

Testimony of Sandy White Hawk – in support of HB 1488

February 8, 2021

Greetings friends and relatives,

My name is Sandy White Hawk. I am enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. I am the founder and Director of First Nations Repatriation Institute and am also the Elder in Residence at the Indian Child Welfare Law Center in Minneapolis, MN.

I am in support HB-1488, the development of a Truth Commission as a mechanism to gather the lived experiences of the citizens of the North Dakota tribes. These lived experiences will provide needed information on how the Child Welfare System and other systems have not been helpful to tribal citizens. A gathering of lived experiences is not a time of bashing or blaming but a time of revealing and recording a lived experience that may not be known. A Truth Commission can provide a way to establish relationships, enhance existing relationships to work together to improve systems that will ultimately benefit everyone.

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