

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF**  
**TO HB 1199**

Date of Hearing: January 23, 2025

Denise Ann Dykeman 1840 12<sup>th</sup> St SW, Minot, ND 58701

Committee chair and members of the committee, my name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of Minot, North Dakota. I write in support of House Bill 1199. I support this bill because it creates a Missing Indigenous People Task Force that will hopefully result in decreased violence and result in justice for members of our indigenous communities.

For decades, Native American and Alaska Native communities have struggled with high rates of assault, abduction, and murder of tribal members. Community advocates describe the crisis as a legacy of generations of government policies of forced removal, land seizures and violence inflicted on Native peoples.

- A 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found that more than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime, including 56.1 percent who have experienced sexual violence.
- In the year leading up to the study, 39.8 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women had experienced violence, including 14.4 percent who had experienced sexual violence.
- Overall, more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

Indigenous people are going missing. Especially Indigenous women and girls. Women and girls are being assaulted and raped. No one should be OK with this.

Our native people deserve to be treated with love and respect and deserve justice when crimes are committed against them just like anyone else. The members of our indigenous tribes have special knowledge and insight and should be revered and protected! There are only 700,000 of us here in ND. Let's work together to make sure each one is safe, healthy, free, and perusing happiness. We can do it.

Please support HB 1199

Respectfully,

Denise A. Dykeman  
1840 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Minot, ND 58701