

My name is Alina Hampton.

I learned how to organize and run a political operation from some of the best operatives in the state of Illinois. I've spent my career knocking on thousands of doors and organizing for several elected officials while working for the Speaker of the House, Mike Madigan, and the Democratic Party of Illinois. I managed the successful state representative campaign for Juliana Stratton -- now a candidate for lieutenant governor. I was praised for my good work and was asked to commit to the organization fulltime.

During my time of employment with the Democratic Party in 2016 and 2017, my supervisor was harassing me for a span of 5 months. After trying to manage the situation myself, I reported my supervisor for his inappropriate behavior to his supervisor, Alderman Marty Quinn, in February 2017. As a top lieutenant in the Democratic Party's organization, I looked up to Alderman Quinn as my mentor since I began working with the organization on and off in 2012.

I managed the unwanted attention for 5 months. I asked him to stop 7 times. It never stopped. I feared not responding to my supervisor because I didn't want him to tell the Speaker or Alderman Quinn that I was not cooperating with my work. My first instinct was not to complain about him. It was my last option. After living in fear for so many months and experiencing crippling anxiety with every text and phone call I received, I knew I had to tell Marty that I was being harassed. I didn't want to tell him about the harassment because I knew it would hurt him to know who was doing it to me, but I was suffering alone.

By the time I told Marty about the harassment, I was so terrified to be at the ward office that I decided to leave because I knew my perpetrator would not be fired and I would have to continue to see him.

Since I took my role with the organization very seriously, I felt it was only fair to the Speaker and to myself that he knew the truth about my experience during the 2016 general election. I wrote a letter to the Speaker in November 2017 explaining why I left in hopes that he would do the right thing.

The Speaker did not personally respond to the letter, but his attorney and former Ethics Officer of the House of Representatives, Heather Wier Vaught, called to set up a meeting to discuss the situation. We met one time for one hour. Before Heather read the messages, she told me that if the situation was more serious that we wouldn't be meeting at a coffee shop. She jokingly told me that if I came to ask her for \$25k and a front page story in the Chicago Tribune that she would hand the messages to a reporter at the Tribune herself. I told her all I wanted was for her and the Speaker read the messages so they knew what I was experiencing during the election cycle. I also asked if I could be helpful to a specific State Representative race in the upcoming primary election. I was told that they weren't getting involved in the race. That was a lie. The Democratic Party has paid staff working on that race right now. She went on to tell me that this wasn't sexual harassment in the workplace because I wasn't technically an employee. That was a lie. My harasser and I were both paid employees during the time of the harassment. I was told that a meeting would be facilitated between my mentor and me. Two months went by without any follow up from the attorney even though I asked her to connect with me twice. At that point, I decided to reach out to

Alderman Quinn myself. I received no response from him. Instead I finally got the follow up phone call I had been waiting for from the attorney.

I do not want my job with the Democratic Party back. Accepting that they weren't going to protect me and that I was going to lose everything I worked for because a man could not control himself was devastating. I never wanted to do this but I know that my silence only protects the perpetrator and the organization, which will allow this situation to happen to someone else.

To Heather:

Heather-

When we met, my harassment claim was still within the statute of limitations. I naively trusted you to follow up with me in a timely manner. Since you didn't, the harassment claim was pushed out of the statute.

Everything I told you in our meeting was the truth. I still don't want to hurt anybody, but I told you what I needed for closure. I told you I wanted the Speaker to read the text messages. I told you that I wanted to be helpful in the 5<sup>th</sup> district state representative race. And I told you I wanted to see Alderman Quinn to tell him how much this has hurt me. I know at least two of those things never happened.

When I told you that I would not speak out publicly, I sincerely meant that. However, you took advantage of my loyalty and trust. I should not have had to beg you to follow up with me after our meeting. If you had made a genuine effort to follow up with me, I wouldn't be standing up here today.

To Marty:

Marty-

I wanted to tell you this privately in the meeting that Heather told me she would facilitate between us but now I have to do it here.

Telling you about Kevin was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. I know you didn't choose for this to happen, but you made the choice to protect Kevin instead of me. You have known about this for a year. You allowed people in the organization to believe that I betrayed you by quitting even though I told you I was scared to be at the office.

My loyalty and admiration for you was unmatched. I prided myself on being mentored under your wing since I was 23 years old. When I told you about your brother, I needed you to protect me. I didn't feel safe. I knew telling you would risk everything I had worked for in my entire career, and I was right. The devastation I have felt over this is a feeling I didn't know existed. I hope you will never know this type of heartbreak and disappointment in the person you look up to most in the world.