

2009 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3003

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. ^{HCR} 3003

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 13, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 6886 21 min 35 sec

Committee Clerk Signature

Vicky Crattree

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: The hearing is now open for HCR 3003.

Jeff Nelson, staff attorney with the Legislative Council: The Tribal and State Relations Committee is recommending HCR 3003. My purpose is to review the resolution with you and answer any questions that you might have. The Tribal and State Relations Committee was created by the 2005 Legislative Assembly and directed the committee to conduct joint meetings with the Native American Tribal Citizens Task Force to study tribal state issues including the government to government relations, the delivery of case management services, child support enforcement and issues related to the promotion of economic development. Had meetings with 4 of the 5 Indian Reservations as well as Bismarck and one of the concerns presented to committee was the involvement of Tribal social service programs and representatives in the development of the state's human services budget. There was testimony that the Legislative Council should study the involvement of Tribal social service programs and the input they have in developing (inaudible) the department's priorities and budget. Any questions?

Chairman Weisz: Any questions from the committee?

Representative Franstvog: Is there a cost for this study?

Jeff Nelson: There is no appropriation for cost outside of the normal cost of legislative studies.

Chairman Weisz: Any further questions?

Representative Conrad: On the resolution, I 'm not sure I understand it. The wording, "consultation with involvement", it's odd language.

Jeff Nelson: The Dept. of Human Services works with the county social service offices and programs in **developing** priorities for human services budget. We were informed that the meetings are held at an inopportune time for Tribes. The thought was whether those meetings should be moved up.

Representative Kilichowski: Dealing with the federal budget, the funding comes from the federal for the Tribes or is there a lot of county money involved in that?

Jeff Nelson: There is both (inaudible) and (inaudible) for social service programs on the state's reservations.

Chairman Weisz: Any further questions? Thank you very much.

Kevin Dauphinais, Director of Spirit Lake Social Services: testified in support of HCR 3003. **See attached Testimony #1.**

Chairman Weisz: You are working with both federal and state programs and do find problems coordinating with strictly Tribal federal, state programs; is there gaps or holes that are missed?

Kevin Dauphinais: We face lack of manpower to carry out those responsibilities and accountabilities. That's why I believe the study is important.

Chairman Weisz: From the state's perspective, sometimes we are not aware of what federal (inaudible) where gaps might be on coverage on the reservation.

Representative Conklin: You funds to do the programs, but lacking the people to do the programs?

Kevin Dauphinais: We lack the funds to get the people we need:

Chairman Weisz: Any questions? Thank you for appearing.

Joe Walker, Acting Director of Native American Training Institute: testified in support of resolution. **See attached Testimony #2.**

Chairman Weisz: Any questions from the committee? Thank you.

Renee Mayer, Three Affiliated Tribes Social Service Director: handed in written testimony, but did not speak: **See attached Testimony #3.**

Chairman Weisz: Any opposition to HCR 3003? If not, we will close the hearing.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 3003

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 13, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 6890 2 min. 36 sec.

Committee Clerk Signature

Vicky Crabtree

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: Let's take up HCR 3003. After looking at the bill and hearing the testimony, I'm not sure this bill goes far enough. We shouldn't put a "whereas" in there having to do with the federal programs that are direct and the interaction between what the state has and what the federals do direct. Reality is we seldom know what they are getting directly and what the programs are for and what they are doing. We are trying to coordinate services. My suggestion would be we expand the resolution to include Tribal federal programs that have an affect on the social services.

Representative Porter: When did we last look at this?

Chairman Weisz: I thought it was '99.

Representative Porter: Have Jason research the past resolutions and see what they looked like over the last ten years.

Chairman Weisz: We will hold and have Jason look up prior resolutions and look into this.

Recess until 2:30 p.m.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 3003

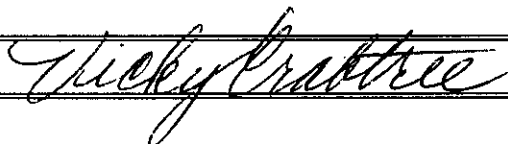
House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 14, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 6965 13 min. 09 sec.

