

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Press
From: Linden Zakula, Deputy Chief of Staff
Topic: 1,676 Times
Date: May 2, 2017

As the 2017 Legislative Session enters its final 20 days, a number of Republican legislators have made misleading statements¹ to deflect from the fact that the Legislature has yet to do what the Governor did on January 24, 2017 – present a detailed budget for the State of Minnesota.

The Governor has clearly stated that as soon as the Republican House and the Republican Senate put forward a detailed budget, in the form of conference committee reports, final negotiations will begin to work out the two sides' differences.

I want to offer you some facts that rebut the talking points Republicans are using that illuminate how much information and input our administration has offered to Legislative Committees and individual legislators as we work toward a compromise two-year budget.

- [190 PAGES OF LETTERS](#) – Two weeks ago the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Cabinet members hand-delivered detailed letters to Legislators outlining their input as the House and Senate worked to reconcile their budget differences.
- **1,676 TIMES** – The Governor's Cabinet members have engaged with the Legislature **1,676 times** since the session began, including **538 appearances** before legislative committees and **1,138 meetings** with Legislators. A comprehensive breakdown of those meetings is included below.

Cabinet Agency	Testimony in Committee	Meetings with Legislators
Administration	9	45
Commerce	63	157
Corrections	21	9
Education	35	31
Employment & Economic Development	10	37
Health	20	37
Higher Education	7	23
Housing Finance	9	50
Human Rights	3	30
Human Services	11	96
Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation	4	120
IT Services	40	42
Labor and Industry	19	33
Management and Budget	45	27
Metropolitan Council	18	25

¹ Minnesota House Republicans (Peppin, Bennett, Kiel, O'Driscoll, Fabian, Cornish, Nornes), [Legislative Updates](#), Friday, April 28, 2017

Military Affairs	9	81
Natural Resources	93	92
Pollution Control	37	47
Public Safety	28	37
Revenue	27	70
Transportation	10	35
Veterans Affairs	20	14
TOTAL	538	1,138

In addition to this Cabinet-level engagement, the Governor and Lt. Governor's policy advisors are in **constant communication** with legislators from both parties, and committee chairs – often multiple times a day. This constant engagement, and open lines of communication, are essential in achieving compromise and a balanced budget this session.

In nearly 1,700 meetings and numerous public letters, and the Governor's personal meetings with Legislators and Legislative Leaders, the Dayton-Smith Administration has made its positions very clear on the budgets and policy initiatives being considered this session. We believe this constant engagement will provide the discussion and input necessary to craft a two-year budget in the best interests of all Minnesotans.

Please contact us with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Linden Zakula | Deputy Chief of Staff

linden.zakula@state.mn.us