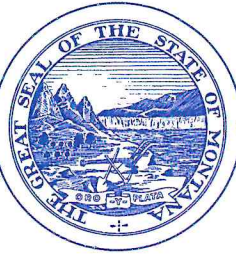


COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

CHRIS J. GALLUS  
COMMISSIONER  
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942  
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1209 EIGHTH AVENUE  
PO BOX 202401  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2401  
[www.politicalpractices.mt.gov](http://www.politicalpractices.mt.gov)

May 3, 2023

Bill Bronson  
733 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE  
Great Falls, MT 59404

Subject: Complaint received May 3, 2023; *Bronson v. Free to Learn Action, COPP-2023-CFP-006*

Bill,

I hope you are well. This letter acknowledges the receipt of your formal attribution complaint, received by this Office via U.S. Mail on May 3, 2023.

The complaint alleges violation of Montana's 'paid for by' attribution requirements, and my review has determined that it conforms to the basic requirements of 44.11.106 ARM. Consequently, a letter and copy of the complaint will be sent to the respondent listed above.

Please note that attribution complaints are typically resolved pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §13-35-225(5) and (6), which, depending on how many days prior to the relevant election the complaint is received, provides the respondent either 2 business days or 24 hours to bring the material into compliance with Montana's 'paid for by' attribution requirements. Any candidate, political committee, or joint fundraising committee who then fails to bring unattributed material into compliance as required is subject to a civil penalty pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §13-37-128. In this case, COPP did not receive your attribution complaint until after conclusion of the May 2, 2023 school election in question. However, COPP will contact the respondent listed above and request they provide all relevant 'paid for by' attribution messaging potentially required under Mont. Code Ann. §13-35-225 for the communication referenced in your complaint, as well as the quantity of paid messages sent and the date or dates such messages were sent.

I will review any additional materials relevant to the complaint, including any response, for any deficiencies pursuant to 44.11.106 ARM, law, and prior relevant rulings and reserve the right to dismiss the complaint upon this initial inquiry. If this occurs, I will notify you and provide a basis for the dismissal. Alternatively, upon this further review, I may determine that a formal investigation is warranted. If an investigation is conducted, a summary of facts and statement of findings will be prepared, and a copy will be sent to you. This generally forms the basis as to whether the matter is going to be pursued further, which then involves referring the matter to the local county attorney.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris J. Gallus".

Chris J. Gallus  
Commissioner of Political Practices