

Human Rights Committee
May 9, 2011
Meeting Summary

- 12:03 p.m.:** The meeting was chaired by Amanda Heyman.
- Members present:** Evan Wilson, Sonja Peterson, Peter Mikhail, Lauren Wood, Lloyd Zimmerman, and Valerie LeMaster. Valerie Aggerbeck, Margaret Erickson, Colleen Walbran, Kate Bruce, and Sarah Hunter appeared by phone.
- Action items:** The Committee discussed the fact that the Committee's legislative position against the proposed budget cuts to the MN Department of Human Rights was blocked by MSBA leadership. The stated rationale was concern that the MSBA's position in favor of funding for the judiciary system could be diluted by a position against cuts to the Department of Human Rights. The Committee noted that it was not informed before the legislative position was placed on the Council agenda. The Committee further noted that decreased funding to the Department of Human Rights could actually place a strain on judiciary coffers because the Department of Human rights will not be able to effectively resolve human rights cases. Instead, the parties will be more likely to proceed directly to court.
- Ms. Peterson moved that the Committee discuss the matter with MSBA leadership and attempt to place the legislative position against Department budget cuts on the MSBA Council's May agenda. Mr. Mikhail seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted in favor of the motion, with Ms. Walbran abstaining.
- Ms. LeMaster requested that the Committee consider taking a position in favor of a proposed legislative bill that would prohibit abortion after 20 weeks gestation. After some discussion, Ms. LeMaster moved to table her request to consider the issue of abortion until the September meeting. Mr. Mikhail seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Next meeting:** September 2011.
- 12:47 p.m.:** The meeting was adjourned.