



Materials relating to the Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct investigation of the conduct of Senator Gretchen Hoffman, 2011.

1. Complaint May 20, 2011)
2. Amended Complaint (May 27, 2011)
3. Agenda, Senate Subcommittee on Ethics (June 13, 2011)
4. Minutes, Senate Subcommittee on Ethics (June 13, 2011)
5. Letter to Sen. Michelle Fischbach, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct, from Frederick Knaak, "RE: The Matter of Senator Gretchen Hoffman Probable Cause Hearing." (June 13, 2011)
6. Memo to Sen. Michelle Fischbach, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct, from Thomas Bottern, Senate Counsel, "Procedures Applicable to a Probable Cause Hearing Held by the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct." (May 20, 2011)
7. "A Resolution Relating to Ethical Conduct; Conduct of Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman," Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct. (June 13, 2011)
8. Letter of apology from Senator Gretchen Hoffman to Representative Barb Goodwin (date?)
9. Letter from Michelle Fischbach, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct to Sen. Ann Rest (June 21, 2011)

Materials compiled by the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library primarily from committee records from the Senate Rules & Administration, Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct.

May 20, 2011

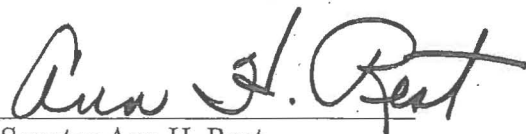
Senator Michelle Fischbach, Chair
Senate Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
226 State Capitol Building
75 Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN. 55155

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 dark ink, appearing to read "Ann H. Rest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" being the most prominent.

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."

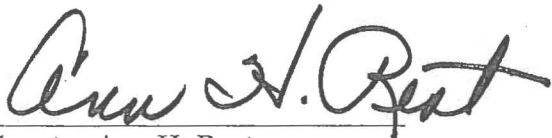
11. Senate Permanent Rule 56.1 states that "Members shall adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct as embodied in the Minnesota Constitution, state law, and these rules."

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.

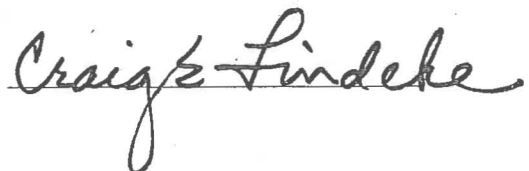
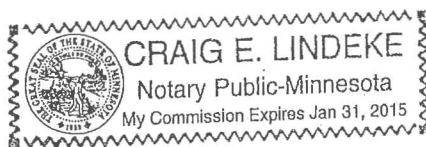
14. Your complainant asks that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct find that Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman violated Senate Permanent Rule 56 and that it recommend such disciplinary action as the Subcommittee finds appropriate.

Date: May 20, 2011



Senator Ann H. Rest

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





Gretchen Hoffman

[@Gretchenmh](#) [view full profile](#) →

Minnesota

Christian Conservative Republican, married with 3 boys, MN State

Senate Candidate <http://www.gretchenhoffman.com>

- [567Tweets](#)
- [493Following](#)
- [608Followers](#)
- [29Listed](#)

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»



[Gretchenmh](#) Gretchen Hoffman

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

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[Gretchenmh](#) Gretchen Hoffman

Increasing the HHS budget by \$842,036,000 = draconian cuts by [#mndfl](#)
senators. [#dothemath](#) [#getanewplaybook](#)

15 hours ago [Favorite](#) [Retweet](#) [Reply](#)

Michelle L. Fischbach

Senator District 14
226 State Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
Office phone: (651) 296-2084



Senate

State of Minnesota

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
303 Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

May 31, 2011

Senator Kathy Sheran
127 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator John M. Harrington
17 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senators Harrington, Ingebrigtsen, and Sheran:

I have attached a copy of the first amended complaint dated May 27, 2011, submitted to the Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct regarding Senator Gretchen Hoffman. I have also included a copy of the letter that Senator Rest sent with the complaint.

