
Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT

Review No. 15-6114

The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (hereafter “the Board”), by a vote of no less than four members, on June 26, 2015, adopted the following report and ordered it to be transmitted to the Committee on Ethics of the United States House of Representatives.

SUBJECT: Representative Blake Farenthold

NATURE OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION: In December 2014, a former communications director for Representative Blake Farenthold (hereafter, “Complainant”) filed suit against Representative Farenthold’s congressional office in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia alleging that Representative Farenthold sexually harassed and discriminated against her during the course of her employment in his congressional office. Complainant also alleged that after she raised concerns about such conduct directly to Representative Farenthold, her work environment was rendered “unbearable” and her employment was terminated.

If Representative Farenthold sexually harassed or discriminated against Complainant, or engaged in an effort to intimidate, take reprisal against, or otherwise discriminate against Complainant for opposing such treatment, then he may have violated House rules and federal law.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics dismiss the above allegations concerning Representative Farenthold, as there is not substantial reason to believe that Representative Farenthold sexually harassed or discriminated against Complainant, or engaged in an effort to intimidate, take reprisal against, or discriminate against Complainant for opposing such treatment, in violation of House rules and federal law.

VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: 6

VOTES IN THE NEGATIVE: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR STAFF DESIGNATED TO PRESENT THIS REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Omar S. Ashmawy, Staff Director & Chief Counsel.