



# Senate

State of Minnesota

February 2, 2011

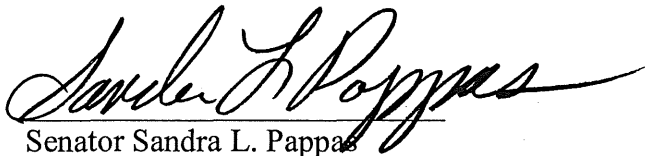
Senator Michelle Fischbach, Chair  
Senate Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct  
226 State Capitol Building  
75 Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN. 55155

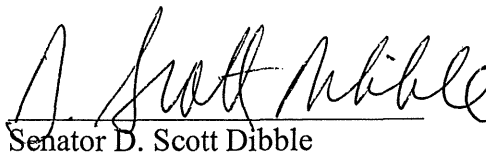
Dear Madam Chair,

Attached to this letter is a complaint regarding the conduct of Senator Scott J. Newman. This complaint is prepared pursuant to the provisions of Senate Temporary Rule 55. By the delivery of this letter and attached complaint, it is hereby filed pursuant to Rule 55. We ask for the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct to investigate these matters and take action in accordance with this Rule.

We look forward to the Subcommittee acting on this complaint.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Sandra L. Pappas

  
Senator D. Scott Dibble

  
Senator Kenneth S. Kelash



**COMPLAINT  
TO THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ETHICAL CONDUCT  
REGARDING THE ACTIONS  
OF  
SENATOR SCOTT J. NEWMAN**

Senators Sandra Pappas, Scott Dibble, and Kenneth Kelash, each being first duly sworn, state and allege under oath the following based upon information and belief:

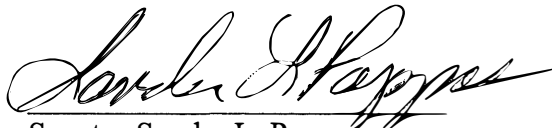
1. On January 20, 2011 Senator Scott J. Newman disseminated from his Senate office an email to the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) detailing that he would not meet with members of their organization due to the fact campaign contributions were made to Senator Newman's opponent during the 2010 election cycle.
2. This email stated that Senator Newman would not see any organizations (individuals) that donated to or supported his election opponent.
3. This email stated that Senator Newman's Legislative Assistant, Kim Kelley, confirmed MNA's position during the 2010 Senate District 18 campaign cycle "[a]fter some careful checking".
4. This email was disseminated on Senate equipment by Senator Newman's Legislative Assistant, Kim Kelley, and appears to be at the direction of the Senator.
5. Senate Temporary Rule 56.1 states that "Members shall adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct".
6. When a Senator equates access based upon who may have made a legal contribution in an election contest or who supported a candidate due to an issue preference, party affiliation or membership in an association, this member conducts him or herself improperly and betrays the public trust.
7. The people of Minnesota expect the members of the Minnesota Senate to adhere to the highest ethical standards, impart fairness, and be open minded to the concerns of all constituencies.
8. Should the citizens of Minnesota see their elected officials segregating their interests due to political affiliation, the integrity of both individual members and the reputation of the Senate is damaged.
9. Senate Temporary Rule 56.3 provides the standard that "Improper conduct includes conduct...that violates accepted norms of Senate behavior, that betrays the public trust, or that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor or disrepute."

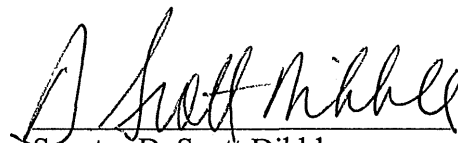
10. It is your complainants' belief that Senator Scott J. Newman violated Senate Temporary Rule 56.


11. Your complainants ask that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct investigate the details of this matter and interview both Senator Newman and his Legislative Assistant concerning who ordered the implementation of this policy.

12. Your complainants ask that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct find that Senator Scott J. Newman has violated Senate Temporary Rule 56 and that it recommends such disciplinary action as the Subcommittee finds appropriate.

Date: February 2, 2011

  
Senator Sandra L. Pappas

  
Senator D. Scott Dibble

  
Senator Kenneth S. Kelash

Subscribed to, and sworn before me, a notary public, on February 2, 2011.

