me living at his rental property. We were able to talk with my landlord and come up with an arrangement but our rent was increased by \$400.

Incident #6

On October 16, 2020 the Defendant came again to my home. I have him on my home security camera again as well as a photo of the literature he left on the inside of my door. I was not home at the time.

Incident #7

On November 5, 2020 the Defendant called my cell phone from a 913-272-4486 number. The Defendant is aware that this is my phone number and not the number to my candidate Mr. Frownfelter, whom he had also called and left a message for that day. My voicemail also has a recorded message that plays and announces my first and last name so the Defendant was aware that it was my number he was calling. He left a message saying he was trying to reach Mr. Frownfelter because he wanted to collaborate on projects.

7. Plaintiff/child needs a protection from stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking order because: The Defendant, Mr. Coleman, has been told by myself and my husband multiple times to never contact me again. Each time the Defendant has not listened and has continued to contact me. This not only disturbs my peace but it disturbs the peace of my husband and 3 children one of whom is special needs due to his autism. The Defendant has a criminal and violent history against women. The fact that he still continues to harrass me even after the election makes me fear for my safety and the safety of my family. I do not believe the Defendant will stop disrupting my life and harrassing me without the courts or police stepping in and telling him not to.

8. Plaintiff requests that the court issue an ex parte Temporary Order of Protection and Final Order of Protection restraining defendant from:

- abusing, molesting or interfering with the privacy or rights of the protected person.
- following, harassing, telephoning, contacting or otherwise communicating with the protected person.
- committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault upon the protected person.
- following, harassing, telephoning, contacting, recruiting, harboring, transporting, or committing or attempting to commit human trafficking upon the protected person.
- entering or coming around the residence or area of the protected person.
- other: _____
- other: _____

9. *(Check box if you are asking for the transfer of wireless telephone numbers. Leave box blank if you are not asking for the transfer of wireless telephone numbers.)*

- Plaintiff asks the court to order the transfer of rights to and billing responsibility for the wireless telephone number of
 - Plaintiff and/or minor child(ren) in the care of Plaintiff.

10. The court should give copies of orders to the appropriate law enforcement agencies; set a date, time and hearing on this matter; and issue summons to Defendant, notifying Defendant of this action and the relief requested.
11. After a hearing, the court should issue a Final Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking prohibiting Defendant from committing any acts of stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking against the protected person; order Defendant to pay court costs and attorney fees if appropriate; and order any other relief necessary for the safety of the protected person including:

VERIFICATION

I verify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Kansas that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on December 03, 2020.

/s/ Brandie N. Armstrong

Plaintiff's Signature

Plaintiff's Name: Brandie N. Armstrong

(DO NOT include the residential address of Plaintiff in this petition. Plaintiff must complete the Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking Confidential Information form and include it with this petition.)

Attorney representing Plaintiff (if any)

Attorney's Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS
 Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking (K.S.A. 60-31a01 *et seq.*)

FILED
 DEC -4 AM 9:44

Temporary Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking

Judge or Division:	Case Number: <u>2020 Dm 2241</u> Court ORI Number:																														
Plaintiff: <u>Brandie N Armstrong</u> vs.	Protected Person Identifiers: Name: <u>Brandie N. Armstrong</u> Year of Birth <u>1987</u> Sex: <u>Female</u> (Date File Stamp)																														
Defendant: <u>Aaron Coleman</u> Address <u>1316 S 52nd Street</u> <u>Kansas City Kansas 66106</u>	Defendant Identifiers: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>SEX</td> <td>RACE</td> <td>YOB</td> <td>HT</td> <td>WT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M</td> <td>W</td> <td>2000</td> <td>5'7</td> <td>175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAIR</td> <td>EYES</td> <td colspan="3">LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN (IF KNOWN)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dirty blonde</td> <td></td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DRIVERS LICENSE #</td> <td>DL STATE</td> <td colspan="3">DL EXP. DATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </table>	SEX	RACE	YOB	HT	WT	M	W	2000	5'7	175	HAIR	EYES	LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN (IF KNOWN)			Dirty blonde					DRIVERS LICENSE #	DL STATE	DL EXP. DATE							
SEX	RACE	YOB	HT	WT																											
M	W	2000	5'7	175																											
HAIR	EYES	LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN (IF KNOWN)																													
Dirty blonde																															
DRIVERS LICENSE #	DL STATE	DL EXP. DATE																													

Protected Person: Brandie N. Armstrong (name)

This order and its terms are directed at and apply to Defendant only.

THIS TEMPORARY ORDER SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL SERVICE OF THE FINAL ORDER OR UNTIL TERMINATED BY ORDER OF THE COURT.

ONLY THE COURT CAN CHANGE THIS ORDER.

The Court Finds: (Only the provision(s) initialed by the judge apply.)

km1 Plaintiff filed a written verified petition on 12/4, 2020 requesting a Temporary Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking.

km1 This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff, Defendant and subject matter.

km1 Plaintiff has established a *prima facie* case of stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking sufficient for the court to issue a temporary order of protection from stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking.

km1 A hearing has been set for 12/16, 2020, at 2 : 00 a.m. p.m. at via zoom see below (Court) and summons has been issued.

