

Chairman Vedaa and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Mitakuyepi, anpetu waste waun. My relatives, it is a good day. My name is Tawny 'Trottier' Cale, I am an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. I would like to state my support for Senate Bill 2316 in regards to recognizing First Nations Day on the second Monday in October.

It was my honor to be a part of the movement in Minot, North Dakota where in 2019 we held an educational discussion panel about why it would be beneficial to everyone that we recognize and celebrate the Indigenous People of this land. We wanted to educate those willing to listen about the lasting positive impact this will have on future generations. In 2020 we asked our City Council to formally recognize Indigenous Peoples Day and the motion was approved unanimously. The feedback I heard personally from First Nations people who call Minot home was beautiful. They said they finally felt welcomed and seen in their city. They appreciated the example we set of organizing and speaking out. So many of our people believe their voice don't matter. Some feel they aren't "educated" enough or feel they don't belong in these spaces. This only proves that the more positive examples we create for our people, the more we can empower them to bring more perspectives to any level of decision making. That is how we create "liberty and justice for all."

As a First Nations woman and mother to 4 young children, I am so happy we live in a time where Indigenous, First Nations people are a welcomed part of the conversation and not merely recipients of policy that aims to harm us. Let's celebrate together every second Monday in October.

I urge a DO PASS on Senate Bill 2316.

Wopila. Thank you,

Tawny 'Trottier' Cale