

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee:

Thank you for permitting me to appear before you today.

At 20 years old, I am humbled to be in this building representing my constituents. At 20 years old, I am also embarrassed to be standing before you. I have said things that were offensive and hurtful to others and then convinced myself that my own personal issues or my passion for a particular cause somehow absolved me. I was wrong. I apologize not only for what I said but the impact on the persons to whom these words were directed. In some cases, I have been able to offer the apologies directly and received forgiveness. For others, I am only able to offer these words today.

I am sorry.

As this Committee is aware, I recently settled a civil matter with my opponent's campaign manager by issuance of a joint statement. I believe that a portion of the statement – edited in a manner to remove the names – is relevant here:

“In service to our constituents, we have resolved the civil case by an agreed upon dismissal. There is no written agreement. Rather, there is this public promise to treat each other with dignity and respect. Both of us hope that the manner in

which we have sought to resolve this case will serve as a reminder to other persons in public service.”

Chairman Barker and members of this Committee, I know that prior to becoming a member of the House of Representative I have not always lived up to my own ideals of treating others with dignity and respect. And I know that being 20 years old, having my own personal issues and being passionate about various causes do not absolve me of the words I used just like they do not diminish the pain the words caused. With the same force of those words, I hope that the sincerity of my words today will give you confidence that I come to Topeka ready to do what needs to be done for my constituents, and further, that I understand that if my words and my actions do not match my own ideals that I have publicly set forth today that this Committee will call me back to account.

Thank you.