

NORTH DAKOTA 67th Legislative Assembly (2021)

SB 2304

Education Committees

Senator Donald Schaible, Chairman

Representative Mark S. Owens, Chairman

Senator Joan Heckaman

Senator Richard Marcellais

Representative Ruth Buffalo

TESTIMONY

June (JuniKae) Randall,
Executive Producer/ Host of Indian Pride (13 Part PBS Series)
<https://www.pbs.org/video/indian-pride-101-historical-overview-x8xji2/>
Circle of Nations, LLC
Grand Forks, ND 58208

March 8, 2021

Dear Committee:

I am writing in support and favor of SB 2304

I am also Respectfully requesting Full Support from this Education Committee, ND Senate and ND House of Representatives for a "DO Pass" of SB 2304.

As a member of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, former Educator/Teacher, lifelong supporter and advocate for all children... I am passionate about the importance of a full education and providing opportunities that are filled with Global support from around the world. To be afforded the full extension of knowledge from all cultures is a mandate we need to fully support. In North Dakota we are a full force provider of Agricultural products around the world. As our food products reach the shores of many countries, we need to have in place an educated marketing and sales force who speak the language and have full knowledge of that country so we can share the fruits of our labor and products. Without knowledge and sensitivity of another country who is purchasing our ND products we could not possibly be successful at not only providing our goods but another country purchasing the goods.

That being said, knowledge is power and education is the door that is opened once educational opportunities are provided. The history, language and culture of any society is relevant when it comes to a full understanding of and respect of all human beings. The world is becoming smaller with the introduction of Social Media and the impact of understanding all countries and learning from them is critical to understanding the environment and all areas of our growth and survival. Basically, what I am saying is that we all need each other to create a full circle of life. Within that circle we all have parts that contribute to the wholeness of our existence.

In 2006 I had a meeting with Prairie Public (PBS) and presented an idea for a new TV show (INDIAN PRIDE) and asked them to join me in the production of this new educational venture that I presented to them. Well, they agreed to work with me. After two and half years of working every day to secure the financing for the series I finally had enough funds to get started and ended up with a 13 Part one half hour series that would find a home in over 325 PBS Stations and 98 million households. Now imagine how

over the moon I was to know that there was that kind of interest for knowing about and hearing the voices of over 562 Indian Tribal Nations. Not only did our initial broadcast garner millions of viewers but many stations re-broadcast the show several times. The very cool feature of our series was that we developed an educational website with a ten-minute video clip from the topic of each show, lesson plans with national educational standards for grades K-12 and a vocabulary list that enhanced each lesson plan. We also developed a DVD with INDIAN PRIDE'S 13 shows for sale from the Prairie Public website.

During the time of our show being broadcast there was a PBS station in San Bernardino, Ca who partnered with a Tribe who wanted to start a new PBS channel with Indian related programming and they of course needed product. Well, we happen to just have a new Indian Pride Series filmed in High Definition and all the resources to go along with it. So, we were asked to join their new station and allow them to rebroadcast the 13-part series. That was 8 years ago. In March 1, 2021, we completed the contract with FNX TV and they had rebroadcast Indian Pride for all 8 years to over 24 States and 58 million households.

There is an International interest in the now 574 Indian Nations and what they represent. The world wants to know about the cultures, language, food, medicine, spirituality, survival of Indian Nations. The Global feed respect and need to know "how did you do this?". Our Indian Nations storytelling and history are untapped and the knowledge of many Tribes are the best kept secrets in the world. With the diversity move in America we all need to come together and start to embrace our lives with what matters. What matters is how we as a Global society can learn from each other and grow within the Circle of Life and fully understand how-to live-in harmony. This can only happen through respect and knowledge of each other's space on this Mother Earth.

Finally, I want to add links to what I have discussed in this presentation so you will see first hand that what you are deciding today and supporting for the future of our ND children is critical for everyone. We are moving forward in a society where Freedom comes from knowledge and that knowledge comes from a Full Education of all cultures.

In North Dakota we have always tried to work hard on moving onward and upward and I am confident that by passing SB 2304 we will together not only honor the beautiful and colorful history of our ND Indian nations but we will make our own history as leaders for the 21st century. **I am asking for your vote of SB 2304 and help develop an educational joint venture for the future for all of our precious children.**

Note: PBS Learning Media for Educators currently has linked the INDIAN PRIDE Series along with **National Standard Lesson Plans with the video clips in their Social Studies Dept for Teachers.**

LINKS: For reference of Educational Resource Materials...Indian Pride
<http://www.indianpridepbs.org/>

<https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/61-2009/interim/BGEV0100.pdf>

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/bf5d54a9-8f2a-49cf-8785-70963c9086d7/indian-pride-treaties-and-sovereignty-part-1/>

<https://www.pbs.org/show/indian-pride/><https://www.kumeyaay.com/news/212-first-nations-tv-continues-partnership-with-indian-pride,-circle-of-nations.html>