Time: Dec 16, 2020 02:00 PM
 Join Zoom Meeting www.zoom.us/join
 Meeting ID: 814 1392 7795
 Passcode: 762690

Order

The Court Orders:

- Plaintiff's address and telephone number shall remain confidential for the protection of the Protected Person.
- Defendant shall not follow, harass, abuse, molest, assault, threaten, stalk, or interfere with the privacy rights of the Protected Person, and the Protected Person's family or household. [NCIC 01 & 02]
- Defendant shall not enter or come on or around the premises, the residence, the property, school, or place of employment of the Protected Person or other family or household member. [NCIC 04]
- Defendant shall not communicate in any manner with the Protected Person, the Protected Person's employer, employees, fellow workers, or others with whom the communication would be likely to cause annoyance or alarm the Protected Person. [NCIC 05]
- Defendant shall not direct or request another to contact the Protected Person, either directly or indirectly. [NCIC 04 & 05]
- Defendant shall not commit or attempt to commit a nonconsensual sexual act against the Protected Person.
- Defendant shall not commit or attempt to commit a sexual act against the Protected Person by force, threat of force, duress, or when the Protected Person is incapable of giving consent.
- Defendant shall not follow, harass, telephone, contact, recruit, harbor, transport, or commit or attempt to commit human trafficking upon the Protected Person.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA):

This Order meets all the requirements of the Violence Against Women Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2265. This Court has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter; Defendant has been afforded notice and a timely opportunity to be heard as provided by the laws of Kansas. This Order is enforceable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, all Indian tribal courts and all United States territories and shall be enforced as if it were an order of that jurisdiction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2265.

Additional terms of this order are set forth below, if any.

Other Provisions:

km1 1. Other orders necessary to promote the safety of the Protected Person:

-
-
-
-
-



Digitally signed by Kathleen Lynch
DN: cn=Kathleen Lynch, o=Division 10
Judge, ou=29th Judicial District Court,
email=klynche@wycokck.org, c=US
Date: 2020.12.04 09:24:27 -06'00'

SO ORDERED:

Kathleen Lynch

Date

Judge of the District Court

DATE 12/4/2020
BY [Signature]

WARNINGS TO DEFENDANT

- This order is effective when signed by the judge. Law enforcement officials shall immediately enforce this order.
- Violation of this order may constitute an offense under chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, including, but not limited to: violation of a protective order as provided in K.S.A. 21-5924, and amendments thereto; a sex offense under article 55 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto; stalking as provided in K.S.A. 21-5427, and amendments thereto; assault as provided in K.S.A. 21-5412(a), and amendments thereto; battery as provided in K.S.A. 21-5413(a), and amendments thereto; and criminal trespass as provided in K.S.A. 21-5808(a)(1)(C), and amendments thereto, and may result in prosecution and conviction under Kansas criminal statutes.
- Violation of this order may also be punishable as contempt of this court.
- If Defendant has a concealed carry license, that license is subject to revocation pursuant to K.S.A. 75-7c07, and amendments thereto. After a defendant's concealed carry license has been revoked, continuing to carry a concealed weapon may constitute a violation of K.S.A. 21-6302, and amendments thereto.
- Violation of this order may subject Defendant to prosecution for such federal crimes, including but not limited to: Interstate travel to commit domestic violence; Interstate stalking; and Interstate violation of a protection order.

Notice of Extension of this Temporary Order

(Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-31a05)

If a hearing on the petition for protection is continued, the court may extend this Temporary Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking for additional periods of time as it deems necessary.

Notice of Default

(Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-255)

If you fail to appear at the hearing, a default order may be entered against you and this Temporary Order of Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking may turn into a Final Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking without further notice to you.

‘Mask it or casket’: Democratic House candidate hopes GOP stricken by COVID-19

By Tim Carpenter - July 31, 2020



Democrat Aaron Coleman, of Kansas City, Kan., was elected to the Kansas House in November. His future colleagues and others have called for him to resign or be removed from office due to allegations of his violence against women. (Submitted to Kansas Reflector)

LAWRENCE — Kansas House Democratic candidate Aaron Coleman on Friday urged Republican candidates not to wear a mask during the pandemic in anticipation they would be stricken by COVID-19 and do poorly in the November general elections.

Coleman, a 19-year-old candidate for a Wyandotte County seat in the Legislature and a 2018 independent candidate for governor, doubled down on his recent social media posts. He made light of the death of former GOP presidential candidate Herman Cain, who contracted coronavirus and declined to wear a mask at an Oklahoma rally for President Donald Trump. He also said he would “giggle” if former state Rep. John Whitmer, a Wichita radio talk show host, was killed by COVID-19.

“Mask it or casket is a factual statement,” Coleman said in an interview. “It’s not politics. It’s a factual statement.”

Coleman said he was amused by the prospect of COVID-19 spreading among Kansas Republican candidates for benefit Democrats in the general election. He said that result would be darkly comedic in the way “we laugh” when someone talking on a cellphone while driving gets into an automobile accident.

He said he was responsible for a post to Facebook that expressed glee at the reality of Cain’s death and prospects of Whitmer’s demise. It offered an image of Jesus lifting his clothing to reveal a portion of his rear end and the text: “Don’t wear a mask so we can be together forever.”

“John, I’m going to laugh and giggle when you get COVID and die,” Coleman said on the post. “At least we can say you died doing what you love. Ask your buddy Herman Cain how it worked out for him.”

Whitmer responded on Facebook by questioning Coleman’s mockery of the lethal nature of COVID-19, which has killed more than 150,000 people in the United States and more than 350 in Kansas.

“I’ll make sure your tolerance and fair-minded nature are shared with your potential constituents,” said Whitmer, who was in the Kansas House from 2015 to 2019.



Kansas House candidate Aaron Coleman, a Democrat running for a seat from Wyandotte County, posted to social media that he hopes Republicans catch COVID-19 so they'll become ill or die and do poorly in the November elections. (Illustration by Sherman Smith/Kansas Reflector)

In an interview, Whitmer said he objected to mask mandates issued by unelected county or state health officials. He also found it offensive that anyone would long for more death from coronavirus. He said Coleman’s conduct as a candidate was “wholly inappropriate” and one consequence of the hyper-partisan political culture.

Coleman said he was irritated Whitmer was spreading to the KNSS radio audience his anti-mask “conspiracy theories” that could endanger the lives of thousands.

State Rep. Nick Hoheisel, a Wichita Republican, took to Facebook to express disdain for Coleman’s rhetoric and to question why the Kansas Democratic Party hadn’t denounced Coleman. He said

Coleman demonstrated a “complete lack of regard for life.”

“It’s disturbing that a Democratic candidate for office in Kansas has such a disregard for life, and even more disturbing that the Kansas Democratic Party has remained silent on this matter,” Hoheisel said in a statement. “COVID-19 is a serious issue, and wishing it upon anyone is horrendous. Hopefully, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle call it out for what it is.”

Rep. Stan Frownfelter, D-Kansas City, is running for re-election against Coleman to the House. In that Wyandotte County race, no Republican filed.

Frownfelter said he was aware of some of Coleman’s social media commentary, but hadn’t been informed about his latest remarks on COVID-19.

“He is embarrassing our party,” Frownfelter said. “This is pretty extreme. He’s self-imploded. I had no idea this comment came out. I have tried to stay out of it. I’m spiritual. I’m a Catholic. I’m running on what I’ve done, my record.”

Coleman said he wasn’t able to engage in door-to-door campaigning because he’s in quarantine due to possibility he was infected by the virus. If the test comes back positive, he said, it would likely be the result of community spread resulting from individuals not wearing a mask in public.

In April, Coleman announced his candidacy for Frownfelter’s seat in District 37 in Kansas City, Kan. Coleman said he was from Turner and served as a precinct committeeman for the Wyandotte County Democratic Party. He also was secretary of Wyandotte County Young Democrats, but was forced to resign.

He said his candidacy was inspired by a belief that he would help bring about a Kansas that “works for every citizen, and not policies drafted by statehouse lobbyists.” He learned from his unsuccessful campaign for governor that some lawmakers stay in office too long.

"I seek to bring a fresh and caring view of every bill and issue that the Legislature confronts," he said.

Coleman said he completed requirements of a GED after his health issues prevented him from earning the traditional high school diploma. He said his challenges in public school resulted from three years of abuse at Turner Elementary, where he was "locked in a closet" in solitary confinement and damaged neurologically.

"I'm lucky to be alive, and I don't want any child to suffer as I did," Coleman said.



Tim Carpenter

Tim Carpenter has reported on Kansas for 35 years. He covered the Capitol for 16 years at the Topeka Capital-Journal and previously worked for the Lawrence Journal-World and United Press International. He has been recognized for investigative reporting on Kansas government and politics. He won the Kansas Press Association's Victor Murdock Award six times. The William Allen White Foundation honored him four times with its Burton Marvin News Enterprise Award.

The Kansas City Press Club twice presented him its Journalist of the Year Award and more recently its Lifetime Achievement Award. He earned an agriculture degree at Kansas State University and grew up on a small dairy and beef cattle farm in Missouri. He is an amateur woodworker and drives Studebaker cars.






VICE News

Teen Candidate Who Blackmailed a Girl for Nudes Admits He Abused His Ex-Girlfriend

Aaron Coleman won a Democratic primary for a Kansas state House seat.

CS By [Carter Sherman](#)

September 8, 2020, 1:09pm   



AARON COLEMAN ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR HIS KANSAS STATE HOUSE CAMPAIGN. (PHOTO: FACEBOOK)

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“While it is true I was abusive to my ex-girlfriend, I do not agree with the characterization being made about our experience in the hot tub the day after Christmas,” Coleman said in a statement released over the weekend. “I did not choke her. I also don’t think she is intentionally lying, as I know large quantities of alcohol could be affecting both of our memories.”

