

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2304
House Education COMMITTEE**

March 9, 2021

**By: Lucy Fredericks, Director Office of Indian/Multicultural Education
701-328-1718**

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Mark Owens and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lucy Fredericks and I am a Director in the Office of Indian/Multicultural Education with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in favor of SB 2304.

We support SB 2304 which relates to requiring all elementary and secondary public and nonpublic schools in the state to include curriculum on Native American history. Under social studies, with an emphasis on the federally recognized Indian tribes in the state, and the geography and history. For secondary it would include 4 units of social studies including one unit of US history. Including impacts to Native American tribes, tribal history, tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.

The Office of Indian/Multicultural Education within the NDDPI supports this bill and offers a free resource to all educators in ND. This resource is the ND Native American Essential Understandings (NDNAEU), Teaching of our Elders website.

<https://teachingsofourelders.org/>

This website is a growing collection of Elder video interviews, lesson plans and other resources dedicated to helping and supporting educators incorporate the NDNAEU

into their classrooms and curriculum. All resources can be found at teachingofourelders.org The NDNAEU provides a framework for educators to have a structure to work from. Although there isn't a set curriculum, there are close to 150 teacher developed K-12 exemplar lessons in all subject areas for educators to use, draw inspiration from and add to. The center piece of this important work are the indigenous Elders from across all Tribes in ND who have been interviewed for this project. There are over 350 video clips that can be used in classrooms and communities. The NDNAEU have been linked to the new ND Social Studies standards when they were revised and are aligned to the new ND content standards. The NDNAEU teaching of our Elders resources continue to grow as more Elders are interviewed, teacher workgroups create lessons and professional development opportunities are created.

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.