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**KEEP MY VOICE RESPONSE TO THE
LT. GOVERNOR'S SUPREME COURT APPEAL REJECTION**

Salt Lake City, UT - January 30, 2018 - We are saddened to hear that Lieutenant Governor Cox, Governor Herbert and the Utah Attorney General's Office would not join the Utah Republican Party in petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to grant cert. SB54 is arguably the most divisive issue in Utah politics. The LG and governor could have brought parties together and healed open wounds by advocating for a final judicial resolution, as the governor has suggested in the past. Instead, old wounds remain which would be best cured by receiving a ruling from the highest court in the land. Cert won't hurt.

The lack of unity between the governor and lieutenant governor on the issue is glaring. Gov. Herbert, who signed SB54 into law, has publicly stated the appeals process should proceed to the Supreme Court if necessary. We agree with his assessment. Now the LG has rejected the Utah Republican Party's petition of cert. Such displays a clear disconnect between their beliefs and an undermining of Utah's top official.

The constitutionality of SB54 has not yet been definitively adjudicated. Chief Justice Timothy Timkovich of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals advocated for a grant of cert, an uncommon move for a sitting judge. In recent weeks Utah's Senior Senator Mike Lee, a well-respected constitutional lawyer, has publicly voiced his support of the case and repeatedly questioned Lt. Gov Cox for his stance on the issue, who failed to respond. His silence was noticed and his rejection is noted.

We recognize the political battles at play - and potential outcomes for future elections like the 2020 governor's race. However, we had hoped personal interests would have been outweighed by shared interests statewide and nationally.

The Lt. Governor's rejection of appeal does not end the judicial process. Due to the overwhelming national support for our case we still anticipate a strong possibility that SCOTUS will hear the case. What a missed opportunity for Utah's lead elections official and governor to show good faith in Utah voters, individual rights and the judicial process.