

Testimony for the House Education Committee

Senate Bill 2304

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Couteau AB Room

March 9, 2021

9:00AM

Itthánčhan Owens nahán Khamíte Óyapħapi:

Andrew Alexis Varvel emáčiyapelo. Thaspán Ožú-yata waún.

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

Wóopħela kágapi wanží ognáke wan sékse yeló. Ognáke wan “AĞÚYAPI ĞIĞÍLA THÓGNAKE” tháčháže hakápħatanħan yuhá okíhi. Yešán kuŋkúnla gnáke é héčihħan lé kuŋkúnla thógnake.

A bill is like a jar. A jar can be outwardly labeled “COOKIE JAR”. And yet, if it contains pickles, it is a pickle jar.

Tohánl wóopħela kágapi wanží patítanpi naínš khipážiŋpi wakáħniğe čhánna takúnł wóopħela kágapi kiŋ lé mahél ablúta. Tháčháže hakápħatanħan líla wanátuya šni.

When I decide to support or oppose a bill, I look at what the bill contains. Its outward label is not so important.

Wóopħela kágapi thókáheya wakhípažiŋ. Aphíya wóopħela kágapi lé sánm wašté. Yunkhán, wapátitan.

I opposed the original bill. This revised bill is better. And so, I support it.

Wazíyata Dakota Makhópašpe Wayáwapi eháŋni wóyakapi na makhówapi na okhíčanŋe waŋkátuya wasúye kiŋhán, ikčé oyáte eháŋni wóyakapi letánhan waŋkátuya nakúŋ wasúye okíhiphiča. Khéya Wíta Tħamákħopašpe Wayúwanžila eháŋni wóyakapi wayúšna šni waŋží ikčé oyáte eháŋni wóyakapi kħóye. Yuŋkhán, lé aíyopteya.

If North Dakota Studies requires emphasis on history, geography, and agriculture, it can also emphasize the history of local Indian tribes. Any accurate history of the United States includes Indian history. So, this is appropriate.

Wóopħela káğapi lé wasúyapike čin. Táku waŋ wóuŋspe okó tópa čha wičhúnŋmapi kiŋ iħéyab ikčé wičháša waksátitanŋ kta tkhá wasúyakhiiŋ šni.

This bill is a general rule. It does not impose a four week course that would have separated Indians from the rest of humanity.

Ečhánleš wóopħela káğapi lé ikčé oyáte eháŋni wóyakapi uŋkítħawičhouŋpi owánžila hanké. Lé waŋkátuya. Lé líla waŋkátuya.

Instead, this bill, as now written, recognizes that Indian history is part of our common heritage. This is important. This is very important.

Yuŋkhán, aphiya wóopħela káğapi lé IYÓPTEYAYANPO yak'úpi yé.

So, please give this amended bill a DO PASS recommendation.

Philámayayapi.

Thank you.

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