“The two months I dated Taylor were mutually abusive, and this is not a justification for what I did but the reason why I must lead by example.”

In an Intercept report published in late August, Taylor Passow said that on December 27, 2019, she and Coleman were sitting in a hot tub when she suggested that she’d temporarily break up with him so that he could have a threesome.

“He sat there for a few seconds, then he jumped on top of me, put his hands around my throat and started squeezing, and slapped me three times, and said, ‘I don’t know where the fuck you think you’re going,’” Passow told the Intercept. Passow said she pushed Coleman off of her.

A childhood friend told the Intercept that Passow had told her about the incident shortly after it occurred. In texts published by the Intercept, Passow and Coleman texted about what had happened a few days later. Coleman told Passow that she had a “funny memory” of the incident.

“You dumped me and I smacked you and you smacked me and I immediately got up and stormed out of the hot tub,” he said.

News

**Teen
Democratic
Candidate
Aaron
Coleman
Accused of
Choking His
Girlfriend**

CARTER SHERMAN

08.26.20

On December 31, Coleman told Passow to kill herself over text, the Intercept reported.

“Air out the clip into your head,” he told her, in texts that the Intercept also published. “Mag dump yourself. Do that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again, then I’ll know what happened.”

In another exchange, reported by Gen, a Medium publication, Passow and Coleman discussed Passow hitchhiking to see him.

“I hope you get abducted raped chopped up and have ya pieces scattered around and Burnt in different locations,” said Coleman, who also suggested that women who hitchhike get brutalized. “You might get lucky and they might kill you first then rape your corpse.”

“We must strive to create a society safe for women, which we do not currently do,” Coleman said in his statement admitting to abusing Passow.

While Passow’s allegations are recent, Coleman also stands accused of abuse of women that dates back to his middle-school days. Kati Hampton told the New York Times that she was just 13 when Coleman blackmailed her. After obtaining a nude photo of her, he demanded that she send more and threatened to distribute the photo if she didn’t. When she refused, Coleman circulated the photo.

In addition to blackmailing Hampton, Coleman has also previously admitted to verbally bullying girls in middle school. One woman said that this abuse led her to attempt suicide.

In a June Facebook post, Coleman characterized what he'd done as "the actions of a sick and troubled 14-yo boy."

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, text TALK to 741741, or visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org> for more information.

Cover: Facebook/Aaron Coleman For Kansas. Aaron Coleman, pictured, is running for a seat in the Kansas state House.

TAGGED: DEMOCRAT, KANSAS, BLACKMAIL, DOMESTIC ABUSE, ELECTION 2020, AARON COLEMAN

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AARON COLEMAN'S EX-GIRLFRIEND SAYS HE SLAPPED AND CHOKED HER IN THE PAST YEAR

Revelations that a Kansas insurgent posted revenge porn in middle school touched off a national debate about accountability and redemption.

Ryan Grim

August 25 2020, 9:10 p.m.



A photo of Aaron Coleman from his Facebook page, "Aaron Coleman for Congress."

When Taylor Passow first met Aaron Coleman last November, she was impressed by his drive and his passion for a better world. "I had never been with somebody who seemed so focused on a career, and how he wanted to change the country. He seemed so much more mature than anybody I'd ever been with," Passow, who is 21 years old, told The Intercept.

Early in their relationship, he told her about his troubled childhood, confessing to her that he had blackmailed a girl in middle school over nude photos. Passow, a host at a restaurant in Topeka, Kansas, said she believed that he had grown and changed, that the behavior was behind him — that he deserved a second chance.

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Coleman's story touched off a national debate after his recent upset victory in a Democratic primary in a Kansas state House district and a story by the [New York Times](#), which reported that the 19-year-old winner, when he was 12, had blackmailed a classmate. After obtaining a nude photo of her, he demanded more and said that he would widely share the one he had if she didn't comply with his demand. She refused, and he circulated the photo. Coleman admitted to the offense, adding that he had been cruel to other girls over the next two years. He told [The Intercept's Glenn Greenwald](#) that he hoped by acknowledging what he had done, and condemning it, he might be able to positively influence other angry boys. The girls that he had hurt, he said, would have to live with that the rest of their lives, and he'd have to live with the knowledge of what he'd done.

Passow's relationship with Coleman ran into trouble quickly, even as she remained impressed by the drive of the young political candidate, and the two spoke of starting a life together. According to Passow, one particular incident irreparably broke their relationship. In a hot tub at an Airbnb in Kansas City, she said, the two were discussing Coleman's interest in a threesome on December 27, 2019. Passow said it wasn't her thing, but maybe as a birthday present she'd break up with him for just one day and he could have one. Coleman didn't like the joke, she recalled. "He sat there for a few seconds, then he jumped on top of me, put his hands around my throat and started squeezing, and slapped me three times, and said, 'I don't know where the fuck you think you're going,'" Passow recalled and said she pushed him off her.

Next, Passow said, Coleman demanded that she apologize for threatening to break up with him, stormed out of the hot tub, and went to the car. She didn't want to lose him, she said, and texted him an apology. He said he was only warming up the car. "I'm sorry baby I failed your shit test," he texted back. The texts, reviewed by [The Intercept](#), were sent to a number associated with Coleman's campaign finance registration.

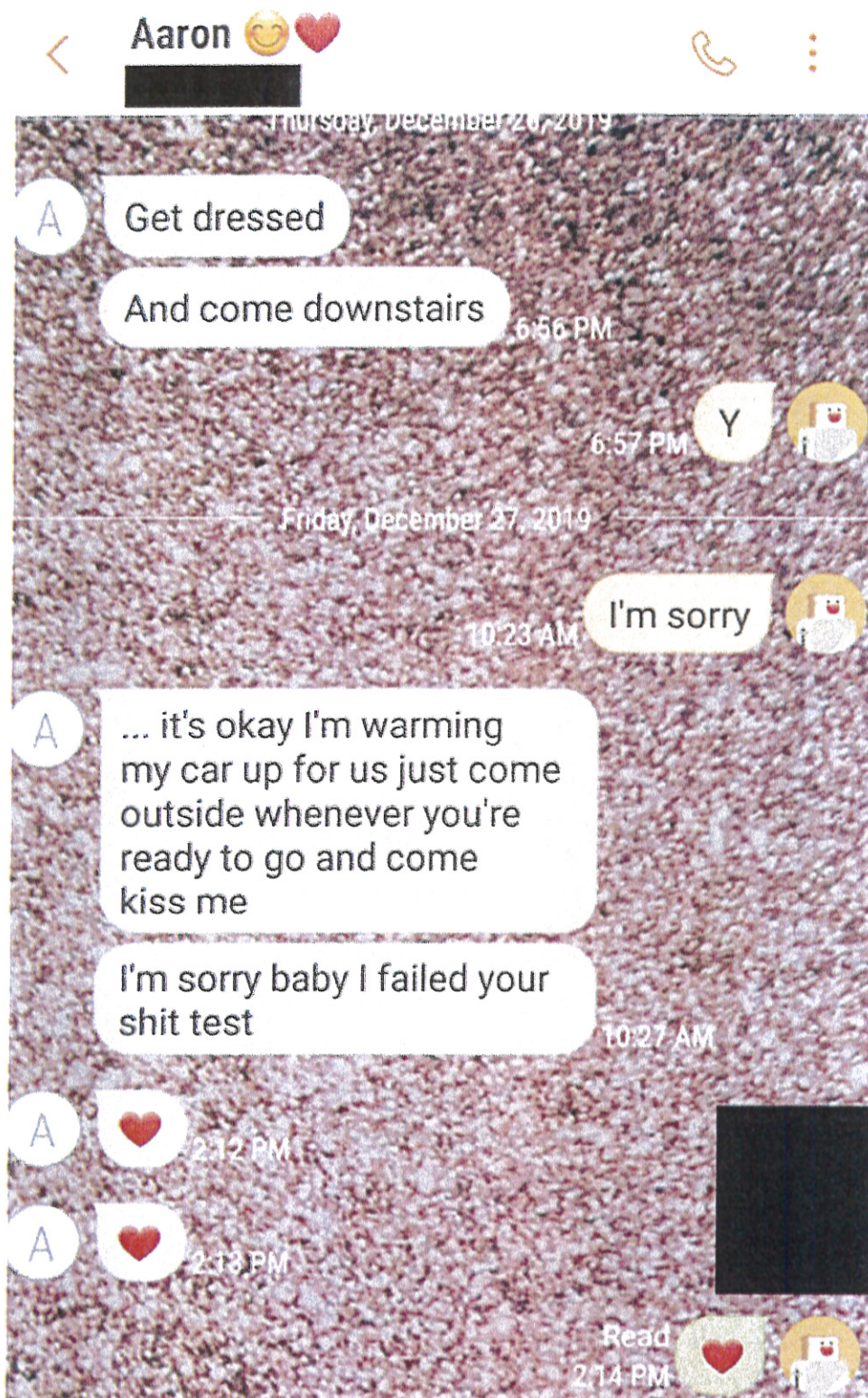


Photo: Obtained by The Intercept

Four days later, in text messages with Passow, Coleman disputed her recollection. “You have a funny memory,” he said. “You dumped me and I smacked you and you smacked me and I immediately got up and stormed out of the hot tub.”

