

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

IN COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ALEX BERG

Plaintiff,

v.

CASE NO.: 2025CP1003124

PATRICK BRYANT; JOHN OSBORNE; ERIC
BOWMAN; POMMER GROUP, LLC;
ASSIGNMENT DESK WORKS, LLC; GLT2,
LLC

Defendants

PATRICK BRYANT

Third Party Plaintiff,

v.

NANCY RUTH MACE; MELISSA BRITTON

Third Party Defendants

FILED

2025 JAN 22 AM 10:31

JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
CLERK OF COURT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I, The Honorable Representative Nancy R. Mace (“Rep. Mace”), in the above-captioned matter file pro se a letter to the Court of Common Pleas in the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

Dated: January 21, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,



/s/ Signature

Rep. Nancy R. Mace

Pro Se

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THE HONORABLE NANCY R. MACE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

900 Island Park Drive, Suite 260
Charleston, SC 29492

January 21, 2026

Via Email and U.S. Mail

The Honorable Donald B. Hocker
Charleston County Court of Common Pleas
P.O. Box 972
Laurens, SC 29360
dhockerj@sccourts.org

Re: Gag Order Issued in Case Number 2025-CP-10-03124 and Notice of Removal

Dear Honorable Donald B. Hocker,

This is to advise this Court that I have filed to remove the Order to Show Cause and Motion for Civil Contempt (“Motion”) against me to the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina (“District Court”). This Motion was filed today as a result of events related to the November 26, 2025 Gag Order and supplement thereto, which was entered *sua sponte*. The January 12, 2026 motion for contempt prompted this filing.

Furthermore, I will be seeking to remove this entire action to the District Court, as the entirety of this action is inextricably intertwined with legislative actions that I undertook in my official capacity as a member of the U.S. Congress, including but not limited to advocacy and proposed legislation aimed at sexual abuse survivor protections and women’s safety and over one dozen pieces of legislation protecting women and children and survivors of abuse.

I am also advising your Honor, in this letter, in addition to what will be further discussed at the next status conference, which my understanding is at 1:00P.M. EDT on Friday, January 23, 2026, that I have relieved my previous counsel and am seeking new counsel within the next thirty (30) days should any aspect of this case remain before Your Honor.

Although this will be fully addressed in the appropriate fora, as a preliminary matter, the Gag Order is overly broad, unconstitutional, and unenforceable, particularly as applied to a sitting member of the U.S. Congress and leading candidate for Governor of South Carolina.

The Gag Order is clearly a prior restraint which prohibits speech before it occurs and threatens sanctions for violation. Prior restraints are “the most serious and the least tolerable infringement on First Amendment rights” and carry a heavy presumption against constitutional validity. *Nebraska Press Ass’n v. Stuart*, 427 U.S. 539, 558–59 (1976). The Gag Order is also “content-based,” which is presumptively unconstitutional and subject to strict scrutiny. *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, 576 U.S. 155, 163 (2015).

The Gag Order, which prohibits “any comment about any aspect of this case (other than Attorney/Client) via oral, written, social media, text or any other form of communication....” fails the requisite “strict scrutiny” standard because it is not narrowly tailored. It applies to private speech, campaign speech, legislative speech, and communications that pose no conceivable threat to trial fairness. It reflects no consideration of less restrictive alternatives, such as voir dire, jury instructions, protective orders for specific evidence, or venue management. *See Sheppard v. Maxwell*, 384 U.S. 333, 357–63 (1966). Even if some state interest were identified, the gag order is overinclusive. It forbids speech regardless of audience, content, or timing, **including private conversations**, legislative discussions, campaign events, and constituent inquiries, without any showing that such speech would create a substantial likelihood of material prejudice. The order includes no temporal limits, no specific prohibited topics, and no distinction between protected political speech and case-sensitive disclosures. These features render it constitutionally overbroad and unmoored from the factual record. In other words, it’s unenforceable.

Mr. Bowman and Mr. Bryant have sought to use this Court to accomplish what they could not accomplish through intimidation and harassment: **my silence**.

Every day this gag order stands, I suffer harm that cannot be undone. The opposition files false statements under oath. The press prints them. And I am ordered to stay silent while my reputation is shredded and an election is underway, an election where I am leading every legitimate poll.

Meanwhile, potential victims see what happens to those who speak up, and they stay quiet. That is the real irreparable harm: not just to me, but to every person in South Carolina who is watching to see whether the system protects predators or survivors. So far, the system treats victims like criminals.

