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Congress Appoints New Commissioner to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announces the [Congressional appointment](#) of its new Commissioner.

On February 26, 2026, Senator John Thune appointed **Sara Frankenstein** of South Dakota to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for a six-year term expiring in December 2031.

Ms. Frankenstein is currently a trial lawyer and practices in the areas of employment law, insurance, litigation, and all aspects of government law. She also serves as city attorney and special counsel for a number of cities and counties throughout South Dakota and advises and defends them in litigation and prelitigation.

Ms. Frankenstein has also previously served on the Commission as Vice Chair of the South Dakota State Advisory Committee, where she worked on important issues and reports, including [Voting Rights and Access in South Dakota](#) and [Maternal Mortality and Health Disparities of American Indian Women in South Dakota](#).

The Commission welcomes Commissioner Frankenstein and looks forward to working with her in fulfilling the Commission's mission in investigating, reporting, and making recommendations concerning civil rights issues in the United States.

For more information about the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, please visit www.usccr.gov.

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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 56 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. For information about the Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov.