



The Republican Caucus

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S.C. House GOP Statements on Gov. Sanford

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina House Republican leadership issued the following statements about Governor Mark Sanford's personal revelations during his press conference today.

"Today's revelations are disturbing and shocking. There is no excuse for the unfortunate events that have transpired in recent days," said Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell. "The personal issues must be sorted out by the Sanford family and we hope for the best for them during this most difficult time.

"For five days the governor let his staff deceive the press and the people of South Carolina regarding where he was and what he was doing.

"The governor's absence has brought to light some issues regarding the chain of command in the absence of the chief executive. It is imperative that the General Assembly deal with this during the next session. More importantly, we must focus on our state's economy and improving education. With our unemployment rate as the third worst in the country, our time has to be devoted to getting unemployed South Carolinians back to work, improving education and growing our state's economy."

House Majority Leader Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce, said: "Ultimately, this is a sad day for the Sanford family and all of South Carolina. I am disappointed in the poor personal choices our governor has made. The Republican Party is about personal responsibility. I commend the governor in the complete honesty and candor he showed today. It is truly unusual in politics to see someone who takes responsibility and offers an honest apology. Now is the time to pray for the Sanford family. We join with the governor in calling on the media to give the governor what he requested, some personal privacy for his family so they can begin the healing process."

Assistant Majority Leader Bruce Bannister, R-Greenville, said: "This entire incident was strange from the beginning, but today's revelations were stunning. My heart goes out to the First Lady and their four sons. While the Republican Caucus has had its share of differences with the Governor over the years, we all stand in support of the Sanford family. Nobody wants to see this happen to any family."

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