

## HOUSE COMPLAINT NO. 2

## HOUSE ETHICS COMPLAINT NO. 21-001

1           In the Matter of Representative Rick Roeber

2           WHEREAS, Rule 37 of the Rules of the House of Representatives of  
3 the 101st General Assembly authorizes the Committee on Ethics to  
4 consider and report upon complaints referred to it relating to ethical  
5 misconduct of a member of the House; and

6           WHEREAS, in January 2021, two representatives filed formal  
7 complaints of ethical misconduct concerning Respondent Rick Roeber and  
8 disturbing allegations of sexual and physical abuse of his children;  
9 and

10          WHEREAS, the complaints requested that the Committee on Ethics  
11 conduct an investigation into the allegations and report its findings;  
12 and

13          WHEREAS, the Committee on Ethics determined that the complaints  
14 were in compliance with the House Rules and that the Committee had  
15 jurisdiction over this matter; and

16          WHEREAS, the Committee met on numerous occasions from February  
17 through early April 2021, receiving sworn testimony from five  
18 witnesses and reviewing over two hundred pages of available documents  
19 concerning the accusations of abuse; and

20          WHEREAS, the Committee found the testimony of Witness 1 and Child  
21 1, Child 3, and Child 4 to be credible; and

22          WHEREAS, the Committee found Respondent to be combative,  
23 defensive, and defiant, and the testimony of Respondent, in all  
24 material respects related to the investigation, to be not credible;  
25 and

26          WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the primary hearing, Thursday,  
27 April 8, 2021, the Committee unanimously voted to find the allegations  
28 in the two complaints to be credible and well founded and to offer  
29 Respondent the recommended sanction of expulsion. Respondent was  
30 given until 5 p.m., Monday, April 12, 2021, to accept or object to the  
31 recommended sanction; and

32          WHEREAS, later in the day on Thursday, April 8, 2021, Respondent  
33 contacted the Committee Chair and Chief Clerk and verbally indicated  
34 he would submit a resignation letter to the Speaker on Monday, April  
35 12, 2021; and

36          WHEREAS, on Monday, April 12, 2021, Respondent instead delivered  
37 to the Committee his written objection to the Committee's findings and  
38 recommendation in which Respondent requested a formal hearing under

1 the rules governing the Committee on Ethics; and

2 WHEREAS, before the Committee could conduct a formal hearing in  
3 this matter, Respondent delivered to the Speaker his letter of  
4 resignation effective 11:59 p.m., Friday, April 16, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, the Committee found Respondent's actions, including the  
6 tender of a resignation letter, to be a waiver of any further  
7 requested action or procedure under the rules governing the Committee  
8 on Ethics; and

9 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives, on Thursday, April 15,  
10 2021, voted to postpone the acceptance of Respondent's resignation  
11 until the recommendation of the Committee on Ethics is considered by  
12 the House of Representatives; and

13 WHEREAS, on Monday, April 19, 2021, the Committee on Ethics  
14 voted, unanimously, to release its report containing the Committee's  
15 findings and recommendation that Respondent be expelled; and

16 WHEREAS, the report found that:

17 (1) Respondent sexually abused Child 1 when Child 1 was nine  
18 years old;

19 (2) Respondent sexually abused Child 2 when Child 2 was five  
20 years old;

21 (3) Respondent attempted to sexually abuse Child 1 and Child 2  
22 on other occasions;

23  
24 (4) Respondent physically and mentally abused his children; and

25 (5) Respondent has never been held accountable for his conduct:

26 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the One  
27 Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, pursuant to  
28 Rule 37 and Article III, Section 18 of the Missouri Constitution, and  
29 having given full consideration to the recommendations of the  
30 Committee on Ethics, find that:

31 (1) Respondent has committed ethical misconduct constituting a  
32 crime and a legal or moral wrong that has materially impaired the  
33 ability of Respondent to perform the duties of his office;

34 (2) The sexual abuse as referred to in the report of the  
35 Committee on Ethics constitutes both a Class A felony offense under  
36 the laws of this state and an offense of a sexual nature under the  
37 laws of this state; and

38 (3) Respondent's conduct renders him unfit to serve as a  
39 representative in the Missouri General Assembly; and

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Respondent Rick Roeber be expelled

1 from the One Hundred First General Assembly of the Missouri House of  
2 Representatives; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Respondent pay \$1,574.09 in costs  
4 related to the investigation of the complaints.

5 Introduced by the Committee on Ethics

6 Date: April 19, 2021

7

✓

---