



OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER CRISTINA GARCIA

Over the last weeks there have been several claims accusing me of inappropriate conduct in my role as a California State legislator. In each case, these accusations are simply not true and are inconsistent with my personal value system and how I seek to conduct myself as an elected official. I believe these accusations are part of a concerted effort to discredit my person and record as a legislator.

This last November, several tenants of properties that I own reported to me that a private investigator had knocked on their door asking questions about my ethics as a landlord. They were rebuffed on each occasion. Shortly thereafter, I began to receive reports that former members of my legislative and district staff had received calls from a private investigator asking a line of questions that included, "Was Ms. Garcia an abusive boss?" "Would you believe it if Ms. Garcia got accused of sexual misconduct?" and "Would you believe it if you were told Ms. Garcia had a problem with alcohol." I believe it is rational to ask why someone would hire a private investigator to carry out a such a line of questioning.

I stand proud of my legislative record and reputation. From my days as a BASTA organizer taking on local government corruption, to my role in the national #metoo dialogue, and my successes as a legislator on public health/ environmental justice issues—I have not been afraid to take on entrenched interests in the pursuit of human dignity and the truth.

I am currently on a voluntary and unpaid leave of absence from the legislature. I look forward to a timely conclusion of the Rules Committee investigation, and I look forward to returning to the legislature to continue my advocacy for the people of my district, for immigrants, and women. I ask my supporters to not be deterred, and know that our fight for human dignity and justice will continue.