



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Oklahoma State Conference NAACP Denounce State Representative Sally Kern**

We would normally ask for an apology but we know that she is incapable of understanding the gravity of her racist and gender degrading comments. We are asking the people of her district to seek others who are committed to serving the people of Oklahoma and to not be divisive with erroneous information that shows her lack of knowledge or understanding of the plight of blacks and women. Sally first went after gays and non-Christians as defined by her and now her passion for hatred has blossomed into her disdain for blacks and working women “said State NAACP President Anthony R. Douglas.

Kern said women earn less than men because “they tend to spend more time at home with their families.” It's tragic that she has such low self-esteem that she cannot identify with some of the difficulties experienced by her own gender. It is most unfortunate that this former working female teacher is at a position to be a positive role model but instead chooses to be divisive “said Douglas.

I've taught school, and I saw a lot of people of color who didn't study hard because they said the government would take care of them.” "Sally Kern has recently made statements that “We have a high percentage of blacks in prison and that's tragic, but are they in prison just because they are black or is it because they don't want to study as hard in school?

I would direct Mrs. Kern to a book written by John Holt (1982), titled *How Children Fail*. In this book Holt speaks on intelligence saying, “when we talk about intelligence we do not mean the ability to get a good score on a certain kind of test, or even the ability to do well in

school” (p.271). Indeed, we know speaking as Mrs. Kern has so boldly stated “minorities earn less because they don’t work as hard and have less initiative” clearly demonstrates a lack of intelligence on her part.

For she knows minorities have less opportunities to advance here in the state of Oklahoma, and as an educator she also realizes a student is only as good as the instructor. With her attitude of expecting minority children to perform poorly she projects this when speaking to the minority student. Furthermore, I doubt whether any minority student actually told Mrs. Kern they “did not have to study because the government would take care of them.”

Holt writes, “Nobody starts off stupid” (p.273). We adults and you the educator Mrs. Kern, “destroy and more than by any other one thing, by the process that we misname education.... we adults destroy most intellectual and creative capacity of children by things we do to them or make them do” (Holt 1982, p.274).

I would also direct Mrs. Kern’s attention to the book by Carter G. Woodson (1933) titled *The Mis-Education of the Negro*. Woodson writes, “The so called modern education, with all its defects, however, does others so much more good than it does the Negro, because it has been worked out in conformity to the needs of those who have enslaved and oppressed weaker peoples” (Woodson 1933, p. xviii).

It is not that minorities are not hard workers, or that they are less intelligent it is rather the lack of opportunity, and rude, disrespectful treatment many are faced with in both the workplace and classroom that limits their ability to perform. Who are the judges of one’s level of performance? Those who have set the bar! Oklahoma needs better people in the Legislature. Her representation has been one hateful tirade after another. “She needs to go.”

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