



Native Community Development, Inc. dba NATIVE, Inc. serving urban Indians and other disproportionate populations in North Dakota.

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HB 1536 House Education

Mr. Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorraine Davis, Founder and CEO of NATIVE, Inc. serving Native Americans and other underserved populations living in urban areas of North Dakota with community-based services and educational cultural programming.

I am here today in **support of HB 1536—Implementing Native American History Curriculum.**

Some states have integrated education about Native Americans into their curriculum. California has taken steps to broaden its curriculum and add a Native American studies class (Jones)¹. Washington requires Indigenous history to be taught with the help of American Indians (Janzer)². Oregon also started teaching Native history in early 2020, with a curriculum developed in part by the state's nine federally recognized Native American tribes (Brown)³. Indigenous tribes have recently sued the state of Montana for failing to follow its own laws' requirements to teach Native history (McCullough)⁴. The importance of these states' and tribes' efforts cannot be overstated. The framework they have provided can serve as an aid to all schools in the country, and their willingness to take action has proven that this is a problem that can be addressed. I recommend our state develop and adopt a curriculum based on the perspectives of the five tribal nations of ND, Native American scholars, and elders for the state to implement into ND public schools.

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

¹ Jones, Carolyn. "Native Americans Push Schools to Include Their Story in California History Classes." EdSource, EdSource, 26 July 2018, edsources.org/2018/native-americans-push-schools-to-include-their-story-in-california-history-classes/600669.

² Janzer, Cinnamon. "States Move to Add Native American History to Education Curriculum." U.S. News & World Report, U.S. News & World Report L.P., 19 Nov. 2019, www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2019-11-29/states-move-to-add-native-american-history-to-education-curriculum.

³ Brown, Jordyn. "Schools Start Teaching Lessons from Oregon's Native American Tribes." The Register-Guard, Gannett Co., Inc., 16 Jan. 2020, www.registerguard.com/news/20200116/schools-start-teaching-lessons-from-oregons-native-american-tribes.

⁴ McCullough, Carson. "Tribes Sue Montana over Lack of Native American History Taught in Public Schools." CNS, Courthouse News Service, 22 July 2021, www.courthousenews.com/tribes-sue-montana-over-lack-of-native-american-history-taught-in-public-schools/.