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House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Public Hearing

North Dakota State Capitol

Pioneer Room

Bismarck, ND

Dear Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1199, which seeks to create a Missing Indigenous People Task Force aimed at collecting vital data on missing Indigenous persons. This proposed legislation is an important step in addressing the alarming and disproportionate number of Indigenous people who go missing, and the lack of sufficient resources dedicated to resolving these cases.

By establishing a dedicated task force, we will have a more systematic and coordinated approach to tracking and investigating these disappearances. The collection of comprehensive and accurate data is essential to understanding the full scope of the issue and developing the necessary policies and resources to support Indigenous communities.

The work of this task force will not only bring attention to the crisis faced by Indigenous families but will also provide a path toward justice and closure for those who have been affected. I strongly believe that this effort will contribute to ensuring the safety and well-being of Indigenous people across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important measure. I urge you to support HB1199 and help make a lasting difference for Indigenous communities in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Hannah James