M	moves the adoption of the following resolutions, to be inserted
following the findings of the	Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct regarding the conduct of Senator
Kevin Chandler:	g g at a transfer of Solution

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the State of Minnesota:

- 1. That the conduct of Senator Kevin Chandler in slapping his wife was criminal.
- 2. That Senator Chandler's decision voluntarily to resign his leadership positions in the Senate was an appropriate disciplinary action.
- 3. That Senator Kevin Chandler be required to apologize to the Senate in open session.

•

Senate Ethics Subcommittee Recommended Sanction

From Complainants

Regarding Senator Kevin Chandler

January 9, 1996

not

The facts involved in Senator Chandler's plea to fifth degree criminal assault are being disputed by complainants. We accept the findings prepared by the Senate Counsel.

Senator Chandler has announced his intention to retire from the Minnesota Senate and has promptly and appropriately accepted responsibility for his conduct.

Legislators must demonstrate that they are able to obey the laws that they enact. Whether fair or not, we are held to a higher standard of conduct than others who are not elected officials. There are two offenses which are more subject to discipline than others: crimes of dishonesty and crimes of violence. Both offenses go to the very heart of our ability to be trusted by the citizens of our district and state.

Of all the recent complaints this committee has dealt with, Senator Chandler has acted most appropriately in accepting personal responsibility after the occurrence of his criminal conduct.

We believe that his sincere remorse and subsequent conduct have restored, as much as possible, the reputation of the Senate. However, it is important that we also recommend appropriate discipline in this case because of the precedent which will be established.

The Senate has often repeated our policy of "zero tolerance" for violent behavior. If one of our members engages in such violent conduct - it must be taken seriously.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Senator Chandler be asked to resign his office as a Minnesota Senator effective June 1, 1996.
- 2. If he refuses to resign, then his Senate salary and benefits should be terminated as of that date.
- 3. Senator Chandler should not serve as Chair or Vice-Chair of any committee or commission on which he sits.

This sanction sends an appropriate message to future violent offenders of our body, while recognizing the mitigating factors cited previously. This sanction allows Senator Chandler to complete this legislative session without prejudice to his Senate District.

Peter S. Wattson

Senate Counsel 17 Capitol St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

(612) 296-3812 (612) 296-7747 Fax

January 8, 1996

FAX

To: Senator Kevin Chandler

Fax Number: 854-0706

Number of Pages Sent: 2

COVER PAGE

(Including this page)

Following are draft of findings of fact to be considered by the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct tomorrow morning, Tuesday, January 9, 1996, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 15 of the Capitol.

Senator Neuville will be given an opportunity to address the subcommittee regarding the findings and appropriate disciplinary action.

You may, if you choose to do so, address the subcommittee regarding the proposed findings and appropriate disciplinary action.

After it has heard from Senator Neuville and you, the subcommittee will consider appropriate disciplinary action.

Fax copy to: Senator Thomas M. Neuville 507/645-7233

DRAFT 1/8/96

A Senate resolution relating to ethical conduct; conduct of Senator Kevin Chandler.

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct of the Committee on Rules and Administration, based on clear and convincing evidence, has made the following findings:

- 1. Kevin Chandler was first elected to the Minnesota Senate in 1992, representing District 55.
- 2. On the night of July 26, 1995, during the interim between the 1995 and 1996 sessions of the Legislature, Senator Chandler became involved in an argument with his estranged wife in the parking lot of O'Gara's Bar, 164 North Snelling Avenue, St. Paul, shortly after 11 p.m..
- 3. During the course of the argument, Senator Chandler slapped his wife in the face with his open hand.
- 4. On August 8, 1995, Senator Chandler requested that he be charged with assault in the fifth degree.
- 5. On August 11, 1995, before the Honorable Kathleen Gearin, Judge of Ramsey County District Court, Senator Chandler pleaded guilty to a violation of Minn. Stat. § 609.224, assault in the fifth degree, a misdemeanor.
- 6. On September 21, 1995, Judge Gearin, acting under Minn. Stat. § 609.135, stayed imposition of sentence for one year, during which time Senator Chandler will be on probation on the following conditions:
 - a. That he pay court costs in the amount of \$210.
 - b. That he follow all the recommendations of a probation officer.
 - c. That he remain law-abiding.
- 7. On October 3, 1995, Senator Chandler resigned his positions as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Chair of the Environmental Protection Subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Chair of the Employment Subcommittee of the Committee on Jobs, Energy and Community Development, and his position as Majority Whip.
- 8. Senator Chandler has complied with all conditions imposed by the court, including a sixweek domestic abuse education program.
- 9. On December 27, 1995, Senator Chandler announced that he would not be a candidate for reelection in 1996.
- 10. On January 3, 1996, Senator Chandler submitted to the chair of the Subcommittee his written apology to the Senate.