The gag is so broad a victim had to wait weeks just to find out if she could report further evidence of a crime to law enforcement. **In fact, according to the gag, victims may not even speak to one another.**

I have been tolerating this outrageous behavior and finally hit my wall. I am desperate for someone, anyone, to right these wrongs. I am begging you to do what is right, what is moral, and what is Biblical.

Every time I am provided information by my constituents and others, I turn all information over to law enforcement, including federal authorities. The state has confirmed an open and ongoing investigation exists. **I am also a federal whistleblower against one of the defendants in this case.**

After our last in-person court appearance, I had to report one of Mr. Bryant's attorneys to Capitol Police for physically intimidating me in Court. I sat patiently, politely and professionally in your Court **as the opposing Counsel went off the rails**. And I did so willingly to protect my constituents and learn what legislation I can draft to fix our broken justice system.

Mr. Bryant's own sworn filings expose his dishonesty.

On November 6, 2025, Mr. Bryant filed an Amended Third-Party Complaint stating that he *"immediately retrieved his Phone from Mace."* (Am. Third-Party Compl. Para. 27). Just 11 days later, on November 17, 2025, Mr. Bryant filed a Motion for Temporary Restraining Order contradicting this claim and stated *"Mace has had Bryant's phone for two-plus years."* (Mot. for TRO #3). Both

statements cannot be true. Either Mr. Bryant immediately retrieved his phone and has it, or I have had it for two years and never gave it back. He cannot have it both ways. Then on December 30, 2025, Mr. Bryant's own attorney told your Court that SLED possesses the phone, which SLED has told us is false. These are not mistakes or misstatements. They are fictitious and false statements stated under oath, stated as objective fact, to manipulate this Court and the press, who then write defamatory headlines about me based on fictitious statements, court motions and filings. And because of an overly broad gag order, I have no recourse. The harm and damage I have suffered has been irreparable.

Furthermore, opposing counsel has turned your Honorable Court into a Kangaroo Court, which does an enormous disservice to the great state of South Carolina.

Mr. Bryant has already been sanctioned heavily for abuse of process, in the Court under the Honorable Judge Rode, against myself and another victim, Yet, this Court permits his outrageous abuses, harassment and defamation to continue. Well, those days are over. I will not sit idly by as Mr. Bowman and Mr. Bryant continue to abuse this Court to defame me before trial and interfere in an election with the leading candidate for Governor.

I respectfully inform this Honorable Court: **I will not be SILENCED.**

I will continue to do my job as an honorable, ethical and moral Member of the United States House of Representatives and I will continue to lead the Governor's race. I will continue to follow Biblical principles in my work as a Representative and in my campaign for Governor.

The First Amendment protects my right to tell my story as a survivor. As an elected official I have a moral obligation to protect those I serve. While I cannot affect the outcome of a criminal investigation, nor would I try, I will not be prevented from assisting potential victims or witnesses. My outspoken voice has encouraged others with information to come forward, and I continue to draft legislation to fill necessary gaps in federal law to protect victims and I continue to provide information to authorities, to present day.

When I delivered my floor speech almost one year ago, I brought handcuffs and said: *"If anyone would like to arrest me for standing up for women, here are my wrists."* **That offer stands today. I would rather sit in a cold dark cell than abandon South Carolina's daughters who are counting on me to fight for them.**

Truth always has a way of rising no matter how deep you try to bury it. To any victim anywhere who may see this: I pray for your protection, your courage, and your resilience. Your pain is my pain. Your truth is my truth. Your courage is my courage. And I am standing with you.

No man can silence what God created. God placed a burden in my path - a purpose, a calling, a responsibility. I did not ask to uncover these horrors. But as a woman of faith, I draw strength from the teachings of Jesus Christ. Christ confronted injustice wherever He found it. I will not stand by while abuse is hidden, excused, and ignored.

I continue to live looking over my shoulder. Endure sleepless nights. And continue to be harassed and defamed by those who feel emboldened to continue their abuse in this Court. I am deeply concerned about my personal safety and the safety of others. But I will protect every man, woman and child in

my district and in the great state of South Carolina, with every fiber of my being, regardless of the consequences.

The gag order as it stands is unconstitutional and unenforceable and therefore, Your Honor, **I yield to no man who seeks to silence the truth.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Mace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Nancy Ruth Mace
Member of Congress

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