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: On HCR 3003, had intern pull some research on prior resolution on 3003.

We studied them in relative to TANF and studies more to do with Indian counties then you had to do with Tribal social services. Don't have current language out of another resolution. I'll

have intern look up language then that would broadly include the full range of federal, state

and local social services having to do with Tribes.

Representative Conrad: (Inaudible) several times more than others.

Chairman Weisz: Obviously they have received some pure federal funds and each Tribe can set up individual programs for those. How do they relate to state administered program like TANF and Food stamps and some of those we administer?

Representative Hofstad: Did the SWAP legislation separate some of the responsibilities of the state and counties?

Chairman Weisz: No, what SWAP did was merely just changed two (inaudible). The state paid for the program costs. The counties were responsible for 100% of administrative

Representative Hofstad: Are Indian Tribes treated differently under SWAP legislation?

Chairman Weisz: The Indian counties weren't treated any different, but they got extra money.

The counties are responsible for the administrative costs. The Indian counties have a small tax base because they aren't taxed. Then how do they pay for those services.

Representative Frantsvog: When you read the resolution the language in it is very broad because it will also include some information on federal programs. It basically says, to study the sustainability of Tribal Social Service programs. It doesn't talk strictly state. I think this implies that we will be looking at some federal programs too. The key word is sustainability.

You need a definition of sustainability if it's going to be reviewed. This committee should determine where the focus should be. Where do we think it is most important.

Representative Conrad: (Inaudible) don't get money from the BIA or (inaudible) services to address these issues and the county doesn't have the money to give them and so they are looking at how to make (inaudible) they don't have the (inaudible). Maybe the department can encourage them to (inaudible) definition of it.

Chairman Weisz: It is a patchwork and incomplete level of care. The state has responsibility to all its citizens.

Representative Conrad: (Inaudible) Senator Dorgan (inaudible) Senate (inaudible) the federal government to do a better job.

Chairman Weisz: Tribes are roughly 6% of the population and roughly 50% of our social services costs. Think this is a good resolution. Talk about this, this afternoon. See you at 10:30 a.m.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 3003

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 20, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7369 4 min. 59 sec.

Committee Clerk Signature

Vicky Crastree

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: First one to take up is HCR 3003. Representative Conrad please explain HCR 3003 amendments.

Representative Conrad: read the amendments.

Chairman Weisz: Any discussion by the committee?

Representative Conrad: Funding from different sources, but we don't have a clear understanding of it. All administrative structures, Ft. Berthold has five counties that they are not interactive with the Tribal Government (inaudible) each one has their own variation. Rolette County, two townships like reservations and yet they have the (inaudible) largest tribe in the United States living in the county. It varies from place to place and that would be something this committee would need to study and we need to get a better handle on this.

Chairman Weisz: Is there a motion somewhere?

Representative Conrad: I make a motion to adopt these amendments.

Chairman Weisz: Do I have a motion for a second?

Representative Holman: Second.

Chairman Weisz: Discussion on the motion to amend HCR 3003. If not, all those in favor say

yea.

A verbal vote was taken on the amendment: **Yea 13 Nay 0 Absent 0.**

Motion is carried. We have an amended Resolution in front of us.

Representative Porter: Mr. Chairman I move a DO Pass as amended.

Chairman Weisz: Do we have a second?

Representative Hofstad: Second.

Chairman Weisz: Further discussion by the committee?

Representative Conrad: I just want to remind you that this is being sent to the Interim Human Services Committee and not to the State and Tribal Relations Committee.

Chairman Weisz: Good point. No further discussion, all those in favor say yea.

A voice vote was taken on a Do Pass as amended. **Yea 13 Nay 0 Absent 0.**

Chairman Weisz: Motion carried.

Representative Conrad will carry the bill.

