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SB 2304
Senate Education Committee
February 1, 2021
Testimony of Alexis Baxley

Good afternoon Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Alexis Baxley, and I serve as the executive director of the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents the elected school boards of all 175 public school districts and several special education units in North Dakota.

I appear today in opposition to SB 2304. The North Dakota School Boards Association opposes any further efforts to define and mandate specific curriculum content. In addition, we support the implementation of North Dakota State Standards.

The North Dakota Social Studies content standards, recently updated in August of 2019, already include multiple standards and benchmarks that address the topics included in SB 2304 at both K-5 and 6-12 levels. Standards and benchmarks that include the consideration of Native American or Tribal topics include:

- H.3_5.3 (K-5 History)
- US.6_12.1-6.E2.4 (Benchmark, 6-12 US History)
- ND.6_12.2 (Standard, 6-12 ND Studies)
- ND.6_12.2.1 (Benchmark, 6-12 ND Studies)
- ND.6_12.4.1 (Benchmark, 6-12 ND Studies)
- ND.6_12.4.2 (Benchmark, 6-12 ND Studies)
- ND.6_12.4.4 (Benchmark, 6-12 ND Studies)
- C.6_12.2.4 (Benchmark, 6-12 Civics & Government)
- C.6_12.2.5 (Benchmark, 6-12 Civics & Government)

In addition, the guiding questions and considerations attached to the standards and benchmarks asks teachers and students to consider the Native American people and tribal governments in various ways many, many more times.

Over the last couple of biennia, the NDDPI has also spent significant time developing the North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings (NDNAEU) program. This program was created with the

input of tribal Elders from across North Dakota and creates a framework for the type of learning required in SB 2304. The NDNAEU is referenced numerous times in the content standards and is already being implemented in classrooms across the state.

NDSBA believes public schools in the state already include curriculum on Native American history and any further mandates are unnecessary. NDSBA opposes SB 2304 for these reasons and asks that the committee give it a Do Not Pass recommendation. I will stand for any questions.