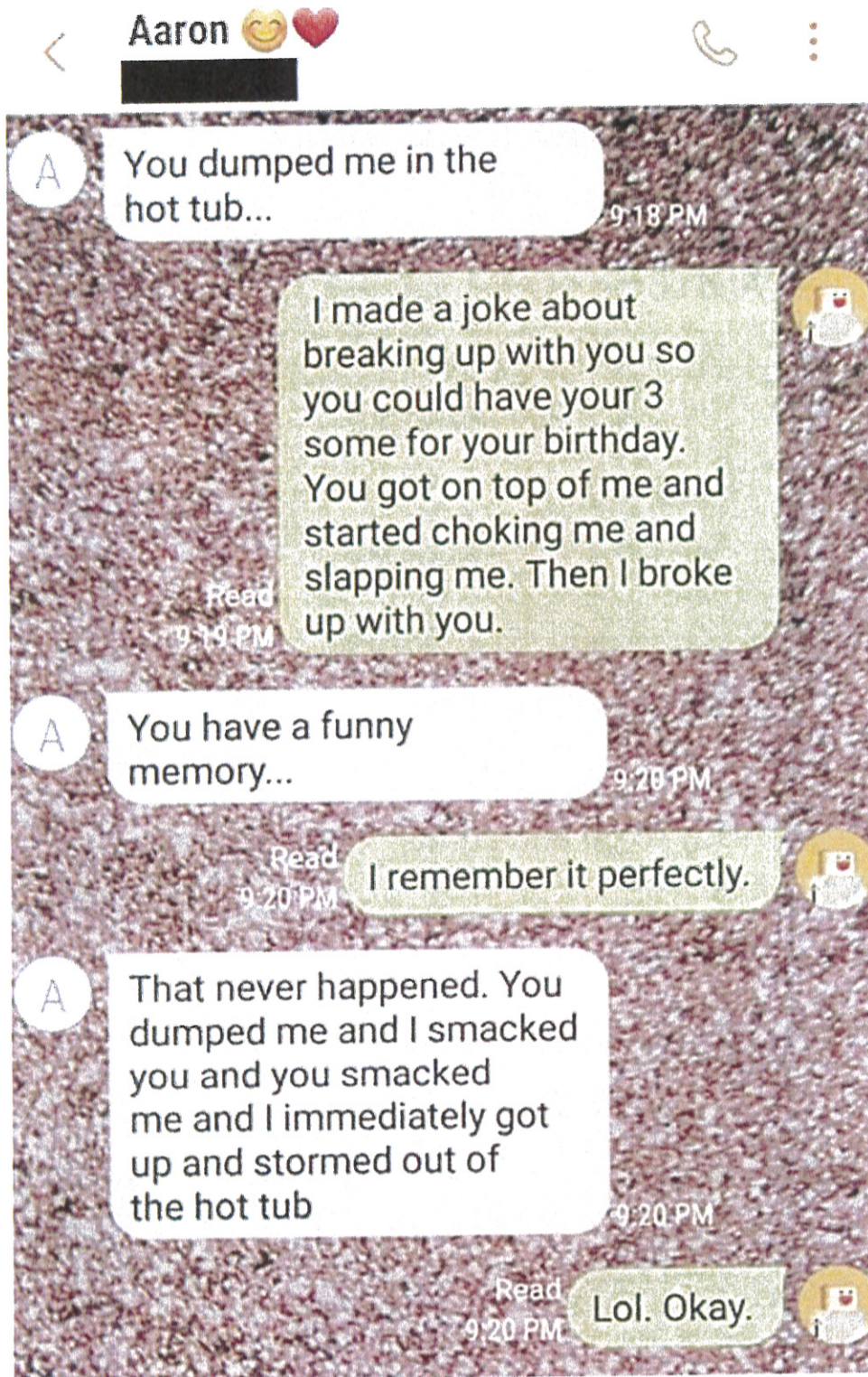


Photo: Obtained by The Intercept

Passow said she told her childhood friend about the incident a few days later. The friend agreed to speak as long as she could remain anonymous and relayed many of the same stories to The Intercept without being prompted, including that Passow told her on New Year's Eve about being slapped and choked by Coleman in Kansas City.

That night, the two were fighting again, and Coleman told Passow over text that she should kill herself. "Air out the clip into your head," he told her on December 31. "Mag dump yourself. Do

that midnight tonight. If I never hear from you again then I'll know what happened.”

