

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Christopher Coons, Chair  
The Honorable James Lankford, Vice Chair  
Select Committee on Ethics  
United States Senate  
220 Hart Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Request for Investigation into Senate Candidate Glenn Hurst for Failing to File Personal Financial Disclosure Form.

Dear Chairman Coons and Vice Chairman Lankford:

Complainant respectfully requests that the Senate Select Committee on Ethics investigate Glenn Hurst, a candidate for the United States Senate for Iowa, for failing to file a Public Financial Disclosure Report within thirty (30) days of becoming a candidate, in violation of Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. app. § 101.

Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 requires that, “[w]ithin thirty days of becoming a candidate, or May 15, whichever is later” any candidate for office “other than a] . . . Member of Congress . . . shall file a [Financial Disclosure Report].”<sup>1</sup> A “candidate” is defined as an individual who seeks nomination for election to federal office by making expenditures or receiving contributions aggregating in excess of \$5,000.<sup>2</sup>

The Ethics in Government Act authorizes the Attorney General of the United States to seek a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for a knowing and willful failure to file a Financial Disclosure Report.<sup>3</sup> Importantly, the Act makes clear that your committee shall refer to the Attorney General “the name of any individual which [your] committee has reasonable cause to believe has willfully failed to file a report. . . .”<sup>4</sup> In addition, the Act imposes a mandatory civil penalty on any candidate who files a report after the statutory deadline.<sup>5</sup>

Hurst filed an official Statement of Candidacy with the Federal Election Commission on July 12, 2021.<sup>6</sup> Hurst’s principal campaign committee, Glenn Hurst for Iowa, filed its Statement

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<sup>1</sup> Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. app. § 101(c).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* (incorporating 52 U.S.C. § 30101(2) by reference).

<sup>3</sup> Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. app. § 104(a)(1). *See also* <https://www.ethics.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/financialdisclosure> (*Penalty for Failure to File a Report or Filing a False Report*).

<sup>4</sup> Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. app. § 104(b).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at § 104(d)(1).

<sup>6</sup> FEC, Statement of Candidacy, (July 12, 2021), <https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/forms/S2IA00156/1524323/>.

of Organization with the Federal Election Commission on July 12, 2021.<sup>7</sup> As previously referenced, Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 requires that, “[w]ithin thirty days of becoming a candidate, or May 15, whichever is later” any “individual other than an incumbent . . . Member of Congress . . . shall file a [Financial Disclosure Report].”<sup>8</sup> Under certain circumstances, candidates may request an extension, on or before the filing deadline, for a period of up to 90 days.<sup>9</sup> Accordingly, federal law required Hurst to file a Financial Disclosure Report, or request an extension, no later than August 11, 2021, in order to provide the public with an accurate assessment of his personal finances.

As of February 2, 2022, **205 days** after becoming a candidate for office and **175 days** after the statutory deadline, Hurst has failed to file a report or extension and thus appears to have breached his obligation under the law.<sup>10</sup> Each day that Hurst fails to file his Personal Financial Disclosure is another day Iowans are left in the dark about the financial interests relevant to Hurst’s campaign. Iowans deserve to know whether Hurst has conflicts of interest or other financial entanglements relevant to his candidacy that could impact his ability to serve Iowans. By shirking his disclosure obligations under federal law, Hurst has a comparative advantage over other candidates who are more forthright about their personal finances.

Accordingly, the Senate Select Committee on Ethics should investigate Hurst’s failure to file a Public Financial Disclosure. If he has indeed failed to file the required disclosure forms within thirty days of his candidacy, then he should be fined and sanctioned appropriately. Moreover, your office should investigate whether there is “reason to believe” that Hurst willfully failed to file the required report, and, if so, ask the Attorney General of the United States to impose up to \$50,000 in civil penalties.

Sincerely,



Will Rogers  
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<sup>7</sup> FEC, Statement of Organization, (July 12, 2021), <https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/forms/C00784314/1524334/>.

<sup>8</sup> Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. app. § 101(a).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at § 101(g)(1).

<sup>10</sup> Current disclosures reviewed through the U.S. Senate Financial Disclosures database at <https://efdsearch.senate.gov/search/>.