



U.S. Office of Special Counsel
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OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL FILES COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST OREGON STATE EMPLOYEE FOR HATCH ACT VIOLATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C./July 20, 2009 – On July 9, 2009, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) filed a complaint for disciplinary action against an employee of the Oregon Department of Human Services, Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research.

OSC's complaint, filed with the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, charges the employee with violating the Hatch Act by being a candidate for public office in a partisan election. OSC alleges that the employee was a candidate in the primary and general elections for Oregon State Representative in 2008, while he was employed in a Hatch Act covered position. OSC also alleges that at the time of the employee's candidacy, he knew about the Hatch Act's restrictions on political activity. Despite being warned by OSC that his candidacy was a violation of the Hatch Act, the employee refused to take action to come into compliance with the law.

The Hatch Act restricts the political activity of individuals principally employed by state, county or municipal agencies who have duties in connection with programs financed in whole or part by federal loans or grants. An employee covered by the Act is prohibited from being a candidate for public office in a partisan election. If the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board finds that a Hatch Act violation warrants removal, the employee may be removed by his employing agency.

OSC is an independent investigative and prosecutorial agency with jurisdiction to enforce the Hatch Act. OSC is authorized to provide advisory opinions on the Hatch Act and enforces the provisions of the Act by investigating allegations of violations and filing petitions for disciplinary action such as the one described above. For more information visit our web site at www.osc.gov or call 1 (800) 872-9855.