

May 20, 2011

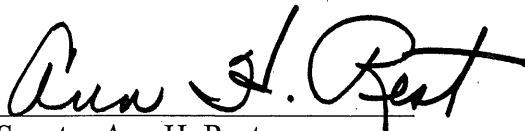
Senator Michelle Fischbach, Chair
Senate Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
226 State Capitol Building
75 Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN. 55155

Dear Madam Chair,

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

I look forward to the Subcommittee acting on this complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann H. Rest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Senator Ann H. Rest

**COMPLAINT
TO THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ETHICAL CONDUCT
REGARDING THE ACTIONS
OF
SENATOR GRETCHEN M. HOFFMAN**

Senator Ann H. Rest, being first duly sworn, state and allege under oath the following based upon information and belief:

1. On May 18, 2011 Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman wrote and published the following public statement from her personal online communication platform:

#Sen Goodwin just called people with mental illness- idiots and imbeciles- while debating HHS bill #offensive #mndfl #mnsrc #mnleg

2. Senator Hoffman published this statement online at <http://twitter.com/#!/Gretchenmh> at approximately 7:30 p.m. on May 18, 2011.

3. Senator Hoffman's public statement falsely described Senator Goodwin's actions and comments on the floor of the Minnesota Senate.

4. Senator Hoffman's statement was published online following Senator Goodwin's comments on the floor of the Senate during debate on the conference committee report of Senate File 760, a health and human services omnibus finance bill, on May 18, 2011.

5. Senator Goodwin's comments on the floor of the Senate during debate on the conference committee report of Senate File 760 included the following:

"This is how far we've come: the way state institutions used to be—they were called 'Institutions for Idiots, Imbeciles, and the Insane.'"

6. Senator Goodwin's comments continued:

"And that's what it said right, right on the hospital—'Idiots, Imbeciles, and the Insane.'"

7. Later during the same speech on the floor of the Senate, Senator Goodwin said:

"We might not have the ten state 'Hospitals for the Idiots and the Insane and the Imbeciles' like we used to, but that's because a lot of people put a lot of hard work and logic into how to develop the absolute basic services that we need in our communities."

8. Senator Hoffman misled the public by writing and publishing a statement which falsely describes Senator Goodwin as personally using derogatory labels for those with mental illness.

9. Senator Hoffman's public statement is damaging and misleading with respect to Senator Goodwin's position on public policy issues relating to mental illness and those with mental illness.

10. Senate Permanent Rule 56.2 provides the standard that "A member shall not publish or distribute written material if the member knows or has reason to know that the material includes any statement that is false or clearly misleading, concerning a public policy issue or concerning the member's or another member's voting record or position on a public policy issue."

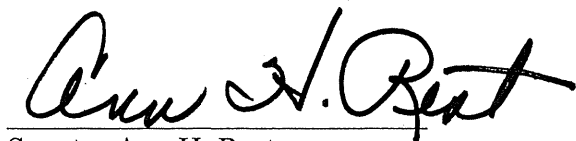
11. Senate Permanent Rule 56.1 states that "Members shall adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct as embodied in the Minnesota Constitution, state law, and these rules."

12. It is your complainant's belief that Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman violated Senate Permanent Rule 56.

13. Your complainant asks that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct investigate the details of this matter. Your complainant respectfully requests that all hearings on this matter be open to the public.

14. Your complainant asks that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct find that Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman violated Senate Permanent Rule 56 and that it recommend such disciplinary action as the Subcommittee finds appropriate.

Date: May 20, 2011



Senator Ann H. Rest

Subscribed to, and sworn before me, a notary public, on May 20, 2011.

