

Testimony for Representative Rarick:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair and Members. For the record, my name is Marion Rarick and I am currently serving as a Minnesota State Representative for House District 29B. I am a member serving on the Minnesota House Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee which was recently formed in January 2025. I was first asked to serve on this committee by the Speaker of the House on January 4th and soon after the five republican members of the committee began to meet. During one of those discussions, I was asked to reach out to the DHS whistle-blowers on X. I had been following them during the previous year. I reached out through a direct message on X on January 16th and that same day, I got a reply that they would check with other agency staff and get back to us about speaking to the members of the Fraud Prevention Committee. In that same reply I received information about potential movement of money to cover losses of federal grant dollars. Since that first contact, Chair Robbins and I have had multiple conference calls with them and one in person meeting with both current and former Department of Human Services (DHS) employees. Their collective message has been consistent. Instead of focusing on fraudsters, DHS leadership has focused its surveillance on employees discussing fraud with each other. Since then, their expressed fear of retaliation has intensified under an avalanche of fraud revelations.