



**Senate Human Services Committee**

**IN SUPPORT – HB1407 | 03/08/2021 | Lorraine Davis**

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Madam Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Lorraine Davis, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Native American Development Center and Native Community Development, Inc. dba NATIVE, Inc. Native American Development Center is a Native community development financial institution serving North Dakota. Its mission is to provide lending services and financial education to distressed communities in ND, at least 60% must be provided to Native American communities within our state. NATIVE, Inc. is a community development corporation serving North Dakota urban areas. Its mission is to create safe and inclusive communities within urban areas across North Dakota through affordable housing, culture, education and workforce and economic services.

I support HB1407. This is a great opportunity for the state and tribes to work together to improve the lives of tribal members living both on and off the reservations through this new opportunity to participate in medical assistance tribal health care coordination agreements. So often, Native Americans living off the reservations fall through the cracks. With 70% of “new” tribal revenues and 30% of “new” state revenues that are generated from this “new” agreement, after a tribal member has been referred to a private hospital for specialized care, the tribes who opt-in and the state may contribute a very small percentage of new revenue to a statewide community-based organization to assist tribal populations living off reservations with coordinated care and community health representative programs or services. What a great opportunity for the State and Tribes to not only improve healthcare but to improve “culturally responsive” coordinated care services amongst tribal members living across jurisdictions to improve the social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life risks and outcomes.<sup>1</sup> Social determinants of health are complex, interrelated social structures and economic systems that shape these conditions and include aspects of the social environment (e.g., discrimination, income, education level, marital status), the physical environment (e.g., place of residence, crowding conditions, built environment [i.e., buildings,

<sup>1</sup> Social Determinants of Health: Know What Affects Health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/index.htm>

spaces, transportation systems, and products that are created or modified by people]), and health services (e.g., access to and quality of care, insurance status). CDC works to addressing these factors through policy, practice, research, and partnership activities. <sup>2</sup>

This bill creates the systematic structure to be able to properly address social determinants of health amongst tribal populations in our state. This is so desperately needed when reviewing racial disparities within public health, behavioral health, criminal justice, breakdown of family, poverty, homeless and unemployment in North Dakota. Our work addresses the ten essential services of public health identified by the federal centers for disease control and prevention and the social determinants of health for not only Native Americans but ALL Americans with low to moderate income levels living in urban areas within North Dakota. However, with funding, we can increase our administrative capacity to manage over twenty-five community-based programs that we offer and components of the ten essential services of public health.

24% of the state's Native American population lives in the Bismarck metropolitan area. It is largest urban Indian population in our state and is almost three times the size of Fargo's urban Indian population. <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) Social Determinants of Health retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. American Indian and Alaska Native or in combination with one or more other races.