VK
1/23/09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3003

Page 1, line 1, replace "sustainability of tribal" with "extent to which the funding mechanisms and administrative structures of the federal, state, and county governments enhance or detract from the ability of the social service programs of tribal governments to meet the needs of tribal members"

Page 1, line 2, remove "social service programs"

Page 1, line 14, replace "sustainability of tribal social service programs" with "extent to which the funding mechanisms and administrative structures of the federal, state, and county governments enhance or detract from the ability of the social service programs of tribal governments to meet the needs of tribal members"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 1-20-09
Roll Call Vote #:

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3003

House HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended

Motion Made By Rep Porter Seconded By Rep Hofstad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN ROBIN WEISZ	✓		REP. TOM CONKLIN	✓	
VICE-CHAIR VONNIE PIETSCH	✓		REP. KARI L CONRAD	✓	
REP. CHUCK DAMSCHEN	✓		REP. RICHARD HOLMAN	✓	
REP. ROBERT FRANTSVOG	✓		REP. ROBERT KILICHOWSKI	✓	
REP. CURT HOFSTAD	✓		REP. LOUISE POTTER	✓	
REP. MICHAEL R. NATHE	✓				
REP. TODD PORTER	✓				
REP. GERRY UGLEM	✓				

voice vote
Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Bill Carrier Rep Conrad

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3003: Human Services Committee (Rep. Welsz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3003 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace "sustainability of tribal" with "extent to which the funding mechanisms and administrative structures of the federal, state, and county governments enhance or detract from the ability of the social service programs of tribal governments to meet the needs of tribal members"

Page 1, line 2, remove "social service programs"

Page 1, line 14, replace "sustainability of tribal social service programs" with "extent to which the funding mechanisms and administrative structures of the federal, state, and county governments enhance or detract from the ability of the social service programs of tribal governments to meet the needs of tribal members"

Renumber accordingly

2009 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3003

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3003

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/23/09

Recorder Job Number: 11387, 11394

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K Monson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee opened the hearing on HCR 3003 directing the Legislative Council to study the extent to which the funding mechanisms and administrative structures of the federal, state, and county governments enhance or detract from the ability of the social service programs of tribal governments to meet the needs of tribal members.

Jeff Nelson (Legislative Council) introduced HCR 3003. His comments were neither in favor of the resolution nor in opposition of the resolution. His purpose was to review the resolution and to answer questions.

The resolution was introduced by the legislative council at the request of the Tribal and State Relations Committee. The Tribal and State Relations Committee was established by the legislative assembly in 2005 and is a statutory committee. The committee held meetings on four of the five Indian Reservations in the state and concerns of the tribal members were heard. This resolution was developed as a result of testimony that the committee received. Local social service office representatives mention the tribes should be more involved in identifying social service needs on the state's reservations, forwarding this information to the Dept. of Human Services, and involvement in the preparation of the dept.'s budget. Tribal needs could perhaps be better identified through participation at the outset and development of

the Dept. of Human Services budget. The resolution as introduced called for a study of the sustainability of tribal social service programs. The House amended to direct the legislative council to study the extent to which the funding mechanisms and administrative structures of the federal, state, and counties governments enhance or detract from the ability of the social service programs of tribal governments to meet the needs of tribal members.

Helen Hanley (Native American Training Institute) testified in support of HCR 3003.

Attachment #1

There was no opposing or neutral testimony.

The hearing on HCR 3003 was closed.

Job #11394

Committee discussion was opened on HCR 3003.

Senator Marcellais moved a **Do Pass**.

Second by **Senator Pomeroy**.

Senator Dever made the observation that when it says that the legislative council assign this study to an interim human services committee, it's kind of up to legislative council. It you want to direct that, it needs to be in a bill not a resolution. It is an awkward way to do this.

Roll call vote 6-0-0. Motion carried.

Carrier is **Senator Marcellais**.

