



Native American Development  
Center  
2403 East Thayer Avenue  
Bismarck ND 58501  
Tel: (701) 595-5181  
Website: [www.ndnadc.org](http://www.ndnadc.org)

Fargo Downtown Engagement  
Center  
222 4<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102  
Tel: (701) 412-2735  
Website: [www.ndnadc.org](http://www.ndnadc.org)

---

March 16, 2023

**NATIVE, Inc.**  
**SB 2012**  
**House Appropriations Committee**  
**Human Resources Division**

Mr. Chairman Nelson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Antell. I am an enrolled member of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. I am a single father raising four children in Bismarck ND.

I am here today in **support** of Senate Bill 2012.

I have been a client of NATIVE, Inc.'s Community Connect program since August 2022. I have been receiving peer support services since enrolling into this program. I also attend NATIVE, Inc.'s Men's Talking Circle held every Friday evening.

The community connect program has helped me obtain stable housing by applying through the ND Rent Help program. It provided me with rental assistance and helped me find a landlord that would rent to me. It, also, helped me get food, pay for my phone bill and pay for gas until I was able to get my first check from my new job. This was all paid through gap funding from this program. But this program also helps me with peer support services. This helped me by giving me someone at times of need. I have a mental health diagnosis, so this helps me with doubts of depression and anxiety. My peers support offers me to come in to smudge and pray with me. This helps me to be encouraged and get through the rest of the day in a good way. I needed this program because I had recently gone through a divorce. I was restarting my life from scratch with my four children. This program has helped me obtain stability back into my life.

The Men's Talking Circle has helped me by providing me with an outlet when I'm feeling frustrated or alone. This men's talking circle at NATIVE, Inc. is a support group where Native American men talk about the issues that Native men struggle with. As an Indigenous people we are force to walk in two worlds—one is our traditional ways, and the other is the modern world. The men's talking circles are different than other non-Native men support groups because our circle involves our culture, our traditional medicines in the form of the drum, ceremonial songs, smudge, prayer, and a shared sense of humor.

Thank you for your time. I stand for any questions.