



August 16, 2013

Speaker Paul Thissen, Minnesota House of Representatives  
State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298

Dear Speaker Thissen,

This letter is in response to your August 2, 2013 request regarding executive branch advisory groups. The Minnesota Department of Human Rights currently has one advisory group, the Education Diversity Task Force. The information requested about that group is below:

**Education Diversity Task Force:** Established under Statute 363A.05, subd. 3 at the discretion of the Commissioner of Human Right in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education.

**Mission:** The Education Diversity Task Force was convened as an organized effort to help align the most pressing public policy issues affecting constituents of the state ethnic councils and the State Council on Disability with the governor's seven priorities for education.

The task force has developed a list of common priorities and concerns affecting their member constituents, including:

- closing the achievement gap;
- increasing cultural competency and sensitivity courses for teachers;
- developing a skilled workforce;
- increasing Early Childhood Education funding;
- disaggregating student achievement data;
- increasing integration to ensure inclusion among general education and special education teachers and
- increased funding for public schools.

**Membership and Compensation:**

*Current Members:*

Kevin Lindsey, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Rights

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Minnesota Department of Human Rights

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Elia Bruggeman, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education  
Dr. Fatima Lawson, St. Paul Public Schools  
AnnaMarie Hill, Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council  
Edward McDonald, Executive Director, Council on Black Minnesotans  
Hector Garcia, Executive Director, Chicano Latino Affairs Council  
Sia Her, Executive Director, Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans  
Joan Willshire, Executive Director, Minnesota State Council on Disability  
Idil Abdull, Founder, Somali American Autism Foundation

Members do not receive compensation.

**Budget:** None

**The most recent three meeting dates, including any future dates:** The last three meetings were held on: April 26, 2013; May 23, 2013; June 27, 2013.

The next meeting will be held on September 26, 2013.

**A list of any reports or recommendations issued to the state agency, Legislature, or Governor:** The Task Force has not issued any reports or recommendations.

**A link to the advisory group's website, if available:**

[http://mn.gov/mdhr/public\\_affairs/collaboration.html](http://mn.gov/mdhr/public_affairs/collaboration.html)

I hope you find this information responsive to your request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office for additional information or clarification as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin M. Lindsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Lindsey" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin M. Lindsey, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Human Rights