Date: 3/23/09

Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HER 3003

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Adopt Amendment Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Marcellais Seconded By Sen. Pomeroy

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Senator Robert Erbele, V.Chair	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Dick Dever	✓		Senator Jim Pomeroy	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Marcellais

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 23, 2009 1:32 p.m.

Module No: SR-52-5583
Carrier: Marcellais
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3003, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HCR 3003 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

HCR 3003

#1

Spirit Lake Social Services
P.O. Box 39
Fort Totten, North Dakota 58335

Testimony of Kevin Dauphinais, Director Social Services
In support of HCR 3003 Study the Sustainability of Tribal Social Services Programs

Good Morning Chairman Weisz and members of the State-Tribal Relations Committee, my name is Kevin Dauphinais. I fully support HCR No. 3003, to Study the Sustainability of Tribal Social Services. I urge you to approve this study resolution because of the following reasons:

First, this study will be able to help us identify each others challenges that we must overcome to provide better services for our families of North Dakota.

- One of our many challenges is the financial instability our Tribes face on a yearly basis. This instability leads us to our next challenge and that is the fact that our workforce is constantly below the minimum standard in which we are able to provide adequate services to our families. For example, in our program, I have one child welfare social worker who is responsible for providing case management services to 109 children.

Next, I am confident this study will help bridge the communication gap between the Tribal governments and the State of North Dakota. All too often, our families are deprived of the sufficient amount of care they are entitled to as citizens of the State of North Dakota. For example, the State needs to better understand what a 638 contract provides for our Tribes. Also, Tribes will benefit greatly by working closely with their county social service staff to ensure all families receive the highest quality care available to them.

Finally, with the amount of Native children represented in the foster care system, it is important they get the quality care they deserve while in out-of-home placement. All of our children in the foster care system are North Dakota citizens and are worthy of the same care as any other child in that same system. Our Native children are unique in that they are members of a Tribal Nation, a county, a state, and are a ward of a Federal government. It is sad to see, as an administrator of a program, young children being ignored by one form of government assuming that the next form of government should be responsible for them.

In closing, I ask you to vote "Do Pass" on HCR 3003.

Handwritten signature

**Testimony of Joseph Walker, Acting Director
For the Native American Training Institute
In Support of
H.C.R. 3003, Study Sustainability of Tribal Social Service Programs**

Good Morning Chairman Weisz and members of the House State-Tribal Relations Committee. My name is Joe Walker and I am the Acting Director of the Native American Training Institute (NATI), a North Dakota (ND) non-profit organization, specifically created to address the training and technical assistance needs of the four ND tribal child welfare agencies. I'm here today representing the NATI, to support a "Do Pass" recommendation for H.C.R. 3003, a resolution to study the sustainability of ND Tribal Social Service Programs, specifically the child welfare services provided to vulnerable children and families who reside on the four ND reservations. The ND Native American population is the fastest growing segment of ND and will, in all probability, continue this trend in the near future. Over half (55.7%) of the ND reservation populations is under the age of 18 years old according to the 2006 Overview of Children's Well-being in ND.

According to the 2000 Census, 33.1% of all ND American Indians lived below poverty and 44.3% of all ND Indian children were living in poverty and were four times more likely to live in poverty than white children in ND. It is well documented that poverty conditions contribute to the risk factors for abuse and neglect of children and youth because of the stress conditions it places on families. This stress also leads to abuse of alcohol and other drugs which are also

contributing factors to abuse and neglect. Nationwide, children of color and specifically Native American children are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. This is also true of the state ND child welfare system. The challenges of serving the high numbers of Native American children in the state-operated child welfare system are even more evident in the tribal child welfare systems in ND. For the past couple of decades, there continues to be a myriad of complex issues and circumstances that impeded the ability and capacity of the tribal governments to adequately address the needs of this highly vulnerable population, namely the under funded federal allocations for this much needed service through the Bureau of Indian Affairs; the inability of Tribes to gain direct access to Title IV-E; the overwhelming high need and the lack of infrastructure of tribal child welfare; and a host of other complex issues.

