

Steven Horsford had an affair with an intern from Senator Reid's office while Horsford was serving as majority leader of the Nevada State Senate. Horsford allegedly used his position of power to take advantage and control the then intern and college student. Horsford's wife even criticized his decision to seek reelection and force the family to endure yet another season of living through the sordid details of his affair.

**BACKUP:**

**In May 2020, Steven Horsford acknowledged he had carried out a long-standing affair with Gabriela Linder; the affair began while she was a 21-year-old interning for Senator Harry Reid and Horsford was serving as Majority Leader of the Nevada State Senate:**

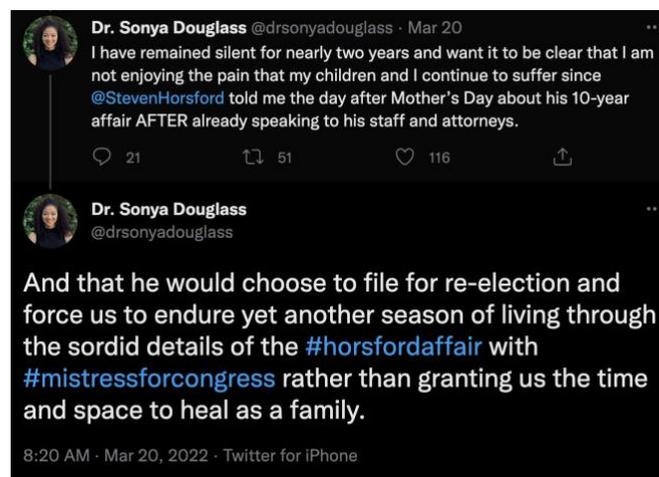
- **In May 2020, Steven Horsford acknowledged he had carried out a long-standing affair with Gabriela Linder.** “Nevada Rep. Steven Horsford on Friday acknowledged that he’d carried on a long-standing affair with a former intern for Sen. Harry Reid who has detailed the relationship in a series of podcast episodes and on Twitter. The woman, Gabriela Linder, told the Review-Journal that she is ‘Love Jones,’ the pseudonym of a person who first began sharing her story through a public podcast, ‘Mistress for Congress,’ in April. The podcast and a related Twitter account have relayed what she claims are various details of the affair, including a purported screenshot of a message exchanged between Horsford, a Democrat, and Linder in 2018.” (Rory Appleton, “Horsford admits to extramarital affair after podcaster discloses relationship,” [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), 5/15/20)
  - **Horsford said it is “true that I had a previous consensual relationship with another adult outside of my marriage, over the course of several years.”** “Shelbie Bostedt, a spokeswoman for Horsford, issued an emailed statement on behalf of the congressman: ‘It is true that I had a previous consensual relationship with another adult outside of my marriage, over the course of several years. I’m deeply sorry to all of those who have been impacted by this very poor decision, most importantly my wife and family.’” (Chris Marquette, “Horsford’s extramarital affair with former Senate intern shows how narrow House rules are,” [Roll Call](#), 5/21/20)
- **Linder was a 21-year-old senior at UNLV when the relationship began, and Horsford was 36 at the time.** “Linder, who was a 21-year-old senior at UNLV when the relationship began, said she now realizes that Horsford, who was 36 at the time and is now 47, used his status as an older, powerful man to take advantage of her and control her.” (Rory Appleton, “Horsford admits to extramarital affair after podcaster discloses relationship,” [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), 5/15/20)
- **Linder said the affair began in 2009, while she was interning for Senator Harry Reid and Horsford was serving as Majority Leader of the Nevada State Senate.** “Linder said the affair began in 2009, when she met Horsford, then the majority leader of the Nevada state Senate, during her time as an intern in former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s Nevada office. She claims that she met Horsford at an event then later arranged to meet him through a friend.” (Rory Appleton, “Horsford admits to extramarital affair after podcaster discloses relationship,” [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), 5/15/20)

**Linder alleged that Horsford used his position of power to take advantage of her:**

- **Linder said she realized Horsford used his status as an older, powerful man to take advantage of her and control her.** “Linder, who was a 21-year-old senior at UNLV when the relationship began, said she now realizes that Horsford, who was 36 at the time and is now 47, used his status as an older, powerful man to take advantage of her and control her. He never explicitly asked her not to tell anyone, she said.” (Rory Appleton, “Horsford admits to extramarital affair after podcaster discloses relationship,” [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), 5/15/20)

**Horsford’s wife criticized him for filing for re-election, arguing the decision will “force” their family “to endure yet another season of living through the sordid details” of the affair:**

- **Horsford is married to Sonya Douglass Horsford.** “The wife of Nevada Rep. Steven Horsford is speaking about her displeasure that the congressman is running for re-election after he has admitted to a long-running affair with a former intern for Sen. Harry Reid. In a series of tweets posted Sunday, Sonya Douglass Horsford, an associate professor of education leadership at Columbia’s Teachers College and spouse of the congressman, said she has stayed silent for nearly two years since her husband told her about the ‘affair AFTER already speaking to his staff and attorneys.’” (Colton Lochhead, “Horsford’s wife ‘will not be silent’ about congressman’s affair, re-election campaign,” [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), 3/22/22)
- **Sonya Douglass criticized Horsford for filing for re-election, forcing her and her children to “endure yet another season of living through the sordid details of the #horsfordaffair with #mistressforcongress rather than granting us the time and space to heal as a family.”**



(Dr. Sonya Douglass, [Twitter](#), 3/20/22)