

*February 26, 2026*

*Statement from Kara Coffee regarding Texas House employment*

First, I want to thank all of you who have reached out with concern and gratitude, since receiving the notice from House Administration Chairman Charlie Geren. I sincerely appreciate your messages of support.

Yesterday, during a meeting with Chairman Geren and Zak Covar, Speaker Dustin Burrows' Chief of Staff, I was informed that I was being terminated, effective immediately. I inquired as to the reason, and Chairman Geren confirmed that there had been no complaints filed or issues otherwise raised with my performance, but that they simply "wanted to go a different direction."

While this is a surprise and disappointment, it is certainly within the authority of the Speaker to choose who will serve as officers of the House, and I respect his right to that decision.

Serving the Texas House of Representatives for the last five years, as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, and Sergeant-at-Arms, has been the great honor of my career. I am so proud of my staff, of the relationships that we have developed with members and their offices, and of the safety and security we have provided for millions of visitors to the Texas Capitol.

When I was named Sergeant-at-Arms for the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature, with Brianah Wallace as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, much was made about the ground we were breaking and the ceilings we were shattering. While Brianah and I are both honored to have set examples for women aspiring to legislative leadership, we are prouder of the values we were able to establish during our time in the Sergeants' office.

Hard work, stewardship of state resources, and respect for all those who make up the Texas House have become the culture and standard for our sergeants, supervisors and messengers. I am grateful to Speaker Dade Phelan for taking a chance on me in 2021, and for the opportunity to serve again in the 88<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> Legislatures.

I understand that Michael Black will be returning to the Sergeant-at-Arms' office. As a previous Sergeant-at-Arms under Speaker Bonnen, I'm sure it won't take him long to get familiar with the chamber again. I wish Mike all the best, and hope that he returns with enthusiasm and dedication to keeping the Texas House a safe and special place for all.

To all the legislators, staff, and visitors I've had the privilege to work alongside: thank you for your kindness, professionalism, and mutual love of our wonderful Texas Capitol.

To all the staff in the Sergeants' office: I'm sure I speak for Brianah as well when I say that we will both miss you all greatly. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all the early mornings and late nights; for your tireless execution of session procedures, holiday and memorial events; for the mutual commitment to a highly-functioning, respectful workplace; and, last but never least, for the laughter and friendship.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kara Coffee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kara" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Coffee".

Kara Coffee