

State of Illinois
Clay County

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STATEMENT

AFFIDAVIT OF MARCY BAILEY

I, Marcy Bailey, certify and under oath state as follows:

1. I am currently an Illinois resident and citizen of Illinois. My present-day address is 6316 Xenia Iola Road, Xenia, IL 62899. I am currently 22 years old.
2. I started employment with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) in December 2011 and as of March 2012, I was an employee of ISAC with the division of , ISACorps. From the job posting of my position: ISACorps helps students who will be the first in their family to go to college and/or are from low-income households. The program is a product of the College Access Challenge Grant awarded to Illinois by the US Department of Education.

My Main Job Duty at ISACorps

3. Provide accurate, complete, and sensitive counsel to students facing academic, financial and social barriers to higher education from high school to high school in a community college district near my home in Clay County, Illinois.

This organization is no longer my employer, for reasons that I explain more fully below. I am providing the present Affidavit to provide details of information relating to activities that took place while I was an employee of ISA Corps.

RAINBOW PUSH – PELOSI POLITICAL EVENT

1. On March 3, 2012, as an employee of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission ISACorps, I attended the Forum at Rainbow PUSH National Headquarters, 930 E. 50th Street, Chicago, IL. At this event, Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi endorsed Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. just seventeen days before the March 20th primary. During the event, several

more candidates stood, spoke and encouraged the audience to vote specifically for them.

REQUIRED ATTENDANCE:

2. My residence in Clay County is approximately five hours and 500 round trip miles from the City of Chicago. I did not want to attend this event. Although e-mails from an ISAC supervisor would lead one to believe that my attendance was optional, during phone calls from Sara Henschen, my regional coordinator, and from Kim Galvan, ISACorps Manager, I was told that I “must attend”.

3. Repeatedly, my supervisors told me that “without a prior conflicting commitment, your attendance is mandatory.” I stated that I did not feel comfortable going, but my supervisors told me that I did have to go.

ATTENDED EVENT ON PAID GOVERNMENT TIME:

4. Since I was instructed to attend the event, and that it was mandatory, I asked how I was supposed to get paid for this Saturday work event. On a phone call, I was explicitly told by Kim Galvan, ISACorps Manager, to mark this time spent on Saturday as hours to be reported on our “Ethics Time Cards”. I marked 5 hours for travel time of my 7.5 hours reported worked on Friday, March 2, 2012 and I marked 7.5 hours of paid time on Saturday 3 March 2012 for mandatory event attendance and return travel home.

EXPENSES REIMBURSED:

5. On Friday, March 2, 2012, I carpooled with ISACorps employee Audra Clodfelter to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 5000 W. 127th Street, Alsip, IL. We shared a room and stayed overnight. ISAC reimbursed me \$133.28 for the room and \$14 for Friday’s meals and \$28 for Saturday’s meals on my March Travel Voucher. Since Audra drove, she would have been

reimbursed for mileage.

RAINBOW PUSH “SATURDAY FORUM” 3 MARCH 2012:

6. Traveling from Alsip to Chicago, Audra Codfelter and I arrived at PUSH Headquarters at 9:30 am. At least five ISAC Directors were in attendance, including: Aimee Melgar, Director of Post-Secondary Planning Services; Jacqueline Moreno, Managing Director-College Access; Sam Nelson, Director Outreach Development Operation; John Samuels- Chief Marketing & Communications Officer; and new ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow. I counted approximately 60 ISACorps and ISAC employees as present based on what they were wearing or because I recognized them personally.

PRE-EVENT STAGING:

7. The Saturday Forum event was scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. However, I had been instructed to arrive by 9:30 a.m. It is my understanding that all ISAC and ISACorps employees were directed to gather at 9:30 am before the Saturday Forum event started at 10:00 am.

8. When I arrived at the meeting location, our ISAC Directors instructed us to go to the second floor and congregate in a side hallway outside of where Jesse Jackson Sr. was speaking to a group of individuals, including candidates and other political figures that were being addressed as “Judge” and “Senator.” With cameras flashing, Jesse Jackson Sr., candidates and politicians left the conference room, and we were staged to look like we were political supporters. In other words, we were used as props during a campaign season. At no time did my supervisors suggest that my presence at this part of the event was optional, or that I would have the option to not appear as if I was a political supporter of Jesse Jackson Sr. or the other candidates.

“FORUM” EVENT PROGRAM AT 10AM:

9. At the start of the forum, Jesse Jackson Sr. offered a few throwaway lines that there were ISACorps students present, and after Jesse Jackson Sr. mentioned our agency we all stood. This fit with what my supervisors had told me prior to the event: that the purpose of the event was for the ISACorps members to be seen by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

10. However, as Jesse Jackson Sr. continued and then Nancy Pelosi spoke, the event was soon overflowing with negative political energy directed towards the Republican Party. The two discussed many adverse things about the Republican Party, using harsh, derogatory remarks, while they reminded their audience about what they called the wonderful things that the Democratic Party was doing for the people. I did not get the impression that Nancy Pelosi was using this event as an opportunity to educate herself about our program and how it functioned in the State of Illinois. The event was largely a political rally, and there was no opportunity for those of us who were not there to participate in a political rally to leave without it being noticeable. As the program continued, Nancy Pelosi endorsed Jesse Jackson Jr. for Congress. No one from our state agency left the room or objected to our participation at a blatantly partisan political event, including my supervisor. I was fearful that any objection or other false move on my part would place my job in jeopardy. We were being videotaped and any disagreement would have left a record. I felt considerably isolated and intimidated by this. I felt sick to my stomach.

