SHARON W. HEWITT
State Senator
District 1

SENATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

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Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget
Select Committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood Control
Select Committee on Women and Children

November 28, 2017

Mr. Daryl Purpera
Louisiana Legislative Auditor
PO Box 94397
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9397

Dear Mr. Purpera:

SUBJECT: PERFORMANCE AUDIT REQUEST - SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment has no place in state government or in the private workplace. All people have the right to work in a safe environment, without unwanted sexual advances or pressure to trade sexual favors in exchange for job security or promotions. The recent national news of men in power using their positions to sexually harass female subordinates has given women around the country the courage to speak out. Similarly, in Louisiana, one or more women have accused a key member of Governor Edwards' staff of sexual harassment. Surprisingly, this gentleman was previously accused of harassment while employed by the state in a high-profile position in Governor Blanco's office and serving as chairman of Southern's Board of Supervisors. Given these troubling events, I am requesting that your office perform a performance audit to examine our state's policies and procedures involving sexual harassment, in accordance with the authority granted you in RS 24:513.D(4).

The scope of the performance audit should include:

1. A review of the state's policies and practices relative to examining a job applicant's background, prior to hiring or appointment decisions.

2. The statistics from the Office of Risk Management and/or Civil Service on the number of sexual harassment claims and the amounts paid out over the last 5 years, including a breakdown by agency.

3. An evaluation of Louisiana's sexual harassment policies and procedures, with a comparison to other states and any best practices noted.

4. To the extent possible, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the sexual harassment training mandated in other states and how it compares to similar training in Louisiana.

5. Recommendations to assist the State in strengthening its policies, procedures, and laws related to sexual harassment.

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Thank you for your prompt consideration of this audit request. I am available to discuss this in more detail, should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Sharon W Hewitt

Sharon W. Hewitt
Louisiana State Senator, District 1