

2-1-2021

Re: SB2304

Dear Honored Legislators:

I am writing to request your support for SE 2304 which would provide direction for all K-12 learning environments (public and private) in the manner of American Indian history. In essence, this testimony is requesting *an expansion* of the current curriculum addressing North Dakota history. Native people, the first residents of ND, have contributed much to the richness of our state. All of North Dakota would benefit from an expanded historical narrative of our state which includes the multiple tribes who have engaged in the progressive development of North Dakota. As a curriculum designer for the National Park Service, my work has been most deeply involved with the recounting of the Lewis and Clark story from the viewpoint of the 50-plus tribes encountered along the Trail. Certainly, this is one of our state's most acclaimed contributions to the history of our nation. Yet, it is not widely understood that the trek across the northwest would never have occurred without the food, shelter, medicine and guidance of the Native tribes along the Trail. Due to the benevolence and friendship of our Native citizens, this mission to map and describe the northwest would not have been possible. This is just one example of how important the intentional inclusion of American Indian history in K-12 public/private curriculum is vital. Without it...only one half of the history is being presented for students to consider.

I appreciate your time in reading this testimony.

Blessings,



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