



## Washington State Auditor's Office

December 8, 2015

I have ended my leave of absence and returned to work in Olympia as State Auditor today. I had previously taken a leave of absence upon the request of the same legislators who are now attempting an impeachment based on the sole fact that I did what they asked me to do – take leave without pay. I believed that taking the unpaid leave struck a fair balance between succumbing to false claims and honoring my commitment to the public. If the Legislature would rather have me continue working as State Auditor as I fight these unfair charges, I'm prepared and willing to do so.

I would note that other publicly-elected officials who have been subject to scrutiny by the federal government have not been treated in this same fashion. U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Ted Stevens are examples of public officials who were not subject to impeachment proceedings while they fought claims by government attorneys. I see no principled reason why the Washington State Legislature should treat my situation differently.

I want to thank Acting State Auditor Jan Jutte for her decades of public service and her leading the office in my absence. I will continue to perform the job the people of Washington have elected me to do and I will not back down in the face of political pressure and a false indictment.

Troy Kelley  
Washington State Auditor