As I wrote to you previously, I intend to hold a probable cause hearing regarding this complaint before Sunday, June 19, 2011. The receipt of the first amended complaint and the change in subcommittee membership made by the Senate Rules Committee today will not alter this schedule.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Brooke Listug in my office at 296-7136.

Sincerely,


Michelle Fischbach, Chair
Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

Enclosures



May 27, 2011

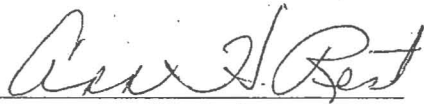
Senator Michelle Fischbach, Chair
Senate Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
226 State Capitol Building
75 Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN. 55155

Dear Madam Chair,

Attached to this letter is an amended complaint regarding the conduct of Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman. The attached amended complaint includes revisions to the original complaint filed on May 20, 2011. The amended complaint includes the content of the original complaint, reordered and renumbered, with one additional article—number 7.

It is not my intent to withdraw my original complaint, but that the attached amended complaint should substitute for the original complaint going forward. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information or materials to the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann H. Rest", written in dark ink.

Senator Ann H. Rest

1st AMENDED COMPLAINT
**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 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.

4. 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.'"

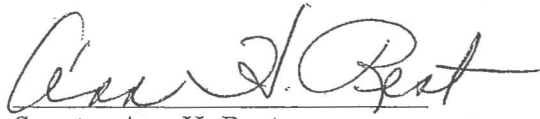
5. Senator Goodwin's comments continued:

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

6. 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."

Date: May 27, 2011



Senator Ann H. Rest

Subscribed to, and sworn before me, a notary public, on May 27, 2011.



Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

Chair: Senator Michelle Fischbach

MEETING: Monday, June 13, 2011

1:30 PM

Room 107 – Capitol

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Discussion of procedure for probable cause hearing
- III. Presentation of complaint by Senator Rest
- IV. Response to complaint from Senator Hoffman's counsel
- V. Subcommittee deliberation and consideration of complaint under Senate Rule 55.4
- VI. Adjournment

Rules and Administration Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

Monday, June 13, 2011

1:30 PM, Room 107, Capitol

Minutes

Present: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, Chair, Senator John M. Harrington,
Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Senator Kathy Sheran

Absent: No Members Absent

Senator Michelle L. Fischbach called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Senator Fischbach introduced new member, Senator Harrington.

Complaint by Senator Rest regarding Senator Hoffman

Senator Fischbach swore in the witnesses, Senator Rest and Senator Hoffman.

Senator Rest presented her complaint.

Senator Rest responded to questions from the committee.

Senator Hoffman/Knaak had no questions for Senator Rest.

Senator Hoffman's Counsel (Knaak) presented their response.

Mr. Knaak responded to questions from the committee.

Senator Rest had no questions for Mr. Knaak.

Senator Rest presented her rebuttal.

Senator Rest responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Knaak presented their rebuttal.

Mr. Knaak responded to questions from the committee.

The committee began deliberation of their decision.

Senator Sheran moved that the committee find probable cause.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Senator Sheran moved the committee recess to allow Senate Counsel to draft a Resolution.

MOTION PREVAILED

The committee recessed at 3:40 p.m.

The committee reconvened at 4:25 p.m.

The Resolution was distributed.

The committee continued deliberation.

Senator Ingebrigtsen moved to delete item "1. Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman shall make a written apology to the Senate." and "3. Senator Hoffman shall make an apology through the Twitter online communication service." and in item number 4. delete "three apologies" and insert apology".

Senator Fischbach moved an amendment to the amendment to add at the end of item number 2, "in a form submitted to and accepted by the Subcommittee on Ethical conduct" and in item number 4, after apology, add "as accepted by the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct".

MOTION FAILED

Senator Sheran moved to delete item number 1, incorporate Fischbach's previous amendment to the amendment, and amend item number 3 to "Senator Hoffman shall retract her original tweet and link to her written apology to Senator Goodwin through the Twitter online communication."