KEVIN M. CHANDLER

Senator 55th District Minnesota State Senate Room 111 State Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 296-9307

Senate
State of Minnesota

January 3, 1996

Senator Ember Reichgott-Junge Chair Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct Minnesota State Senate St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Madam Chair:

Given that my attendance is not required today, I respectfully decline your invitation to appear before the Subcommittee.

I wish to again sincerely apologize to my Senate colleagues and ask only that the Committee consider how painful this very personal mistake has been, is, and will always be, for my loved ones and me.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin M. Chandler

Kenny Chandlen

State Senator



व्यक्तिकार्वे

ROGER D. MOE MAJORITY LEADER

Senator 2nd District Route #3, Box 86A Erskine, Minnesota 56535 Phone: (218) 574-2216

Room 208, State Capitol 75 Constitution Avenue St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 Phone: (612) 296-2577



Senate

State of Minnesota

December 12, 1995

Senator Ember Reichgott Junge, Chair Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct 205 Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155

Subj: Discipline of Senator Kevin Chandler

Dear Senator Reichgott Junge:

Last July, Senator Kevin Chandler pleaded guilty in Ramsey County District Court to fifth degree assault, a misdemeanor, for slapping his wife. He paid a fine of \$210, plus court costs, completed a six-week education program, and was placed on one-year probation.

As a result of that conviction, on October 3, 1995, Senator Chandler resigned his positions as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Chair of the Environmental Protection Subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Chair of the Employment Subcommittee of the Committee on Jobs, Energy and Community Development, and his position as a Majority Whip.

Senate Rule 75 authorizes your Subcommittee to "serve in an advisory capacity to a member or employee upon written request and . . . issue recommendations to the member or employee."

As Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, I request that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct determine what disciplinary action, if any, is appropriate for the Senate to take against Senator Chandler, considering the crime of which he has been convicted, the punishment imposed by the District Court, and the action he has already taken to resign his leadership positions.

Sincerely,

Roger DMoe

Senate Majority Leader

cc: Senator Kevin Chandler

EMBER REICHGOTT JUNGE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Senator 46th District Room 205 State Capitol 75 Constitution Avenue St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 Phone: 296-2889 7701 48th Avenue North New Hope, Minnesota 55428



Senate

State of Minnesota

January 2, 1996

Senator Kevin Chandler Room 111 State Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Sen. Chandler:

On December 12, 1995, you were given notice of the request for disciplinary action against you filed by Senator Moe. On December 21, you were given notice of the complaint against you filed by Senator Dean Johnson and Senator Neuville.

A hearing on those matters is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 1996, in Room 112 of the Capitol, beginning at 3:00 p.m..

Enclosed are copies of Senate Rule 75, under which the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct is now operating, the rules of procedure adopted by the Subcommittee in 1994, and Minn. Stat. § 3.153, setting forth the subpoena power of the Subcommittee.

You may appear at the hearing to present evidence and argument on your behalf. All testimony will be taken under oath. You may present witnesses whose testimony is competent, relevant, and material to the subject of the hearing. For any witnesses you intend to call, please inform the Subcommittee at least 24 hours before the hearing of the witness' name, address, and phone number, and a brief summary of the testimony you expect the witness to give.

You may appear with counsel, and may cross-examine any witnesses that may testify against you.

