

From: Representative - Provenza, Karlee <Karlee.Provenza@WYOLEG.GOV>
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 6:27:51 AM
To: All Legislators <All.Legislators@WYOLEG.GOV>
Cc: LSO - Matt Obrecht <Matt.Obrecht@wyoleg.gov>
Subject: On being a victim of spies: An open letter to the Wyoming Legislature

Dear Colleagues:

Never in my wildest dreams did I envision having to write an open letter about such [disorienting and deceptive political tactics](#) as I have experienced. But I do so today with a heavy heart, because I cannot and will not stay quiet.

In November 2019 I met Beau Maier and Sophia Larocca over dinner. My husband, Nate, had met Maier through work. To us, Maier was a Cody-born war veteran who was passionate about cannabis reform so that people like him with PTSD could access treatment. Larocca, his fiancé, was a young woman eager to learn and be involved in Wyoming politics. Despite my husband and I feeling a bit apprehensive about the couple, we welcomed them into our lives because our nature is to be inclusive. After all, we have nothing to hide.

Over the next year, Nate and I periodically met with Maier and Larocca. The last time I saw them, we shared a meal in our backyard. They talked about buying land outside of Sheridan, where they planned to get married the

next summer. They asked about my campaign and plans for the Legislature. Larocca asked how she could help.

It turned out to all be a lie.

I now look back on these conversations through a lens of rage. Rage because I now know that they came into my home under false pretenses to target me and my family. Rage because they attempted to bait me and my husband into saying or doing something shameful so they could use it to hurt us. Rage because they used the same tactics against some of our most honorable colleagues here in the Legislature.

This, my friends, is not how we do things here. Maier, Larocca, and the people who hired them have disgraced the integrity of the State of Wyoming, the chambers we serve, and the relationships we have built with one another. They have dishonored the institution that we all swore an oath to serve.

Before I came to the House, I feared that, as a young woman (and, yes, a Democrat), I would not be welcomed or accepted. I feared that I would be alienated and isolated. That has been the furthest thing from my experience. I came home from Cheyenne after the last session feeling like I gained a family that I love and respect. I have so much gratitude for each of you who have shown me that politics isn't an ideological war, and that our House is also our home where we can disagree and yet come together to do our job on behalf of the people of Wyoming.

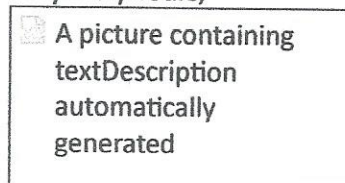
But Maier, Larocca, and those who hired them are working to tear our House apart. They are looking to rip people down. They are working to pit us against each other, to create chaos and distrust.

We have a collective decision to make now about whether we will accept this kind of behavior, these deceitful and crooked tactics, or whether we will decide as a body that they have no place among the honest debates and honorable character of the Wyoming State Legislature.

This is a moment that will help determine what Wyoming is made of. What do the state's leaders believe, and what is acceptable? What sort of legacy do we want this Legislature to leave, and what must be done to ensure our legacy is one of integrity, respect, and honor?

Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have -- 307-977-0202.

Very Truly Yours,



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