

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the Matter of the DFL House Caucus (20006);

1. The June 2020 report of receipts and expenditures of the DFL House Caucus disclosed a \$250 contribution received April 17, 2020, from lobbyist Dr. Maureen Hackett. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1, prohibits a legislative party unit from accepting a contribution from a lobbyist during a regular session of the legislature and the legislature was in regular session on that date. The contribution was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. Bridget Fisher, Deputy Director of Development for the DFL House Caucus, explained that the party unit “inadvertently accepted an online contribution from Maureen Hackett on April 17th” and said that the party unit would immediately issue a refund to Dr. Hackett. Ms. Fisher stated that the contribution was not accompanied by Dr. Hackett’s lobbyist registration number. Ms. Fisher explained that during the legislative session the party unit includes text on its online contribution pages stating: “Please note, we are prohibited from taking PAC and lobbyist contributions during the legislative session.”
3. The parties agree that the DFL House Caucus accepted a contribution from a lobbyist during a regular session of the legislature in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1. The DFL House Caucus violated the same statute in 2009 when it accepted a contribution from a political fund during a regular legislative session.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the DFL House Caucus agrees to either:
 - a. Compare the name of each contributor who makes a contribution during a regular session of the legislature against the list of lobbyists registered with the Board, within 60 days of receipt of the contribution; or
 - b. Add a field to its online contribution form allowing a contributor to include the contributor’s Board registration number when making a contribution.

Either measure will assist the party unit in promptly identifying prohibited contributions and allow it to return any prohibited contribution within 90 days of deposit to prevent a violation.

5. The DFL House Caucus agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$100 for accepting a contribution from a registered lobbyist during a regular session of the legislature. Payment is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties.

6. The DFL House Caucus agrees to provide to the Board, within 90 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of the deposited check or other documentation showing that the \$250 refunded by the party unit was deposited by Dr. Hackett.

7. If the DFL House Caucus does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Dave Pinto
Rep. Dave Pinto, Treasurer
DFL House Caucus

Dated: October 18, 2020

/s/ Gary Haugen
Gary Haugen, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: October 9, 2020