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POLITICS

Transgender woman accuses Gov. J.B. Pritzker's campaign of discrimination in federal lawsuit

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Gov. J.B. Pritzker speaks after being sworn into office on Jan. 14, 2019, in Springfield.(Armando L. Sanchez/Chicago Tribune)

FEEDBACK

A transgender woman and field organizer for [Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker](#) filed a federal lawsuit Friday accusing Pritzker's campaign of firing her "because of her sex and/or gender."

The lawsuit said Todd's work "was not the type of performance that merited serious correction or criticism that would subject her to termination ... unless illegal discrimination were a motivating factor."

Pritzker campaign spokesman Quentin Fulks said "Ms. Todd was fired for cause."

"She had a number of behavioral issues that she was reprimanded for throughout the course of the campaign," Fulks said. He also said Todd's termination was part of a downsizing of the campaign operation after the primary election.

Pritzker pumped more than \$171 million of his own money into his campaign operation, paying for both advertising and a massive field operation that carried him to victory over former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner.

Todd's attorney, Jillian T. Weiss, said she had "extensive conversations" with the Pritzker campaign about settling the lawsuit before it was filed.

"Ms. Todd is very much in favor of Gov. Pritzker and the work that he is doing. She's not blaming him for what happened," Weiss said. "But unfortunately it did happen."

In the lawsuit, Todd asks for damages related to humiliation and job loss and wants the campaign to "carry out policies, practices, programs, and training which provide equal employment opportunities for employees who are transgender, have undergone a gender transition, or are undergoing a gender transition."