



**PRESS RELEASE**  
July 16, 2018

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**South Dakota Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Announces Briefings: The Subtle Effects of Racism**

On July 24 and 25, the South Dakota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene two public briefings, in Pine Ridge and in Fort Pierre, to examine the subtle effects of racism in the state. The briefings will conclude a series of three public sessions across South Dakota between 2017 and 2018.

Rich Braunstein, Chairman of the South Dakota Advisory Committee, noted “the briefings in Pine Ridge and Pierre will include experts from the fields of education, health care, tribal policy, immigration, economic development and housing. Experts were asked to focus their testimony on identifying and addressing subtle forms of racism in the State.” Braunstein made a special request for “members of the public to attend the briefings to share their experiences and ideas on addressing subtle forms of racism in their communities.”

The briefings will take place on:

**Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (MDT)**

The Justice Center  
Oglala Sioux Tribal Court House  
Peacemaking Room  
277 Horse Thief Road  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

**Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (CDT)**

Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center  
210 Verendrye Drive, Conference Room  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

Both briefings are open to the public, and parking is available on-site. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office prior to the meeting to make appropriate arrangements.

The Committee will hear testimony from law enforcement and representatives of local, state, and federal agencies, tribal officials, community organizations, advocacy groups, and the public. Members of the public will be invited to speak during the open comment session, scheduled to take place at the conclusion of the meeting. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to [ebohor@usccr.gov](mailto:ebohor@usccr.gov) by August 27, 2018.

After the testimony has been received and the record is closed, the Committee hopes to submit a report to the Commission.

Members of the South Dakota Advisory Committee are: Dr. Richard M. Braunstein(Chair) of Vermillion, Mr. Charles T. Abourezk of Rapid City, Ms. Melanie K. Bliss of Sioux Falls, Mr. Scott D. German of Peever, Ms. A. Gay Kingman of Rapid City, Mr. Lloyd C. LaCroix of Rapid City, Mr. Mike J. Levsen of Aberdeen, Ms. Renee B. Olson of Waubay, and Mr. Ira W. Taken Alive of McLaughlin.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7<sup>th</sup> decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For more information about the Commission and our state Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).