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Monday, October 18, 2021

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Dear Democratic Party Leaders and Public Officials,

The horrifying news of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham’s hush money payments from her campaign account to one of her sexual accusers, James Hallinan, to the tune of \$150,000, should shock every single New Mexican — regardless of party affiliation. Lujan Grisham is also [accused of groping](#) another man, Eddie Dehart, during the time she was the New Mexico Secretary of Health in 2005.

Sexual abuse should never be okay and must always be taken seriously, especially when committed by public leaders. Lujan Grisham has repeatedly betrayed her positions of power and desecrated one of the chief rules of the [Governmental Conduct Act](#), that “Legislators and public officers and employees shall conduct themselves in a manner that justifies the confidence placed in them by the people, at all times maintaining the integrity and discharging ethically the high responsibilities of public service.”

Alleged groping and sexual assault hush-money payments to one’s accusers betray the confidence the voters of New Mexico placed in Michelle Lujan Grisham when she served in the Cabinet, as a member of Congress, and as governor.

However, despite the depravity of Lujan Grisham’s alleged actions and subsequent payoffs, most New Mexico public officials and Democratic Party leaders have remained silent — including every top-ranking Democrat in the state, from party chair to lieutenant governor.

Therefore, on behalf of the tens of thousands of readers of the *Piñon Post*, who care about the rule of law and holding accountable those who betray the public’s trust, as evidenced by thousands signing our [petition](#) demanding the governor resign over the groping conflict, we call on all high-ranking public officials and party leaders (starting by those listed below) to denounce Michelle Lujan Grisham’s alleged serial groping. Otherwise, these individuals are complicit in the denial of these sexual assault whistleblowers’ lived experiences — perpetuating a culture of sexual violence.

Piñon Post
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Legislative

New Mexico House Speaker Brian Egolf (D-Santa Fe)
New Mexico Senate Pro-Tem Mimi Stewart (D-Bernalillo)
New Mexico House Majority Leader Javier Martínez (D-Bernalillo)
New Mexico House Majority Whip Doreen Gallegos (D-Doña Ana)
New Mexico Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth (D-Santa Fe)
New Mexico Senate Majority Whip Linda Lopez (D-Bernalillo)

New Mexico Statewide Elected Officials

Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales
U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich
U.S. Sen. Ben Ray Luján
Attorney General Hector Balderas
Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Auditor Brian Colón
Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard
Treasurer Tim Eichenberg

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-NM-01)
U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM-03)

Democratic Party Leadership:

Democratic Party Chair Jessica Velasquez
Vice-Chair Manny Crespín
Party Secretary state Rep. Pamelya Herndon (D-Bernalillo)
Party Treasurer Rayellen Smith
Executive Director Chelsey Evans

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY), who never paid off his sexual assault victims, was forced to resign in disgrace after many in his own party demanded he leave office following his sexually predatory behavior, which brought shame upon the state. At the time, Gov. Lujan Grisham [said](#) in March 2021 regarding Cuomo, “I’m, frankly, in that group of elected leaders, that you believe the individual, you give real credit and credibility there, if you don’t, we are revictimizing brave men and women who come forward.”

She must be held to the same standard she set.

Not only are silent public officials complicit in covering up sexual assault, they are perpetuating sexism by not calling out Lujan Grisham’s alleged abuse because of her gender.

Innocent people do not pay their accusers hush money and it is the duty of public officials in New Mexico to follow the example set by New York with their swift action. Good governance has gone by the wayside many a time in New Mexico, but the time for silence is over: **The people of New Mexico demand action and they demand it from you.**

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's actions classify her as a sexual predator and your inaction perpetuates sexual violence against her accusers — revictimizing them and erasing their lived experiences. Please do the right thing for your state and for your country by demanding the governor resign. Responses by you calling out the governor's actions will be published on our website showing your bravery and courage.

Respectfully submitted,

