

For Immediate Release

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### Civil Rights Policy Group Testifies at School Diversity Hearing

Washington, D.C., [Several members of the National Coalition on School Diversity's Steering Committee and Research Advisory Panel traveled to Minneapolis for an important hearing on the future of state school diversity rules in Minnesota.](#) The school board heard recommendations on closing the achievement gap between white and minority students.

Witnesses included Professor Derek Black from Howard University Law School; Professor John Brittain from the University of the District of Columbia Law School, whose testimony summarized contemporary legal issues and interpretations of the recent DOJ-Dept of Education “guidance” on voluntary school integration; Professor Linda Tropp from the University of Massachusetts, whose testimony summarized social science research on intergroup relations benefits of racial integration; and Professor Roslyn Mickelson from UNC-Charlotte, whose testimony summarized social science research on the academic benefits of racial integration. “It is really important that the State of Minnesota gets the benefit of the latest social science research on the benefits of integration. We are grateful that these national experts could make the time to come to Minneapolis and testify,” said Philip Tegeler, Executive Director of Poverty and Race Research Action Council.

The Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) is a civil rights policy organization convened by major civil rights, civil liberties, and anti-poverty groups in 1989-90. PRRAC's primary mission is to help connect advocates with social scientists working on race and poverty issues, and to promote a research-based advocacy strategy on structural inequality issues. PRRAC is a founding member of the National Coalition on School Diversity ([www.school-diversity.org](http://www.school-diversity.org)) and helps to staff the coalition.

To view PRRAC’s recent report about housing and educational policy, please visit: <http://prrac.org/pdf/HousingEducationReport-October2011.pdf>