

# CONGRESSIONAL INTEGRITY PROJECT

September 19, 2023

Omar Ashmawy  
Chief Counsel and Staff Director  
Office of Congressional Ethics  
U.S. House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 895  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Request for Investigation of Representative Lauren Boebert**

Dear Mr. Ashmawy:

I respectfully request that the Office of Congressional Ethics (“OCE”) immediately investigate Representative Lauren Boebert’s behavior on the night of September 10, 2023 at the Buell Theater in Denver in blatant disregard of the Rules of the House of Representatives (“House Rules”).

House Rule 23, the House Code of Official Conduct, requires that Members must “at all times behave in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.”<sup>1</sup> Yet, as described in more detail below, Representative Boebert evaded her ethical obligations by engaging in public lewd behavior at a family-oriented theatrical production. Representative Boebert’s actions were not only appallingly rude and inappropriate, but also a violation of her fundamental duty as a Member of the House of Representatives to uphold the letter and spirit of the House Rules.<sup>2</sup>

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Lauren Boebert currently serves as a U.S. Representative for the 3rd District of Colorado.<sup>3</sup> On September 10, 2023, Boebert was ejected from a production of *Beetlejuice* at the Buell Theater in Denver after “causing a disturbance.”<sup>4</sup> According to an incident report, early in the second act, after hearing complaints that Rep. Boebert and her companion were being loud and recording the show, the Denver Police asked Boebert to leave. Boebert was also seen vaping in violation of theater rules<sup>5</sup>. On the way out, according to the report, “They say stuff like ‘do you know who I am?’” and “I will be contacting the mayor.” Additional CCTV footage released by the theater appears to show Boebert

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<sup>1</sup> Rules of the House of Representatives, Rule 23, clause 1.

<sup>2</sup> Rules of the House of Representatives, Rule 23, clause 2.

<sup>3</sup> *Our District*, CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREN BOEBERT, <https://boebert.house.gov/about/our-district>.

<sup>4</sup> Michael Paulson, *Rep. Lauren Boebert Is Ejected From ‘Beetlejuice’ After a Disturbance*, NY TIMES (Sept 13, 2023), <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/13/theater/lauren-boebert-ejected-beetlejuice.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Brooke Williams, *Video shows Boebert vaping in theater, despite denial*, KDVR (Sept 15, 2023), <https://kdvr.com/news/local/video-boebert-vaping-in-theater-denver/>

being explicitly groped by her male companion, and groping him in return.<sup>6</sup> The Broadway League recommends *Beetlejuice* for family audiences, including children age 10 and up.<sup>7</sup>

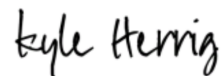
#### LEGAL ANALYSIS

In creating the House Code of Official Conduct, and specifically the requirement that Representatives and employees of the House “behave...in a manner that...reflect creditably on the House,”<sup>8</sup> the intent was to create a code of conduct “that would have a deterrent effect against improper conduct and at the same time be capable of enforcement if violated.”<sup>9</sup> Members are required to “adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House.”<sup>10</sup>

Notwithstanding these obligations, Representative Boebert violated her ethical obligations by publicly engaging in lewd and inappropriate behavior that does not “reflect creditably on the House” at the Buell Theater. Accordingly, I urge the OCE to immediately commence an investigation into Representative Boebert’s actions.

I understand that 18 U.S.C. § 1001 applies to the information I am providing. To the best of my knowledge and ability all evidence submitted was not obtained in violation of any law, rule or regulation.

Sincerely,



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<sup>6</sup> Katherine Donlevy, *Lauren Boebert groped ‘Beetlejuice’ date in heavy-petting session before getting tossed out; blames behavior on divorce*, NY POST (Sept 15, 2023), <https://nypost.com/2023/09/15/lauren-boebert-groped-beetlejuice-date-in-heavy-petting-session-before-getting-tossed-out/>.

<sup>7</sup> Broadway.com, <https://www.broadway.com/shows/beetlejuice/#:~:text=About%20Beetlejuice%20on%20Broadway.at%20the%20disclosure%20of%20management>.

<sup>8</sup> See Rules of the House of Representatives, Rule 23, clause 1.

<sup>9</sup> House Ethics Manual, Com. On Standards of Official Conduct, 110th Cong., 2d Sess., 13 (2008) (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 90-1176, 90th Cong., 2d Sess. (1968)), [https://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/2008\\_House\\_Ethics\\_Manual.pdf](https://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/2008_House_Ethics_Manual.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Rules of the House of Representatives, Rule 23, clause 2.