

House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Harrisburg

May 7, 2024

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General Attorney General Michelle Henry 16th Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Attorney General Henry,

We write to bring to your immediate attention a sequence of events involving, among others, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office that raise serious questions about the administration of justice leading up to the recent primary election.

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, a warrant for the arrest of State Representative Kevin Boyle was issued due to an alleged violation of an active protection from abuse order (PFA). The issuance of this warrant occurred exactly one week before Pennsylvania Primary Election Day, where Rep. Boyle faced a challenger for the Democrat nomination for the 172nd legislative district. On Monday, April 22, 2024, less than 24 hours before polls opened to voters across the state, it was reported that District Attorney Krasner withdrew the arrest warrant for Rep. Boyle, stating that there was not an active protection from abuse order that could have been violated.

As explained on the website of the Pennsylvania State Police, the "Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) is used by the Commonwealth's criminal justice agencies to access driver license and motor vehicle information" and, more importantly in this instance, "the Commonwealth's central registry for Protection from Abuse orders." Given these facts, we question how incorrect information was utilized as probable cause to obtain an arrest warrant, and how the District Attorney's office coordinated and approved the warrant application without conducting proper due diligence when making the determination. Additionally, it is astonishing that it took another six days to make such a determination and subsequently withdraw the arrest warrant.

Following the issuance of the arrest warrant, Representative Boyle came under intense media and public scrutiny as the primary election approached. During this period, a significant number of voters in the 172nd district submitted their ballots by mail, while others were undoubtedly influenced by this news when voting on April 23—news based upon incorrect information.

While DA Krasner has promised an internal investigation into what he calls "simply a gap in the information", internal action is insufficient to address such a serious matter. When news outlets perform more due diligence than Larry Krasner and the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, a thorough, outside investigation is necessary to determine how this happened and ensure it never happens again.

As Attorney General of the Commonwealth, you have prosecutorial jurisdiction over violations of the Pennsylvania Election Code pursuant to Sections 1642 and 1854 of that law. We request that your office conduct an investigation into this series of incidents pursuant to both that authority as well as in your position as chief law enforcement officer of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Rep. Bryan D. Cutler

Republican Caucus Leader

100th Legislative District

Rep. Martina A. White

Republican Caucus Secretary

Martina a. White

170th Legislative District

Rep. Sheryl M. Delozier

Republican Caucus Administrator

88th Legislative District

Rep. Seth Grove

Chair, Republican Appropriations Committee

196th Legislative District

Rep. George Dunbar Republican Caucus Chair 56th Legislative District

Rep. Joshua D. Kail

Chair, Republican Policy Committee

15th Legislative District

Rep. Timothy O'Neal Republican Caucus Whip

48th Legislative District