MOTION FAILED

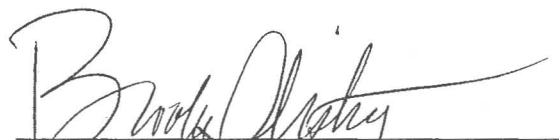
Senator Sheran moved to delete item number 1, add an item to read "Senator Hoffman shall delete her original tweet regarding Senator Goodwin's comments regarding S.F. 760.", amend item number 3 to "Senator Hoffman shall tweet link to the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct's Resolution on this matter and a description of it.", and item number 4 to read "Upon compliance by Senator Hoffman with the requirements of this resolution, the chair of the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct shall dismiss the complaints."

MOTION PREVAILED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, Chair



Brooke Listug, Legislative Assistant

KNAAK & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Attorneys at Law

Frederic W. Knaak*
Donald W. Kohler

**Also Licensed in
Wisconsin & Colorado*

4501 Allendale Drive
St. Paul, MN 55127
Telephone: (651) 490-9078
Facsimile: (651) 490-1580

Of Counsel
Thomas M. Dailey, P.A.
Matthew E. Ludt
Joseph B. Marshall

June 13, 2011

Senator Michelle L. Fischbach
Chair, Minnesota Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
226 State Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

RE: The Matter of Senator Gretchen Hoffman
Probable Cause Hearing.

Dear Senator Fischbach:

I have been retained to assist and represent, as necessary, your colleague, Senator Gretchen Hoffman, in the complaint brought against her by Senator Ann Rest.

Senator Rest has complained that, in her view, Senator Hoffman violated the provisions of Senate Rule 56.2 by publishing or distributing material "the member knows or has reason to know" is "false or clearly misleading, concerning a public policy issue or concerning the member's voting record or position on a public policy issue."

The complaint is centered around remarks made by Senator Barb Goodwin on the floor of the Senate on the evening of May 18, 2011, and Senator Hoffman's response to those remarks.

In particular, it is undisputed that, in opposing a bill being considered by 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 service that we need in our communities."

Senator Hoffman, whose background is as a nurse who trained in the State mental hospital system, took considerable offense to those comments. She did two things: first, she asked to speak on the floor to address the remarks and was placed "in the queue". Secondly, she tweeted the following:

"Sen Goodwin just called people with mental illness – idiots and imbeciles- while debating HHS bill ..."

Shortly after Senator Goodwin's remarks, debate was closed on the bill and it was voted on. Senator Hoffman's remarks, and those of others, "in the queue", were effectively cut off by that decision and the matter effectively unaddressed on the floor.

After Senator Rest made her first complaint, Senator Hoffman restated her position on the matter when she said:

"On Wednesday, May 18, Senator Barb Goodwin referred to people with mental illness as idiots and imbeciles on the Minnesota Senate floor. As a registered nurse who has worked with patients with mental illness for many years I was offended by her remarks. I shared Senator Goodwin's remarks with my Twitter followers."

This subsequent statement of opinion by Senator Hoffman has now also been added to Senator Rest's original complaint.

Respectfully, I would argue that there is no probable cause to pursue this matter further. The proper forum for issues arising during a debate on the floor of the Senate of this sort is found in Rule 123 of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure. That Rule would require an objection to be made by the offended member, in this case, Senator Hoffman, to language by another member, in this case, Senator Goodwin.

Opportunity is given, under the Rule, for explanation by Senator Goodwin if, in fact, she disagrees with the objection and wants to provide, as in this case, an argument for context. The Senate, under that Rule, can then decide whether to pursue the issue of the objectionable language any further.

That this didn't happen has to do with what occurred on the floor that evening when debate on the bill in question ended. That left the matter of the comments unresolved.

What did not end was the offense taken by Senator Hoffman and the apparent insistence by Senator Goodwin that her comments were misunderstood and were being taken out of context.

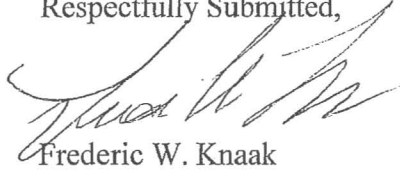
Disagreements of this sort are not new. Nor are they unethical. It should be, however, of concern to the Senate when this kind of disagreement results in a quick ethics complaint alleging improper motive on the part of a member.