The hearing will be recorded on magnetic tape, and Subcommittee will also have a court reporter present to make a stenographic record. You may request a copy of the tape or a transcript at your expense.

The hearing will be a public proceeding.

If you have any questions about how the Subcommittee intends to proceed, please contact one of us or Senate Counsel.

Sincerely,

Ember Reichgot Junge, Chair

Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

Dennis R. Frederickson Ranking Member

COMMITTEES: Vice Chair, Ethics & Campaign Reform • Vice Chair, Rules & Administration • Taxes & Tax Laws • Education • Education Funding Division • Judiciary • Chair, Special Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct • Legislative Audit Commission • Legislative Commission on Planning & Fiscal Policy • Legislative Coordinating Commission

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Questions Regarding: Senator Kevin Chandler

- 1. What are the facts surrounding the assault?
- 2. Was Senator Chandler's plea fair?
 - A) What was his sentence?
 - B) Could Chandler have been charged with a more serious assault charge?
- 3. Did Chandler promptly accept responsibility?
- 4. To what extent should Chandler's decision to retire mitigate his discipline?
- 5. To what extent does committing a crime of violence bring the senate into disrepute or betray the public trust?

L

Senate Counsel & Research

Senate
State of Minnesota

G-17 STATE CAPITOL ST. PAUL, MN 55155 (612) 296-4791 FAX (612) 296-7747

Jo Anne Zoff Sellner Director December 21, 1995

COUNSEL

PETER S. WATTSON
JOHN C. FULLER
BONNIE L. BEREZOVSKY
DANIEL P. MCGOWAN
KATHLEEN E. PONTIUS
GEORGE M. MCCORMICK
HANS I. E. BJORNSON
KATHERINE T. CAVANOR
CHRISTOPHER B. STANG
KENNETH P. BACKHUS
MELISSA JOHNSON
TOMAS L. STAFFORD
JOAN E. WHITE

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSTS

WILLIAM RIEMERMAN
DAVID GIEL
MARK L. FERMANICH
RANDAL S. HOVE
GREGORY C. KNOPFF
PATRICK J. MCCORMACK
DANIEL L. MUELLER
JACK PAULSON
CHRIS L. TURNER
AMY M. VENNEWITZ
MAJA WEIDMANN

To:

Senator Ember Reichgott Junge

Senator Dennis R. Frederickson

Senator Steven G. Novak Senator Roy W. Terwilliger Judge Douglas K. Amdahl Judge Robert J. Sheran

From:

Peter S. Wattson, Senate Counsel

296-3812

Subj:

Complaint Against Senator Chandler

Enclosed is a complaint filed by Senators Dean Elton Johnson and Thomas M. Neuville against Senator Chandler relating to the incident on which Senator Moe has already asked the Subcommittee for advice.

PSW:mjr Enclosure

cc: Senator Kevin M. Chandler



Senator Ember Reichgott Junge, Chair Senate Special Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct 205 State Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Affiants Senators Dean Elton Johnson and Thomas M. Neuville, each first being duly sworn under oath, state and allege on information and belief as follows:

- 1. Affiant Dean Elton Johnson is a duly elected member of the Minnesota State Senate from District 15.
- 2. Affiant Thomas M. Neuville is a duly elected member of the Minnesota State Senate from District 25.
- 3. State Senator Kevin Chandler was observed in a heated discussion with his then-estranged wife, Kathleen Chandler, in the parking lot of O'Gara's Bar and Grill, St. Paul, at about 11 p.m. on the night of July 26, 1995.
- 4. Chandler has admitted to striking his wife in the head as she held their three-year-old daughter in her arms.
- 5. According to the police report, Kathleen Chandler had blood on the edges of her mouth from these blows.
- 6. Kevin Chandler has pled guilty to a charge of fifth degree assault, a misdemeanor.
- 7. As such, it is your affiants' belief that Senator Chandler has breached his ethical duty to the Minnesota State Senate and the people of Minnesota by committing a violent crime, thereby violating accepted norms of Senate behavior, betraying the public trust, and bringing the Senate into dishonor or disrepute.



