

BART HESTER

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THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

MEMBER:
JUDICIARY
STATE AGENCIES & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
CHILDREN & YOUTH
EFFICIENCY
JOINT LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES
JOINT BUDGET

February 23, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Until very recently, I was unaware of the role that Mr. Alonza Jiles is alleged to have played in enabling and concealing heinous acts of child sexual abuse while working at "The Lord's Ranch" Residential Childcare Facility. Over the past couple of months, at least five federal lawsuits have been filed by dozens of victims alleging details of abuse and neglect that are too graphic for me to repeat.

In light of these numerous, detailed, and graphic allegations, it is my stance that Mr. Jiles should **immediately resign** from his position as a member of the Board of Corrections. Not only is Mr. Jiles alleged to have enabled and concealed reprehensible acts against children, he is alleged to have done so while working in a position of leadership and trust. His continued service in a public position of leadership and trust is therefore not only inappropriate, it is insulting to those he is alleged to have harmed. And it grossly undermines the public's confidence in the Board of Corrections and its State Government.

Putting the people first is the hallmark of a worthy public servant. For Mr. Jiles, deciding to do anything other than tender his immediate resignation is a decision to put the people of Arkansas second.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart Hester".

Bart Hester
President Pro Tempore
District 33