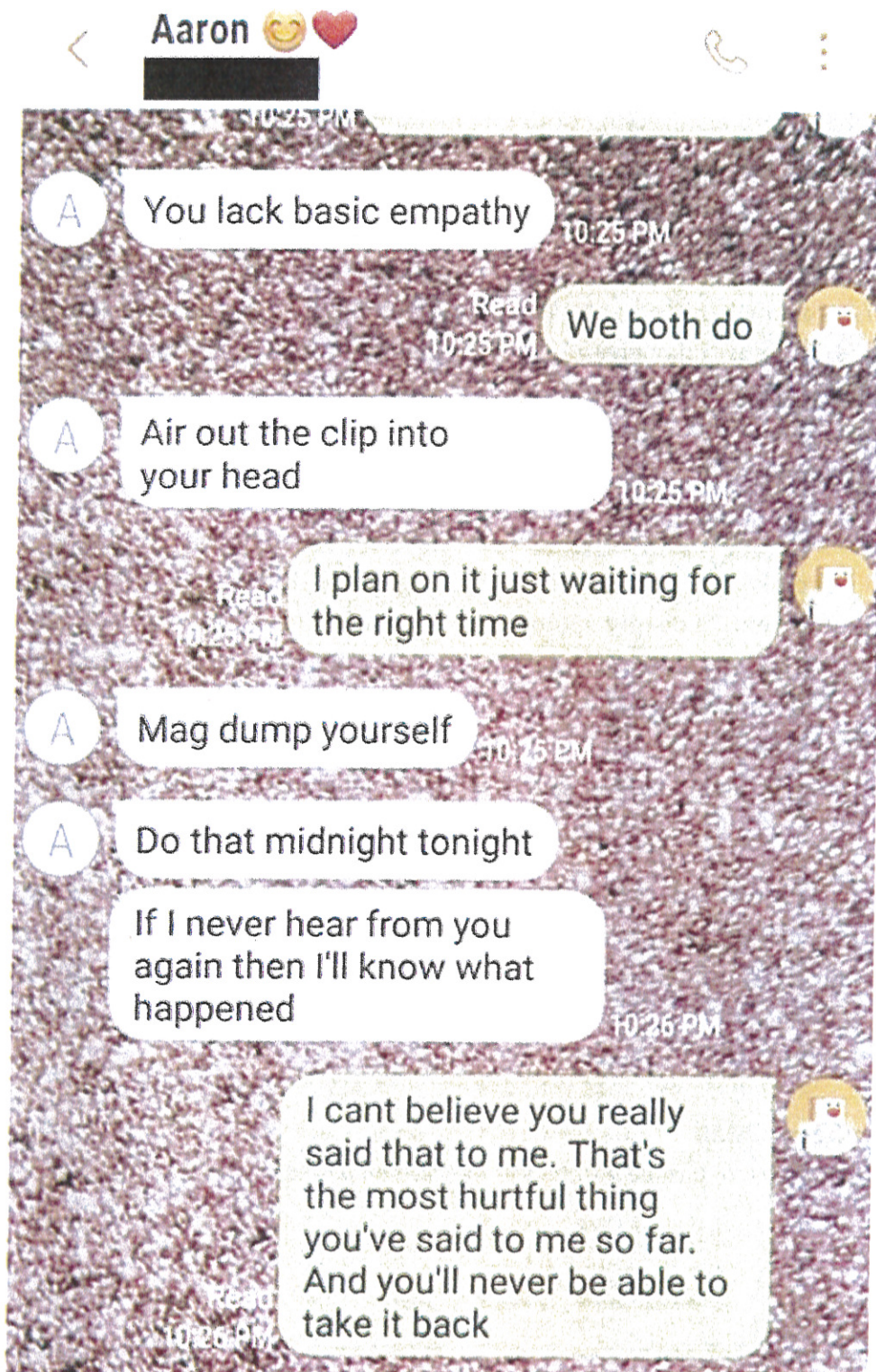


Photo: Obtained by The Intercept

In January, Passow told The Intercept, she sent Coleman a long letter breaking up with him, unable to move past the assault. “I just didn’t feel the same about him anymore,” she said.

Multiple attempts to reach Coleman through a variety of channels were unsuccessful. After initially announcing that he was withdrawing from the race, Coleman on Tuesday morning reversed course, saying that he would remain on the ballot for the general election, campaign door to door, and leave the question to voters. In a [statement on Twitter](#) posted after publication, Coleman admitted being “abusive” to his ex-girlfriend but denied choking her. “I know large quantities of alcohol could be affecting both our memories,” he wrote.

When the New York Times story ran last week, some believed that if Coleman had changed and grown, he deserved his equal place in society. Others argued that his crime, regardless of his age, was so heinous that he ought to be barred from public life, at least until he made meaningful amends. Still others argued that what he did in middle school should be factored in to an understanding of who he is today given his relative youth – still just 19 years old – but that what mattered was how he has comported himself as an adult. Ultimately, a strong contingent of progressive commentators determined that anything less than a swift condemnation of Coleman was rooted in [misogyny](#).

Passow said that on Sunday night, Coleman had called her to say he was staying in the race, asking what he could do to make amends. She refused to engage, telling him she would speak publicly, and he followed up by text. “I deeply apologize for any mistakes I might have made. I know I wasn’t a perfect boyfriend,” he wrote. “But I’m not dropping out of the race. I’ve been honest with the public about everything that I’ve done, if you want to accuse me of something, you’re welcome to do that, and I’ll be honest then as well. No one is perfect. I’m not gonna try to stop you if you want to tell your story to the papers or whoever, but I’m gonna make sure that story is told truthfully.”

When Coleman had first told her about his troubled and impoverished childhood and the harm he’d caused, Passow hoped it was behind him. “At the time, I did think he wasn’t that person anymore,” she said. “He’s not changed; this isn’t in his past. I just want people to know he’s not the person he says he is, and if you still want to vote for somebody who’s like that, I guess that’s your prerogative.”

Update: September 8, 2020

The article has been updated to include a statement by Coleman posted on Twitter on September 6.