8. Affiants hereby formally complain of the conduct of Senator Kevin Chandler in this matter and respectfully request the Minnesota State Senate Special Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct to investigate this matter pursuant to Rule 75 of the Permanent Rules of the Minnesota State Senate and to recommend to the Senate appropriate discipline and sanctions.

Further your affiants sayeth not.

Date: December 20, 1995

Senator Dean Elton Johnson

Senator Thomas M. Neuville

Subscribed and sworn to by Senator Dean Elton Johnson and Senator Thomas M. Neuville this 20th day of December, 1995, before 6000, Senator,

<u>34th</u> District, Minnesota, ex officio notary public. My term expires January 1, 1997.

Ex officio Notary Public

1	STATE OF MINNESOIR
2	COUNTY OF RAMSEY SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
3	
4	STATE OF MINNESOTA,
5	Plaintiff, <u>MISDEMEANOR GUILTY PLEA</u>
6	vs. File No. T5-95-38291
7	KEVIN MAURICE CHANDLER,
8	Defendant.
9	
10	The above-entitled matter came on for
11	hearing before the Honorable Kathleen Gearin,
12	Judge of the District Court, 131A Ramsey
13	County Courthouse, St. Paul, Minnesota,
14	on the 11th day of August, 1995.
15	APPEARANCES:
16	Virginia Palmer, Assistant St. Paul City
17	Attorney, appeared on behalf of the plaintiff,
18	the State of Minnesota.
19	Mark Gehan, Attorney at Law, appeared on
20	behalf of the defendant, who was also present
21	in court.
22	* * *
23	
24	
25	



1	PROCEEDINGS
2	THE CLERK: Page 24, line 3, Kevin
3	Maurice Chandler.
4	MR. GEHAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
5	THE COURT: Good afternoon, Mr. Gehan.
6	MR. GEHAN: Mr. Chandler is present
7	before the Court.
8	THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Palmer, assistant
9	city attorney, is here representing the State
10	of Minnesota. The matter is here on charges
11	of assault in the fifth degree, disorderly
12	conduct, two charges of disorderly conduct.
13	At this point, I guess the formal complaint
14	has been issued also. Mr. Gehan, what is your
15	client going to do?
16	MR. GEHAN: Mr. Chandler is going to
17	enter a plea of guilty to the assault in the
18	fifth degree. It is my understanding at the
19	time of sentencing the city will dismiss the
20	DOC charges.
21	MS. PALMER: That is correct, Your Honor.
22	THE COURT: Mr. Chandler, have you had
23	enough time to discuss this with your
2 4	attorney?
25	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

1	THE COURT: And have you also had a
2	chance to go over with him the formal
3	complaint and what your rights are?
4	THE DEFENDANT: I have, Your Honor.
5	THE COURT: Mr. Chandler, is it your
6	intent today to enter a plea of guilty to the
7	charge of assault in the fifth degree? That
8	is actually the correct legal title for it,
9	assault in the fifth degree. In parenthesis
10	they say, "domestic assault".
11	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
12	THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Gehan, do you
13	want to offer the petition?
14	MR. GEHAN: We don't have a petition,
15	Your Honor. Would the Court prefer one?
16	THE COURT: Well, I think we have to
17	because it is an enhancible offense.
18	MR. GEHAN: Right.
19	THE COURT: I am going to have you just
20	go through a petition briefly. As soon as you
21	get it done, you can bring it back up and then
22	we will take the rest of the plea.
23	MR. GEHAN: All right, Your Honor.
24	(Discussion off the record.)
25	THE COURT: Make sure you go through

- 1 your petition.
- MR. GEHAN: I'm sorry about that,
- 3 Your Honor.
- 4 THE COURT: That's all right.
- 5 (Recess taken.)
- THE CLERK: Page 24, line 3. Recalling
- 7 Kevin Chandler.
- 8 THE COURT: Mr. Chandler is back.
- 9 EXAMINATION BY THE COURT:
- 10 Q. Mr. Chandler, did you have enough time to go
- 11 through this petition with Mr. Gehan?
- 12 A. Yes, Your Honor.
- 13 Q. You are a lawyer too, aren't you?
- 14 A. Yes, Your Honor.
- 15 Q. I have to make a record regarding the rights.
- And that is your signature on the bottom
- 17 here?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. All right. Do you understand that what this
- 20 basically means is it is enhancible? I don't
- think I have to explain enhancible to you.
- 22 A. Yes, Your Honor, I understand.
- 23 Q. You know what is going on?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. At this point, then, I guess we have to go