Senator Hoffman has stated her sincere belief and position that Senator Goodwin's comments were inherently offensive. Senator Goodwin has taken the clear position that her comments should not have been construed the way they were by Senator Hoffman.

Invocation of ethical rules should be used in instances where a serious issue of misconduct has occurred, NOT a disagreement about what was said on the floor of the Senate. Both parties in this case have had ample opportunity to state their respective positions. Nothing more, in a deliberative body like the Minnesota Senate, is required or, frankly, appropriate.

We would ask, therefore, that this matter be dismissed by the Subcommittee.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frederic W. Knaak', written in a cursive style.

Frederic W. Knaak

Attorney for Senator Gretchen Hoffman

**Senate Counsel, Research,
and Fiscal Analysis**

G-17 STATE CAPITOL
75 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1606
(651) 296-4791
FAX (651) 296-7747
JO ANNE M. ZOFF
DIRECTOR

Senate

State of Minnesota

TO: Senator Michelle Fischbach

FROM: Thomas S. Bottern, Senate Counsel (651/296-3810) *TSB*

DATE: May 20, 2011

RE: Procedures Applicable to a Probable Cause Hearing Held by the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

Senator Rest has filed a complaint with the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct under Senate Rule 55.3. The complaint was received by your office on May 20. You have requested a brief description of the procedures applicable to the hearing required under Senate Rule 55.4.

Under Senate Rule 55.4, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct is charged with holding a hearing within 30 days after receiving a complaint, and either:

- (1) making a finding of no probable cause;
- (2) voting to defer action until a certain time; or
- (3) proceeding with its investigation.

The purpose for a probable cause hearing is to determine whether, if the facts presented in the complaint are presumed to be true, the conduct described in the complaint is subject to discipline under Senate Rules. The subcommittee should also consider the probable value of evidence that will be provided to support or deny the complaint. If the subcommittee determines that there is no probable cause, the complaint must be dismissed. If the subcommittee makes a finding of probable cause, the subcommittee may determine how to proceed further regarding the complaint.

Each of the parties appearing at the proceeding has the right to appear with counsel. Senator Rest (or her attorney) must first present the complaint. Senator Hoffman (or her attorney) must then be given an opportunity to respond to the complaint. The probable cause hearing is not a judicial proceeding, and the subcommittee is not bound by the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.



At the hearing, each individual providing testimony to the committee should be sworn in so that all testimony is provided under oath. After the subcommittee has begun its work to determine whether there is probable cause, any member of the subcommittee may at any time move to conduct the preliminary inquiry in executive session, which may be ordered by a vote of three of the members of the subcommittee. The executive session is not subject to the open meeting requirements of Rules 12.1 to 12.3. The executive session must be limited to the discussion of matters relating to probable cause. After a finding of probable cause, all further proceedings by the subcommittee must be open to the public.

Senator Rest must be provided an opportunity to present the complaint and then may in turn be questioned by members of the subcommittee and, following that, Senator Hoffman or her counsel.

After the complainants have finished their presentation and questions have been answered, Senator Hoffman should be given the opportunity to present her response. After her response is complete, questions from the subcommittee, and subsequently the complainants or their counsel are appropriate.

The subcommittee's discussion and the presentations should provide the subcommittee with assistance in determining the nature of the conduct that is at issue, whether that conduct would violate Senate Rules, and the evidence that will be provided to support the allegations.

After Senator Rest and Senator Hoffman have finished their presentations and the subcommittee has deliberated, the subcommittee must take one of the three steps previously described. Again, the subcommittee may:

- (1) make a determination regarding probable cause;
- (2) vote to defer action until time; or
- (3) proceed with its investigation.

The Senate Rules provide additional guidance for further proceedings of the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct and applicable standards of conduct. I have attached a copy of Senate Rules 55 to 58 for your reference.

TBS/rdr
Enclosure

A resolution relating to ethical conduct; conduct of
Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman.

