



HB1407 Testimony presented by CEO, Lorraine Davis, Native American Development Center & Native Community Development, Inc. dba NATIVE, Inc.

Good Morning Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorraine Davis, I am the founder and CEO of NATIVE, Inc. and the Native American Development Center. I support HB1407. This is a great opportunity for the state and tribes to work together to improve the lives of all tribal members living on and off the reservations.

So often, we are referred to as American Indians or Native Americans when we live off the reservation, however, we are still tribal people geographically residing off the reservation boundaries. As Tribal members living off the reservations, we fall through the cracks, even become invisible not only by our tribes but by society. We are unfairly misperceived by mainstream society's perceptions of us and the ways that we should be served. We have a lot to offer with the right systematic structure in place in our state.

I know this is not specific matter for the State Government to address, however, coordinated care services for tribal members across the state and tribal boundaries is a great opportunity for the State and Tribes to not only improve healthcare to our tribal members but to improve "culturally responsive" coordinated care services amongst tribal members even while living off the reservations. This bill is the beginning of healthcare disparity prevention for Native Americans so desperately needed when reviewing healthcare statistics and the social determinants of health. Our work addresses the social determinants of health of not only Native American but all Americans with low to moderate income levels living in urban areas within North Dakota. My hope is that the State and Tribes come to a fair negotiation in determining the percentages on the return on investment and include a strategy that includes funding streams to provide coordinated care services tribal members living off reservations. The majority of Native Americans live in the Bismarck metropolitan area with approximately 9,000 in population, this is twice the size of Fargo-Moorhead and Grand Forks.