- 1 through a factual basis. Did this incident
- 2 happen in St. Paul on July 26, 1995?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. The address says, "164 North Snelling Avenue."
- 5 Is that where O'Gara's bar is?
- 6 A. I don't know, Your Honor. I assume so. That
- 7 is where it was.
- 8 THE COURT: Okay. I do read the
- 9 newspaper, so I am aware of, at least, what
- the allegations have been. Mr. Gehan, do you
- want to put on further factual basis, or Ms. Palmer
- 12 Which one of you wants to put a further
- 13 factual basis on the record?
- MS. PALMER: Your Honor, the police
- reports indicate that on July 26, 1995,
- the police were sent to O'Gara's bar parking
- 17 lot in the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County,
- 18 Minnesota. They arrived and spoke to a number
- of witnesses who say they had observed a
- 20 couple involved in an argument. One man heard
- a female screaming. He observed a man hitting,
- 22 what appeared to be hitting, her. That man
- 23 was identified as Kevin Maurice Chandler,
- the defendant here today. Mr. Chandler
- acknowledges slapping his wife in the parking

- 1 lot.
- 2 EXAMINATION BY THE COURT:
- 3 Q. Mr. Chandler, did you at some point in that
- 4 parking lot slap your wife?
- 5 A. Yes, Your Honor.
- 6 THE COURT: All right. At this point,
- 7 then, I am going to accept your plea of
- guilty. It is our practice here, obviously
- 9 you don't want it any different and I'm not
- 10 going to do it any different from any other
- 11 defendant who pleads guilty to assault in the
- fifth degree as a domestic, to order a
- presentence investigation report. I will do
- 14 so. We will have the sentencing -- did you
- 15 qet a date?
- MR. GEHAN: We have a date, Your Honor,
- of September 21 before you at 9 o'clock a.m.
- THE COURT: Okay. You are ordered to
- 19 cooperate with probation in preparing that
- 20 report. I do note it looks like there is
- 21 already a victim impact statement in the file,
- 22 but I think probation has some kind of an
- obligation to also attempt to contact the
- 24 victim. With that, then, we will continue it
- 25 to sentencing. That is all.

1	MR. GEHAN: Should we make contact
2	directly with probation, Your Honor?
3	THE COURT: She is right there. That is
4	it. She will give you the information you
5	need.
6	(Whereupon, this matter was further
7	continued for presentence investigation report
8	and sentencing.)
9	* * *
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1	REPORTER 5 CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, Danna L. Frazier, Official Court
4	Reporter in and for the County of Ramsey,
5	State of Minnesota, hereby certify that the
6	preceding transcript constitutes a true and
7	complete transcription of my stenographic
8	notes taken at the time and place herein
9	before set forth.
1 0	
11	Dated: December 18, 1995
12	
13	
14	Danna L. Frazier
15	Official Court Reporter Ramsey County District Court
16	1550 Ramsey County Courthouse St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
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609.224 Assault in the fifth degree.

Subdivision 1. Misdemeanor. Whoever does any of the following commits an assault and is guilty of a misdemeanor:

