

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF PATRICK WATSON REGARDING MINNESOTANS FOR ERIN MAYE QUADE AND THE MINNESOTA EVERYTOWN FOR GUN SAFETY VICTORY FUND

On November 9, 2016, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Patrick Watson regarding Minnesotans for Erin Maye Quade and the Minnesota Everytown for Gun Safety Victory Fund. Minnesotans for Erin Maye Quade is the principal campaign committee of Erin Maye Quade for the seat in the Minnesota House of Representatives for district 57A. The Minnesota Everytown for Gun Safety Victory Fund (Everytown Fund) is an independent expenditure political fund registered with the Board.

The complaint alleges that the Everytown Fund improperly coordinated its expenditures with the Maye Quade committee. As an independent expenditure fund, the Everytown Fund is not permitted to make expenditures on behalf of a candidate "with the authorization or express or implied consent of, or in cooperation or in concert with, or at the request or suggestion of the candidate, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or the candidate's agent." Minn. Stat. §§ 10A.01, subd. 4 (definition of approved expenditure); 10A.121, subs. 1, 2 (independent expenditure funds may not make approved expenditures).

Determination:

To find a coordination violation, the Board must first conclude that the Everytown Fund made an expenditure on behalf of the Maye Quade committee. Although the complaint asserts that the time spent by the Everytown Fund's staff in support of "gun sense" candidates directly benefitted the Maye Quade committee, it provides no basis on which to support this assertion. Absent any factual basis for the assertion that the Everytown Fund made an expenditure on behalf of the Maye Quade committee, there can be no coordination violation. The complaint therefore does not state a prima facie violation of the provisions governing approved expenditures or independent expenditure funds.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (1), this prima facie determination is made by a single Board member and not by any vote of the entire Board. Based on the above analysis, the Chair concludes that the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Chapter 10A or of those sections of Chapter 211B under the Board's jurisdiction. The complaint is dismissed without prejudice.



Daniel N. Rosen, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: _____

11/16/16