What We Should Remember From the Reconstruction Era as Joe Biden Talks About Unity



The Undeniable Power of a Presidential Couple Who Love Each Other



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Here Are the Policies Joe Biden Will Change TODAY

Aaron Coleman, the Abusive Teenager Elected to Kansas House, Reportedly Still Harassing Women

By Vivian Kane | Dec 4th, 2020, 6:04 pm | 140 comments

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Aaron Coleman was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in November, despite having admitted to circulating nude photos of a 12-year-old girl when he was 14 after she refused to send him nudes directly. He has also admitted to pressuring another girl to attempt suicide at the same age. In many cases, most of us would be hesitant to bring up something a



When challenged about his past, he blamed feminism for making drop out of the election (which he quickly un-dropped out of). He also subsequently admitted to having physically assaulted his ex-girlfriend as recently as last year. He also threatened to “call a hit out” on Kansas Governor Laura Kelly just last month, saying her reelection race in 2022 will be “extremely bloody.”

Despite showing voters exactly who he is, Coleman ended up winning his primary race against the incumbent candidate, Stan Frownfelter, by a mere fourteen votes. He then ran unopposed in the general election. Which is a great reminder that every single vote really does count.

Now that he’s about to take office, Coleman has been accused of continuing to harass women, specifically Frownfelter’s campaign manager Brandie Armstrong. Armstrong told the *Kansas City Star* that Coleman has been harassing her by phone and that she planned to file a no-contact order (similar to a restraining order but for criminal court cases rather than civil) against him this week.

“I’m filing the no-contact order to protect myself and my family, but also because it’s time someone tells this boy the way he behaves is despicable and has consequences. It may not be much, but it’s something,” she told the *Star*.

Meanwhile, the other women who have come forward with allegations against Coleman say they’re being harassed by his supporters online. (Both on Twitter and in a statement to the newspaper, Coleman denies that he or his supporter are harassing Armstrong but didn’t address the other allegations of harassment. He also misspelled Brandie Armstrong’s name in both.)

Not only is Coleman about to take office but he’s nominated himself for an even greater leadership position as the sergeant-at-arms of the Wyandotte County Democratic Party. That internal election will take place next week and I guess that’s when we’ll see how Coleman’s new colleagues plan to deal with him. So far, they’ve done nothing. They disavowed him before he won his primary but there have been crickets since then.



“They’re not stopping him. They’re not standing up,” she said.
“They have not stood up since June 17 when this all came out. We need more people to stand up for these girls and say, ‘Hey, you know what? We’re not going to allow Aaron Coleman to have power; we don’t want Aaron Coleman to represent our county.’”

Throughout all of this, Coleman continues to insist that he’s a great choice to represent women, specifically calling out Frownfelter as being anti-abortion. And while Frownfelter’s centrist politics weren’t always great for women, he did have the endorsement of Planned Parenthood in his race against Coleman. If the only way that you can tell people how great you are for women is to talk over women’s organizations and individual women claiming otherwise, it’s a pretty good indication that you’re not the ally you think you are.

(via [Kansas City Star](#), image: Aaron Coleman, YouTube)

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VIVIAN KANE - POLITICS EDITOR

Vivian Kane (she/her) has a lot of opinions about a lot of things. Born in San Francisco and radicalized in Los Angeles, she now lives in Kansas City, Missouri with her husband Brock Wilbur and too many cats.



Report: Jewish candidate for Kansas state House arrested for gun threat as teen

Kansas City paper reports that Aaron Coleman was charged with felony for making a criminal threat, and later pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of harassment

By MARCY OSTER
5 October 2020, 8:39 pm



Aaron Coleman. (Facebook/Aaron Coleman for Kansas via JTA)

JTA — Aaron Coleman, the 20-year-old Jewish student and Democratic nominee for a state House seat in Kansas, was arrested in 2015 for threatening to shoot a female student at a local high school.

Coleman was 14 at the time, the Kansas City Star reported on Saturday. He was charged with a felony for making a criminal threat and later pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of harassment.

Coleman was being homeschooled at the time, but sent a text message saying he would shoot the girl, who had reportedly posted a revealing photo of Coleman on social media. Coleman told the Star that he wanted to hurt himself and did not have access to a firearm when he made the threat.

The latest news follows a report over the summer that Coleman, the great-grandson of a Holocaust survivor, had admitted to calling a girl fat and telling her to kill herself. The girl told the Star that she did in fact attempt suicide.

Coleman also blackmailed a second girl, threatening to disclose a nude photo of her unless she sent her more. When the girl did not comply, Coleman released the photo. A third woman told the newspaper that he had harassed her “for months.”

Following his August primary win for the state representative seat in Kansas House District 37, Coleman said that he would drop out of the race over his past actions, but then changed his mind. There is no Republican challenger in the race. Coleman's primary challenger, Stan Frownfelter, who currently holds the seat, has mounted a write-in campaign.

If Coleman wins the election, he would be the youngest member of the Kansas House of Representatives, and the only Jewish member.

Kansas Democrats have mostly disavowed Coleman.

In a Facebook post on Wednesday, Coleman wrote: "If my opponent should be forgiven for his crimes against humanity which he hasn't apologized for, (voting to: criminalize abortions, gut the EPA, prevent healthcare insurance of abortions, support the KXL pipeline), Should I be forgiven for my sins that I have apologized for?"