With the federal passage of P.L. 351-110 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, both States and Tribes will have new opportunities to strengthen their child welfare systems. For Tribal Nations, they will have a historic opportunity to access direct Title VI-E funding which is the foremost child welfare source of funding for states. While this presents a new opportunity for Tribes, it also means Tribes will need to weigh the pros and cons of administering their own Title IV-E program bypassing the State which currently provides federal pass through funds through state-tribal IV-E agreements. With the needs of vulnerable children, youth and families at stake, it is a decision that necessitates thoughtful deliberation of all stakeholders, state and tribal

government, partner agencies and of course the tribal agencies themselves.

Whatever decision each ND Tribal Nation reaches regarding the administration of a tribal IV-E program, it will ultimately affect the State of ND and the state child welfare system as well as their particular tribal child welfare system.

Both state and tribal government would benefit from HCR 3003 which would authorize a formal study process to seek information, provide input, and create a formal avenue for dialogue between the Tribes of ND and the State of North Dakota regarding the sustainability of tribal social service programs. It is very clear that what happens to Native American children, youth and families who reside on reservation and who are also citizens of North Dakota affects the entire State of North Dakota. Passage of HCR 3003 would take advantage of the new funding opportunity for Tribes; but more importantly it allows adequate time to creatively identify solutions to address the overwhelming challenges of providing tribal child welfare services and supports.

I therefore, urge your favorable consideration of HCR 3003 study of tribal social service programs and urge the State-Tribal Relations Committee support and "DO PASS" recommendation for this study resolution. Thank you for your time.

FFS

Written Testimony of Renee Mayer, Three Affiliated Tribes Social Service Director

In Support of

H.C. R. 3003, Study Sustainability of Tribal Social Service Programs

Chairman Weisz and members of the House State-Tribal Relations Committee, I am submitting written testimony in support of H.C.R. 3003 on behalf of the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes) Social Services Department. I have been the Director for five years and have become very familiar with the needs, gaps in services and challenges in administering a social service program that is responsible for a variety of critical services to tribal members and Native American citizens who happen to reside on reservation. It is no secret that ND Tribal Social Services, specifically Tribal Child Welfare is severely underfunded and overburdened with high need. Over the past few months you have been provided a variety of information about the critical needs and shortages of resources including funding, staff, and infrastructure that tribal governments are faced with. These challenges eventually will be addressed within the state's system whether it be tribal individuals who move to more populated parts of the state for education or work opportunities; or have to access services and supports provided through the state; and in the extreme case, those tribal people who will end up in some of the more restrictive and costly residential or correctional facilities.

The Tribal Social Service/Child Welfare agencies have not been idle in their attempts to strengthen their capacity and find new resources to enhance their tribal child welfare systems. We have worked in partnership and collaboratively as an inter-tribal organization as represented by the Native American Training Institute, a training arm of ND tribal child welfare agencies, as well as established and maintained a positive relationship with Department of Human Services; Division of Children & Family Services in attempt to leverage the limited resources we have. Yet we continue to struggle to meet the high unmet needs. In the past,

federal and tribal funds were not enough to meet our needs and thus we began to enter into IV-E agreements with the State for the delivery of child welfare services, utilize third party Medicaid reimbursements and commence with comprehensive strategic planning so we could identify and prioritize our needs. Because of the shortage of funds, we are limited in staff to adequately address the needs of vulnerable children and to adequately investigate reports of child abuse and neglect as well as to provide comprehensive services and supports for children resulting in either reunification with birth families and/or timely stability, safety, well-being and permanency for children. We need to increase case manager positions so that case loads are manageable, we need to identify funding streams for child protection functions, we need resources for birth and resource families, and more importantly funding and services for the specialized needs and treatment of those most severely neglected and/or abused.

