

Half of Ohio's Republican representatives want Rep. Bob Young to resign

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More than half the Republicans in Ohio's House are calling on Rep. Bob Young to resign following his arrests on charges of domestic violence, assault and violating a restraining order.

"While our prayers are with the family of Rep. Bob Young during this difficult period for them, we have serious concerns about his recent conduct, and it is clear that he is unable to provide effective representation for his constituents," his colleagues wrote in a letter.

Young, a Republican from Green, was first arrested in July after an altercation at his house during a party. According to a criminal affidavit released to the Akron Beacon Journal, Young is accused of striking a female relative with an open hand and rammed a male family member through a piece of glass.

The 42-year-old lawmaker pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Young was arrested again in August on first-degree misdemeanor charges that allege he "recklessly" violated the terms of a protection order by calling a relative multiple times. He pleaded not guilty again but was required to wear a GPS monitor as a condition of his release from jail.

"I think most people would resign before they wore an ankle monitor on the House floor," said Rep. Brian Stewart, R-Ashville. "And yet, here we are."

House lawmakers are set to return to Columbus in mid-September. Young had chaired a committee before his arrests, but House Speaker Jason Stephens, R-Kitts Hill, removed Young from this leadership position earlier this month.

Aaron Mulvey, a spokesman for Stephens, said Wednesday's letter from 34 Republican representatives "echoes the Speaker's call to resign on July 9."

Young hasn't responded directly to requests from media outlets, but his attorney, John Greven, confirmed to the Akron Beacon Journal in July that Young did not plan to resign.

As for what happens next, Stewart wasn't sure anything would happen beyond the letter he and his colleagues wrote.

The House of Representatives can censure its members and even expel them from office. Stewart led the charge to successfully remove former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder before he was convicted on public corruption charges this spring. But Stewart said this situation is different. Householder was accused of using his public office to commit federal crimes. And a majority of Republicans got behind Householder's removal.

"I think a lot of people have different opinions on that, but I think, for me, this is the limit of what we can do," Stewart said. "I think he should resign."