



May 18, 2026

Office of Congressional Conduct
U.S. House of Representatives
425 3rd Street, S.W.
Suite 1110
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Complaint Regarding Representative Seth Moulton, (D-MA-06)

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

This complaint addresses potential violations of the United States House of Representatives Ethics Rules and the United States House of Representatives Code of Official Conduct by Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA-06). We ask that you initiate an investigation into Representative Moulton due to his recent comments where he discussed the possibility of Secretary of War Pete Hegseth being executed. In these unprecedented times of left-wing political violence, we are extremely concerned that Representative Moulton's vile comments could be used by others to justify violence against cabinet officials or other high-ranking members of the Trump Administration.

The Center to Advance Security in America (CASA) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the safety and security of the American people. CASA educates and informs the American people about the actions of their government and its officials that impact their safety; peace and security; democracy, civil rights, and civil liberties; and privacy.

I. Factual Overview

Representative Moulton is a former United States Marine and a United States Representative from Massachusetts' Sixth Congressional District. During an April 29, 2026, interview on CNN's *Erin Burnett OutFront*, Moulton was asked whether Hegseth was guilty of war crimes based on a series of baseless accusations, ranging from claims related to the war in Iran to the U.S. military's lethal boat strikes on drug runners in the Caribbean.¹ Moulton responded in part:

“You know, it's interesting, Erin, another historical analogy: Back in World War II, the Allies tried Nazi submarine captains for doing this exact same thing. And guess what the conclusion was? They got executed. Listen to that, Mr. Secretary.”²

¹ Ashleigh Fields, “Rep. Seth Moulton says Hegseth is ‘guilty’ of war crimes, links him to Nazis tried during World War II,” *The Hill*, April 30, 2026, https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5857356-moulton-hegseth-war-crimes/?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

² Ibid.



II. Ethics Standards

The House Ethics Manual is in place to provide guidelines and practices for all House members, ensuring principles and ethics above self-interest or party affiliation. These rules are in place to ensure appropriate behavior and conduct from the members of the House at all times.

The House Ethics Manual may investigate members for, among other things, “Making statements that impugned the reputation of the House.”³ The House may also discipline a Member for “any misconduct, including conduct or activity which does not directly relate to official duties, when such conduct unfavorably reflects on the institution as a whole.”⁴

If a potential violation is identified, a preliminary investigation should be initiated and if enough credible evidence exists of a potential violation, then a formal investigation should be opened.⁵

III. Analysis

Insinuating that the Secretary of War may be executed at some point in the future rises to the level of misconduct and is behavior that does not show a proper respect for the principles of ethics and morality. The Secretary of War is sixth in the line of presidential succession and exercises command and control, for both operational and administrative purposes, over all DOW-administered service branches. As a member of the U.S. House and a U.S. Marine, Moulton should know better, have a higher regard for his office, his constituents, his colleagues, and the American people than to spew such vile rhetoric.

First, given Moulton’s military training as a Marine, he should understand that comments like this are wholly inappropriate and dangerous. Any threat whatsoever to any federal official should be taken seriously. But Moulton’s discussion about the potential future execution of Secretary Hegseth may encourage others to commit violent acts. By implying that an execution could be warranted from baseless accusation of war crimes, Moulton is empowering those who believe Hegseth has committed these crimes and enflaming the growing trend of political violence. This was an unacceptable comment and Moulton’s intent in making it should be immediately investigated by this committee.

Second, this implication also encourages foreign jurisdictions to arrest and potentially charge the United States Secretary of War with war crimes. This may very well be a treasonous act. Regardless of whether Moulton agrees with Hegseth’s decision-making, the answer is not to suggest that he is guilty of war crimes, justifying international tribunals getting involved to

³ House Committee on Ethics, *House Ethics Manual* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2022) 15.

⁴ Select Committee on Ethics, *Senate Ethics Manual*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2003) 25.

⁵ *Ibid*, 14.



the point of charging and eventually executing him. This, too, is a violation of the Congressional ethics principles described above.

IV. Conclusion

Representative Moulton's comments are a violation of the House Ethics Rules and completely inappropriate and unacceptable conduct for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. For the reasons outlined above, we request that the Office of Congressional Conduct initiate a full and impartial investigation into Representative Moulton's statement regarding a potential future execution of Secretary Hegseth. Please consider all appropriate forms of punishment available.

Upholding the House of Representatives' ethical standards is essential to preserving public trust in our democratic institutions. I trust that this matter will receive the Committee's full attention. We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to the outcome of your investigation.

Sincerely,

James Fitzpatrick
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