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January 25, 2023

NATIVE, Inc.
SB 2012
Senate Appropriations Committee
Human Resources Division

Mr. Chairman Dever and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorraine Davis, Founder and CEO of NATIVE, Inc. serving Native Americans and other marginalized populations in the Bismarck and Fargo metropolitan areas of North Dakota. I am also a council member of the Governor appointed ND Behavioral Health Planning Council. I am here today in **support** of Senate Bill 2012 as it relates to Behavioral Health Services.

NATIVE, Inc. has been providing behavioral health prevention and prison recidivism programs since 2017. We currently have 17 employees (i.e., 14 in Bismarck and 3 in Fargo). We provide the Free through Recovery Program, Community Connect Program and 1915(i) Program. We are currently developing a formal partnership with the Children and Family Services division for the Kinship Program and the Title VI-E Prevention Program.

Free Through Recovery Program

Due to the funding allocated every biennium since 2017, NATIVE, Inc. has been able to serve an average of 55 clients at any given month.

Community Connect Program

Due to the funding allocated every biennium since 2019, NATIVE, Inc. has been able to serve an average of 115 clients at any given month.

1915(i) Program

Due to the passing of Medicaid Expansion, NATIVE, Inc. has been able to become a provider of the 1915(i) program. We just received our final Care Coordination Training for this program. As of today, we will be able to provide 1915(i) care coordination services to up to 40 clients for starters.

Opioid Settlement Funds

NATIVE, Inc. encourage legislatures involved in the designation of use of these funds to consider expanding the need for intervention, recovery and prevention including innovative ways that have not been implemented to-date.

NATIVE, Inc. recommends an increase to the ND Behavioral Health budget and the continued support for Medicaid Expansion. This will continue to foster equitable services in behavioral health to best meet the unique needs of people and families impacted by mental health and addiction but also to alleviate the ongoing need for institutionalization.

Thank you for your time and commitment toward addressing behavioral health in our state. I would like to invite you to come to our center to learn more about our unique approaches toward addressing behavioral health. I stand for any questions.