

- Thank you, Commissioner.
- It's great to be here today. I always like to spend time with citizens who are working to improve the lives of others.
- We're faced with a lot of problems in regard to human rights in this country. And I think the point that most people tend to miss is those problems won't be solved by government.
- Instead, they will be solved by individuals - who notice that other individuals are often treated differently because of things like skin color, gender, sexual preference and age - and are willing to step forward and fight for their rights.
- You know, one of the cornerstones of my administration is the belief that you can't legislate against stupidity. I have a similar feeling about prejudice – you can't legislate away ignorance. But you can educate, and that's what you're doing today. I commend you for that, and I support it. That's why I'm proclaiming today as "Human Rights Day in the State of Minnesota."
- Last week I had the honor of hearing Nelson Mandela speak at the NAACP "Freedom Fund" banquet. His tireless efforts to end prejudice, bigotry and discrimination are living proof of how much one individual can do to protect the rights of those who are oppressed.
- I'm sure Mr. Mandela would be encouraged by your work here today, and your theme of "Acting in Concert." Working together is truly the only way we'll solve these problems and make our country one that respects the uniqueness of every citizen.
- Thank you.