- (1) commits an act with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death; or
- (2) intentionally inflicts or attempts to inflict bodily harm upon another.
- Subd. 2. Gross misdemeanor. (a) Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision 1 against the same victim during the time period between a previous conviction under this section, sections 609.221 to 609.2231, 609.342 to 609.345, or 609.713, or any similar law of another state, and the end of the five years following discharge from sentence for that conviction, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.
- (b) Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision 1 within two years of a previous conviction under this section or sections 609.221 to 609.2231 or 609.713 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.
- (c) A caregiver, as defined in section 609.232, who is an individual and who violates the provisions of subdivision 1 against a vulnerable adult, as defined in section 609.232, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.
- Subd. 3. Firearms. (a) When a person is convicted of a violation of this section or section 609.221, 609.222, or 609.223, the court shall determine and make written findings on the record as to whether:
 - (1) the defendant owns or possesses a firearm; and
- (2) the firearm was used in any way during the commission of the assault.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in section 609.2242, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), a person is not entitled to possess a pistol if the person has been convicted after August 1, 1992, of assault in the fifth degree if the offense was committed within three years of a previous conviction under sections 609.221 to 609.224, unless three years have elapsed from the date of conviction and, during that time, the person has not been convicted of any other violation of section 609.224. Property rights may not be abated but access may be restricted by the courts. A person who possesses a pistol in violation of this paragraph is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
- Subd. 4. Felony. (a) Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision 1 against the same victim during the time period between the first of two or more previous convictions under this section or sections 609.221 to 609.2231, 609.342 to 609.345, or 609.713, and the end of the five years following discharge from sentence for that conviction is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or payment of a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.
- (b) Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision 1 within three years of the first of two or more previous convictions under this section or sections 609.221 to 609.2231 or 609.713 is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

HIST: 1979 c 258 s 7; 1983 c 169 s 2; 1985 c 159 s 1; 1987 c 329 s 7; 1992 c 537 s 1,2; 1992 c 571 art 6 s 13; 1993 c 326 art 2 s 11,12; 1Sp1993 c 5 s 2,3; 1994 c 636 art 3 s 10; 1995 c 229 art 2 s 1; 1995 c 259 art 3 s 13,14

FILED

STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOV 8 1995

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

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COUNTY OF RAMSEY

RAMSEY DISTRICT COURT

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

File No. T5-95-38291

vs.

ORDER STAYING IMPOSITION
OF SENTENCE

Kevin Maurice Chandler,

Defendant.

The above-entitled matter came on for sentencing on the 21st day of September, 1995, before the Hon. Kathleen Gearin, Judge of District Court. Virginia Palmer, Assistant St. Paul City Attorney, appeared on behalf of the State of Minnesota. Mark Gehan, Jr., Attorney at Law, appeared with and on behalf of the Defendant.

The Defendant, having previously entered a plea of guilty to the offense of Assault in the Fifth Degree on 8-14-95, the matter was set for presentence investigation report and sentencing.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the Defendant is adjudged to be guilty of the crime of Assault in the Fifth Degree as charged and imposition of sentence is hereby stayed pursuant to M.S. 609.135 for a period not to exceed one year, during which time the Defendant shall be on probation on the following conditions:

- That Defendant pay court costs in the amount of a) \$210.
- That Defendant follow all the recommendations of his probation officer regarding domestic abuse b) counseling or other individual counseling.
- That Defendant remain law-abiding. c)

BY THE COURT:

Kathleen Gearin

Judge of District Court

KEVIN M. CHANDLER

Senator 55th District Minnesota State Senate Room 111 State Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 296-9307

Senate

State of Minnesota

October 3, 1995

Majority Leader Roger Moe Minnesota State Senate State Capitol St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Majority Leader Moe:

It has been a tremendous honor to serve in the Minnesota State Senate for the past three years. Indeed, I have come to respect this Body and my hard-working colleagues on both sides of the aisle, even more than when I first arrived.

But from the start, I have also been frustrated that an increasingly-cynical electorate has lost faith in their elected officials, and do not recognize the commitment, sacrifice and dedication of the fine men and women who serve them. Sadly, I know my recent mistakes have only contributed to that cynicism.

As you know, immediately following my very public and personal crisis, I extended an offer that I resign my Senate leadership positions. After further soul-searching, and now in light of recent unfortunate events involving another of my colleagues, it has become apparent to me that such action is absolutely necessary.

It's important to me that the people I represent understand that I take my responsibilities here very seriously, and know that I realize that there are ramifications that come from my mistakes. Consequently, I hereby resign my leadership positions in the Senate.

I appreciate your friendship and support during this difficult time.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Kevin M. Chandler State Senator

