

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tues., Nov. 3, 2025, 12:30 p.m.

Statement from State Senator Dan McKeon & Release of July Apology for Making a Joke

LINCOLN, Neb. — Today, the Law Office of Perry A. Pirsch issued the following statement on behalf of Nebraska State Senator Dan McKeon, of Amhurst, Neb., regarding recent allegations and public discussion surrounding a social interaction at the Legislature's Sine Die gathering, five months ago, in May 2025.

"As I have noted, Senator McKeon is a devoted husband and father, a committed Christian, a grain-farming consultant from Amherst, a veteran, and a patriot who has dedicated his life to serving Nebraska in a myriad of ways. He was elected to the Unicameral in 2024, despite being outspent nearly three-to-one by a fellow Republican candidate, which is a testament to the trust his legislative district placed in his honesty, integrity and willingness to speak truth to power. He is also a bit of a comedian.

"Earlier this year, at the end-of-session gathering, Senator McKeon made a single remark – a joke – to a staff member about her planned trip and hoping she and her husband would receive a "Hawaiian lei," or words to that effect, and he then patted her on the back," **Attorney Pirsch said**. "It was meant in jest and nothing about his action was in any way sexually charged or lewd; just a bad pun. Later, when Senator McKeon was told that the staffer had been offended by the comment, he was happy to reach out and apologize with a sincere note. He did so with sincere humility. This was last July. As soon as he understood she was offended, regardless of whether it was reasonable, because that is what his faith and ethics compelled him to do. And that is where it should have ended."

"Senator McKeon was charged with public indecency, which is defined as 'a lewd fondling or caressing of a person.' Attorney Pirsch noted 'lewd' as defined by the courts as, among other things, that which *incites sensual desire or imagination*, or denoting an "unlawful indulgence of lust, dissolute, lustful, filthy" conduct. Wishing a traveler and her spouse a 'Hawaiian lei' is a bad joke, but also cliché, and a pat on the back is hardly objectively lewd conduct."

Senator McKeon, on his own behalf, stated, "I have taken responsibility for attempting humor in the wrong moment and tone. I am sorry for that. But I did not engage in sexual misconduct, much less public lewd fondling or caressing. Most of my constituents enjoy my sense of humor. Respectfully, the escalation of this into persons calling for resignation of my seat, of which the Governor would make a political appointment against the will of the voters in my district, is unfair and frankly inappropriate in light of the facts. I apologized for my joke and a pat on the back, but I will NOT resign. I answer to God, my family and the voters of my community — and they will decide my future, not extreme liberals trying to manipulate the public with Facebook ads, or other political opportunists. I expect all Nebraskans who believe in the Constitution and rule of law to continue their support."

Apology Letter Sent July 28, 2025 — Reproduced Below

Senator McKeon also produced the apology note he sent last July, which is reproduced below:

7/28/2025

I'm deeply sorry for my actions at the end of session when we were visiting that offended you. I was saying it in a joking manner, and I know that alcohol had some influence but that's no excuse. The Lord knows we are all sinners, and we make mistakes. I will learn from this going forward as a freshman Senator in the Nebraska State Legislature. A verse in the Bible that I know that I need to review often is to understand forgiveness.

From Colossians 3:13-15 "Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts." "And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."

I'm very hopeful you can accept my apology. God is still working on me, and I know he is here for all of us. God bless and hope your summer is going well. - Senator Dan McKeon.

McKeon Reaffirms Commitment to Constituents

Senator McKeon concluded: "I made a mistake in tone, not in intent. I apologized for my joke. I have worked every day to live my faith and serve our state honorably." Senator McKeon noted: "This political theater has gone too far, and the truth matters. I will continue doing my job and representing the hardworking Nebraskans — farmers, families and people of faith — who elected me to stand up for them."

McKeon remains focused on the upcoming legislative session and continuing to serve Nebraska with humility, integrity and a grounded faith. Unfortunately, in politics, opportunists always distract from the core mission.

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