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## OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL FILES COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST NEBRASKA STATE EMPLOYEE FOR HATCH ACT VIOLATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, DC/November 23, 2009 – On November 19, 2009, the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC) filed a complaint with the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) requesting that the executive director of the Nebraska Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) be removed from her employment for engaging in political activity prohibited by the Hatch Act. An investigation recently conducted by OSC found evidence that the executive director engaged in prohibited political activity.

OSC's investigation into the executive director's activities found evidence that she used her official authority for the purpose of affecting the result of an election, and that she coerced her subordinate employees to pay, lend, or contribute something of value to a candidate for partisan political office by inviting employees to a political fundraiser for a candidate in the 2006 Gubernatorial primary election. Furthermore, the executive director took action to ensure foster care families would also be in attendance at the political fundraiser.

Thus, OSC's investigation found evidence that the FCRB executive director violated two of the Hatch Act's prohibitions – the prohibition against use of official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office, and the prohibition against directly or indirectly coercing, attempting to coerce, commanding, or advising a state or local officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes. Accordingly, OSC has filed a complaint with the MSPB, seeking the FCRB executive director's removal from employment for knowingly violating the Hatch Act.

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*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 website at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov) or call 1-800-85-HATCH.*