

The Salt Lake Tribune

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Speaker Schultz,

I appreciate the critical work you do as the leader of Utah's largest lawmaking body. Utahns rely on you to fund their schools, build our roads and balance a more than 25 billion dollar budget. This is possible because of taxpayers. Support from Utahns fuels government. They rely on you and your colleagues to work in their best interests.

Journalists, too, work in the interest of the people. Were it not for reporters, Utahns would not know about [meetinghouses in Provo that are being used as community resource centers](#). They would not see reporting that details how much [Gov. Spencer Cox accepted from U.S. Magnesium](#) days before it received a slap on the wrist for continued air quality violations. They would not have found stories that help them [grieve together](#) and to [celebrate the prospect of an exciting new](#) MLB stadium. All were published across Utah news organizations in the last week. These news organizations reach millions of people.

Whether in journalism or government, we seek to build trust in our institutions. Part of building that trust means publicly acknowledging and correcting the record when we make mistakes.

During a news conference earlier this month, [you said Kera Birekland obtained information pertaining to four transgender commission rulings from The Tribune](#). This is not true. We did not report any rulings by the commission because we did not have this information. It is protected by the law Birkeland co-sponsored ([HB11](#)) in 2022. It is unclear to us how Birkeland has knowledge of the commission's rulings — but it was never reported in The Tribune.

Your misstatement of the facts in this matter has been repeated on social media and elsewhere.

I'm writing to request that you correct the public record on this matter.

When journalists at credible news organizations make a mistake, they correct it. At sltrib.com, a mistake is corrected in the same story where it occurred.

The national climate for both politics and journalism is fraught with distrust and disagreement. A natural tension exists between those in power and those tasked with reporting on their actions, and we endeavor to keep coverage even-handed and factual. We may disagree on the tone and tenor of coverage, and we have been encouraged to “disagree better” in those situations. But truth must remain our North Star, or we risk the same degradation of our institutions that we have witnessed at the national level.

Please kindly share your response. I can be reached via the contact info below. And, of course, if you feel a correction is merited in the future, I hope you will reach out to me.

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