In the past two decades there have been various initiatives to get a handle on the tribal child welfare issues in our state and, sadly there have been lives lost and innocence ruined . While there has been much progress made, there is still more to accomplish. Whether our Tribe makes the decision to move forward to tribal administration of a Title IV-E child welfare program, or remain in the current state-tribal IV-E agreement with enhancements, that arrangement remains to be seen. We would welcome an opportunity to make a fully informed decision or enhance our current IV-E agreement and state-tribal child welfare partnerships as one possible outcome of this study resolution if it is passed. Sustainability and enhancement of the services and supports we provide at the tribal level may require a restructuring of service delivery of both state and tribal child welfare, but in the end it will be worth it if more children can be assured of a safe, nurturing and loving home with families who have their best interest at heart. I urge you to move HCR 3003 forward with a "Do Pass" recommendation. Thank you on behalf of the Three Affiliated Tribes Social Services.

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**Testimony of Helen Hanley
For the Native American Training Institute
In Support of
H.C. R. 3003, Study Sustainability of Tribal Social Service Programs**

Good morning Madame Chairwoman Judy Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Helen Hanley and I am honored to be here today for the Native American Training Institute, a ND non-profit organization, specifically created to address the training and technical assistance needs of the four ND tribal child welfare agencies. I am representing the Native American Training Institute, to support a "Do Pass" recommendation for H.C.R. 3003, a resolution to study the sustainability of ND Tribal Social Service Programs, specifically the child welfare services provided to vulnerable children and families who reside on the four ND reservations. The ND Native American population is the fastest growing segment of ND and will, in all probability, continue this trend in the near future. Over half (55.7%) of the ND reservation populations is under the age of 18 years old according to the 2006 Overview of Children's Well-being in ND.

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high numbers of Native American children in the state-operated child welfare system are even more evident in the tribal child welfare systems in ND. For the past couple of decades, there continues to be a myriad of complex issues and circumstances that impeded the ability and capacity of the tribal governments to adequately address the needs of this highly vulnerable population, namely the under funded federal allocations for this much needed service through the Bureau of Indian Affairs; the inability of Tribes to gain direct access to Title IV-E; the overwhelming high need and the lack of infrastructure of tribal child welfare; and a host of other complex issues.

With the federal passage of P.L. 351-110 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, both States and Tribes will have new opportunities to strengthen their child welfare systems. For Tribal Nations, they will have a historic opportunity to access direct Title VI-E funding which is the foremost child welfare source of funding for states. While this presents a new opportunity for Tribes, it also means Tribes will need to weigh the pros and cons of administering their own Title IV-E program bypassing the State which currently provides federal pass through funds through state-tribal IV-E agreements. With the needs of vulnerable children, youth and families at stake, it is a decision that necessitates thoughtful deliberation of all stakeholders, state and tribal government, partner agencies and of course the tribal agencies themselves. Whatever decision each ND Tribal Nations reaches regarding the administration of a tribal IV-E program, it will ultimately affect the State of ND and the state child welfare system as well as their own tribal child welfare system.

Both state and tribal government would benefit from HCR 1003 which would authorize a formal study process to seek information, provide input, and create a formal avenue for

dialogue between the Tribes of ND and the State of North Dakota regarding the sustainability of tribal social service programs. It is very clear that what happens to Native American children, youth and families who reside on reservation and who are also citizens of North Dakota affects the entire State of North Dakota. Passage of HCR 3003 would take advantage of the new funding opportunity for Tribes; lessons learned from the ND tribal experience of the Medicine Moon Initiative to Improve Tribal Child Welfare Outcomes Through System of Care, a framework for systems change of their Tribal child welfare services; but more importantly it allows adequate time creatively identify solutions to address the overwhelming challenges of providing tribal child welfare services and supports. This has a potential to be a win-win situation for all involved.

I therefore, urge your favorable consideration of HCR 3003 study of tribal social service programs and urge the State-Tribal Relations Committee support and "DO PASS" recommendation for this study resolution. Thank you for your time.