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct of the Committee on Rules and Administration, in response to complaints submitted by Senator Ann H. Rest dated May 20, 2011, and May 27, 2011, met on June 13, 2011, to consider whether the conduct of Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman in regard to a statement that Senator Hoffman published online in response to statements made by Senator Barb Goodwin during Senate floor debate on May 18, 2011, constituted a violation of Senate Rule 56.2; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct has found that the May 27, 2011, complaint states the following facts that are not in dispute:

1. On May 18, 2011, during the Senate floor debate regarding the conference committee report on S.F. No. 760, Senator Goodwin made the following comments concerning health care for people with disabilities:

"This is how far we've come: the way state institutions used to be, they were called 'Institutions for idiots, imbeciles, and the insane...' "

"and that's what it said, right, right on the hospital - 'idiots, imbeciles, and the insane.' "

2. During the same speech, Senator Goodwin continued her remarks:

"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."

3. After Senator Goodwin concluded her remarks concerning S.F. No. 760 on May 18, 2011, Senator Hoffman published the following statement at approximately 7:30 p.m. through the Twitter online communication service:

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

4. Senator Hoffman subsequently released the following statement to the press:

"On Wednesday, May 18, Senator Barb Goodwin referred to people with mental illnesses as idiots and imbeciles on the Minnesota State Senate floor. As a registered nurse who has worked with patients with mental illnesses for many years, I was offended by her remarks. I shared Senator Goodwin's remarks with my Twitter followers.

Until the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct completes their work, I have no further comment."

WHEREAS Senator Hoffman's counsel acknowledged at the June 13, 2011, hearing of the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct that Senator Hoffman was present on the Senate floor during the entire time Senator Goodwin made remarks in the debate concerning S.F. No. 760; and

WHEREAS Senate Rule 56.2 provides 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;" and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct, based on the foregoing facts that are not in dispute, has drawn the following conclusion:

1. Senator Hoffman had reason to know that her written statement concerning Senator Goodwin's comments on S.F. No. 760, published online through the Twitter Internet communication service on May 18, 2011, was clearly misleading with respect to Senator Goodwin's position regarding the public policy concerning the treatment of individuals with mental illnesses and disabilities, in violation of Senate Rule 56.2.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct:

1. Senator Gretchen M. Hoffman shall deliver a written apology to Senator Goodwin.
2. Senator Hoffman shall remove her original statements concerning Senator Goodwin's comments regarding S.F. No. 760 from her Twitter account.
3. Senator Hoffman shall provide a description of and a link to an online posting of this resolution on her Twitter account.
4. Upon compliance by Senator Hoffman with the requirements of this resolution, the chair of the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct shall dismiss the complaints.

Minnesota State Senator Gretchen Hoffman
124 State Capitol Building,
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606



Senate

State of Minnesota

Senator Barb Goodwin
State Office Building
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Goodwin:

This letter is intended to be the written apology from me to you indicated by the Minnesota Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct in its resolution of June 13, 2011.

I am certainly sorry for my own misunderstanding of what you said and how I subsequently handled it.

I am sure you share my unhappiness that this matter was not resolved between us on the floor on May 18, 2011, when the underlying incident occurred.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Hoffman".

Gretchen Hoffman
State Senator.



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30% Post-
Consumer Fiber

Office: 651-296-5655 / District Phone 218-849-9471 / Fax: 651-296-6511
Sen.Gretchen.Hoffman@senate.mn

Senate Counsel, Research,
and Fiscal Analysis

G-17 STATE CAPITOL
75 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1606
(651) 296-4791
FAX (651) 296-7747
JO ANNE M. ZOFF
DIRECTOR

Senate

State of Minnesota

June 21, 2011

Senator Ann H. Rest
State Office Building
105 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Frederic W. Knaak
Knaak & Associates
4501 Allendale Drive
St. Paul, MN 55127

The requirements of the resolution adopted June 13, 2011, having been met, the complaints dated May 27, 2011, and May 20, 2011, by Senator Ann H. Rest against Senator Gretchen Hoffman are dismissed.



Senator Michelle Fischbach, Chair
Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

cc: Senator John Harrington
Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Senator Kathy Sheran