ISAC JOB COACHING BY JESSE JACKSON SR AFTER “SATURDAY FORUM” ENDED:

11. After the hour-long “Forum” program, all agency personnel were ushered into a room for a private meeting with Jesse Jackson Sr. and Rev. Janet Wilson of Rainbow PUSH. Jesse Jackson Sr. thanked us for our attendance at the “Saturday Forum”. Jesse Jackson Sr. said to

work hard to help as many students as possible acquire student loans. Jackson Sr. encouraged us to network students, hold rallies and organize for “student loan forgiveness legislation.”

12. Jesse Jackson Sr. also told us not to worry about loading students up with too much college debt, because Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats will eventually forgive all student loan debt. On the promise of debt forgiveness, “those people will continue to vote Democratic.”

13. Jesse Jackson Sr. asked us, “Who here today has their own student loan debt?” I raised my hand. The promise of student loan forgiveness was attractive to many of my co-workers. We work on small salaries with large student loans.

14. But, the meeting featuring Jesse Jackson Sr. giving us ISACorp “job coaching” horrified me. Our mission at ISACorps is to help those who are the first generation in their family to go off to college. I thought our mission was to try to help students navigate the complexities of college choices, and to help them to make good choices (including financial choices) so that they can lead better, more productive lives. Instead, Jesse Jackson Sr. seems to want to push less well-off college aspirants into more debt. And he does this not to improve their lives, but so that he has more political pawns to gain political power, since, as he explained it, people with debt will have to vote for Democrats if they want to get out of their student loans. Moreover, Jesse Jackson Sr. asked how many ISACorps workers would be able to come to future events because our massive support looked great both in-person and on television. Several workers raised their hand in response.

MY RESOLVE TO “BLOW THE WHISTLE” & QUIT ISAC:

15. On the trip back to Clay County, I wrestled with what had just occurred. How many others in that audience were like me, and effectively coerced into participating in what was really

a political event? Did the public know that this is what their money was paying for? I resolved to become a whistleblower. I personally felt used and just couldn't continue to work at ISAC.

16. I didn't quite know which ethics, state or federal laws were violated, or how many, but afterwards I knew that what I had been ordered to do by my supervisors using taxpayer money was at the very least morally wrong. I asked to resign at the end of March. ISAC asked me to continue because they needed me in the schools. But my heart was no longer in my assignment and I quit four weeks later.

17. As part of my employment at ISACorps, I felt that my personal integrity had been compromised; that all of us had our trust breached by our supervisors, who in essence required us to violate at least ethical considerations; and that we were given no choice or advance notice to avoid participating in politics at a political event as government workers.

18. During my employment period, I received an ethics manual, but had no previous training or was talked to about political activity. We were told however, that if we work with students in a church setting, we were not allowed to participate in any type of worship.

19. The PUSH Saturday Forum was held in a church setting, and the vast majority of ISACCorp employees sang the songs, some raised their hands in worship, and some even contributed money during the time of offering.

CONFIRMATION OF MY ACCOUNT FROM SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2012 THAT THE REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS IMPROPER:

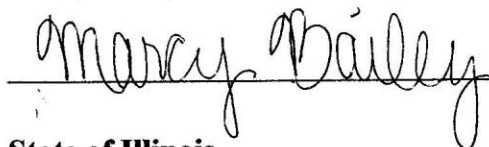
20. On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, ISAC Director of Post Secondary Education Services Aimee Melgar sent out an e-mail to the 86 ISACorps employees, and cc e-mail copied Outreach Representative Annette Phillips, ISAC Director Abel Montoya, and ISACorps Manager Kimberly Galvan. The e-mail states that "Reverend Wilson from PUSH talked about rallying groups together on college campuses to address student loan forgiveness, etc. As a state agency,

we cannot be involved in lobbying, signing petitions, having Facebook conversations on work Facebook accounts, or taking any stance around student loan debt on work time or on work accounts. *I'm not saying that you shouldn't remain educated on the issues that could potentially impact our students; on the contrary, you should always keep yourself informed.* I'm asking that you keep your work efforts on helping students find the best financial fit. To clarify my point further, ISAC cannot be involved in helping PUSH with their student loan forgiveness efforts."

21. As I interpreted this e-mail, our supervisors wanted and encouraged us to get involved as Jesse Jackson Sr. had recommended, but we had to claim that these were "individual" efforts to be "educated" on the issues and to warn people that they could not publicly state that their activity was formally sanctioned by ISAC. At no time did my supervisors follow up with me after this e-mail to suggest that ISACorps employees should not feel pressured into individually participating in these types of rallies and activities suggested by Jesse Jackson Sr., Reverend Wilson, or anyone else from PUSH.

I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury and other penalties provided by law that the statements set forth above are true and correct as I verily believe.

Marcy Bailey

 , August 9, 2012

State of Illinois.

County of Clay.

On August 9, 2012 before me, Sandra Sue Bailey, personally appeared MARCY BAILEY, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the Affidavit and acknowledges to me that she executed the same her authorized capacity, and who, being duly sworn on oath according to law, deposes and says that she has read the foregoing Affidavit subscribed by her, and that matters stated herein are true to the best of her information, knowledge and belief.

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of Illinois that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.



Signature of Notary Public

(Notary Seal)

