

POSTMARKED

MAR 20 2023

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

COPP-2022-CFP-033

Regier v. Compassion for Montana Families: No on LR-131

This matter was decided and substantively resolved by Commissioner Mangan following his Findings and Sufficiency Determination decision dated November 15, 2022. Settlement negotiations ensued after the decision was returned to Commissioner Mangan.

Settlement negotiations were substantively concluded prior to the ending of Commissioner Mangan's term of office but a settlement agreement was not finalized and executed. Commissioner Gallus determines that he will review such matters and abide by Commissioner Mangan's decisions and substantively completed settlements, absent findings contrary to law.

Consequently, Commissioner Gallus reviewed the complaint, decision, and substantively completed and agreed upon settlement terms in this matter. Commissioner Gallus will abide by Commissioner Mangan's established course of action with respect to the settlement and its terms. Accordingly:

This settlement agreement is entered into by Chris J. Gallus, in his official capacity as the current Montana Commissioner of Political Practices (hereinafter "the Commissioner") and the following party: Compassion for Montana Families: No on LR-131 (hereinafter "the Respondent").

Montana law authorizes the Commissioner to file an action in district court in order to seek a civil penalty for violation of Montana's campaign finance and practices laws and rules, §§13-37-124 and 13-37-128 Mont. Code Ann. In order to avoid litigation, the Commissioner and the Respondent enter into this agreement to resolve this matter.

1. The Commissioner acknowledges that a Campaign Finance and Practices Complaint was filed against the Respondents for violation of Montana's campaign finance and practices laws on October 21, 2022.
2. On November 15, 2022, Commissioner Mangan issued a Summary of Facts and Finding of Sufficient Evidence to Show a Violation of Montana's Campaign Practices Act, the Commissioner's cause number COPP-2022-CFP-033 (hereinafter "the Decision"). The Decision determined that the Respondent failed to comply with certain campaign finance and practices laws and administrative regulations.

Settlement Agreement

Regier v. Compassion for Montana Families: No on LR-131, COPP-2022-CFP-033

3. The Respondent acknowledges that they have read and understand Commissioner Mangan's decision issued in the above referenced cause.
4. The Respondent acknowledges the findings of fact contained in the Decision and that COPP found and asserted specific violations of Montana's Campaign Finance and Practice Laws existed, including a failure to report a committee debt, Mont. Code Ann. § 13-37-229(2) and 44.11.502, Administrative Rules of Montana.¹
5. The Commissioner and the Respondent agree that execution of this settlement agreement by both parties, and a payment of a civil fine in the amount of \$500.00 by the Respondent, fully and finally resolves all of the issues as set forth in the Decision.
6. Simultaneously with the return of the executed settlement agreement the Respondent will remit to the Commissioner \$500.00, on a check made out to: "Commissioner of Political Practices" and mailed to the Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices, 1209 8th Avenue, P.O. Box 202401, Helena, Montana, 59620.
7. In consideration of payment of the civil fine referenced above, the Commissioner agrees not to pursue any further administrative or court proceedings against the Respondent or other persons that may be named or unnamed in the Decision, based on the matters discussed in the Decision and in this Settlement Agreement.
8. The Respondent enters into this agreement to avoid litigation and to resolve and settle this dispute with the Commissioner. It is understood and agreed that the payment of the civil fine referenced above, and execution of this settlement agreement by the Respondent is accepted as the sole consideration for full satisfaction and compromise of what may be disputed claims.
9. The Commissioner and the Respondent fully and forever release and discharge each other and their respective officials, officers, members, employees, successors, assigns, agents, ostensible agents, attorneys, and representatives from any and all actions, claims, causes of action, demands, expenses, damages or injuries, whether asserted or unasserted, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, arising out of the matters investigated by the Commissioner and summarized in the Decision and in this Settlement Agreement.

¹ For the Respondent and for further notification to other political committees and the public, Commissioner Gallus makes specific note of the legal provision that expenditures occur when you have an obligation to pay them rather than when they are invoiced or actually paid. This is an important and substantive distinction with legal consequences.

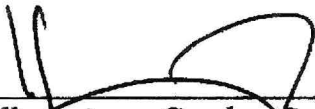
10. The Commissioner and the Respondent agree that the executed Settlement Agreement is a public document and will be made available to members of the public as well as the originally complainant, Mr. Regier.
11. This settlement agreement, consisting of 3 pages, sets forth the entire agreement that has been reached between the Commissioner and the Respondent. No modification or amendment of this agreement will be effective unless both parties complete a subsequent written statement that is signed by both parties.



Chris J. Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices

22-March-2023

Dated



Hillary-Anne Crosby, Campaign
Coordinator & Communications Lead
Compassion for Montana Families: No on
LR-131

3/9/23

Dated