

Senate Bill 2304

My name is Amy Ingersoll-Johnson and I am writing in support of SB2304. With such a diverse history as ND has with respect to indigenous peoples and rich Native American history, it only makes sense to educate our children in public schools to the same.

Children who are taught Native American history will have a greater regard and respect for Native cultures and perspectives. Native American history taught without Native American perspectives does a great disservice to accuracy and a true understanding. It has only been in the last ten years of my adulthood that I have learned any real Native American history from the perspectives of indigenous peoples, which has included unlearning the misinformation I gained through my school career. The real stories I hear and history I have learned is fascinating and worth knowing. Quality education can foster improved relationships and understanding between Native and non-Native people and can counter the still prevalent stereotypes that lead to discrimination and toxicity between citizens.

It is time for North Dakota to recognize the importance of accurate Native American teachings and instill the opportunity for that education in our public schools. Please support SB2304.