

Statement of Dennis G. Smith on Crimes Against Mary Spear

Out of respect for the privacy of Department of Health Services General Counsel Mary Spear, I have thus far declined public comment about the terrible crimes committed against her. Now that Andrew Spear's entirely untrue and unsupported accusations have been publicly repeated in court by his criminal defense attorney, in defense of my reputation, I must respond.

Mary Spear and I have known each other since grade school, growing up in the same small town in rural Illinois. We were in the same class throughout those years, sharing similar interests in government and politics. As it is in small town life, everyone knew everyone. Our mothers taught in grade school together and were close friends. Her father was my favorite high school teacher. After high school graduation, our lives took separate paths, she eventually moved to Texas, my wife and I moved to Virginia. Over the course of more than 35 years since high school, we spoke to each other on a few occasions. The last time I saw her prior to her coming to Wisconsin was at a local country club where she had attended a family luncheon.

Sometime later, she had asked me to review a paper on the health insurance system she was writing. I remember being very impressed with the paper she had written. When I had been searching for a new General Counsel I remembered her good work and asked her to consider becoming the new DHS General Counsel. She accepted the position and moved here last January. She has been an excellent General Counsel with a deep understanding of the health industry and the challenges confronting us in Wisconsin. In addition to her keen legal skills, Mary also brought kindness and friendship to the Department. She quickly made many friends throughout the Department.

Mary and I have known each other for more than 40 years. I categorically and unequivocally deny that I have ever had a relationship with Mary Spear beyond friendship. She is in the thoughts and prayers of her many friends for her health and well-being. In the interest of ensuring a fair trial for her abuser and ensuring her as much privacy as possible throughout this terrible ordeal, I will have no further public comment.