

Representatives Buffalo, Boschee, Fegley, Hanson, M. Johnson, Schneider Senators Hogan, O. Larsen, Marcellais.

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Date of Hearing: February 8, 2021 at 10:00AM

In support of House Bill No. 1448 - Relating to the duty of the peace officer standards and training board to provide training on bias crimes, aggravated assault, harassment, and criminal mischief; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide a penalty.

My name is Amanda Myhre, I'm half Lakota Sioux and Norwegian and an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and have lived in North Dakota most of my life. I am also a NDSU graduate in 2008 and received my master's degree in 2018. I felt compelled to provide written testimony in support of HB 1448 related to the duty of the peace officer to provide training on bias crimes for two simple reasons.

The first reason related to a personal story that happened in 2008. I was living in Fargo, ND with my Caucasian boyfriend at the time, and we came back from going out to eat for supper. Unfortunately, my ex-boyfriend was intoxicated and began to argue with me at our apartment. He became physical and grabbed me around my neck and threw me to the ground and began choking me. I was kicking and tried to scream so our neighbors would hear and call the police. The police soon arrived, and two policewomen showed up and I felt relieved. However, my relief soon turned in to fear and soon a nightmare, because the two officers had gathered the information. When I provided information, I struggled to talk because I was still trying to breath and the officer stated I had 60 seconds to tell her or I would be arrested. I did the best I could, but the officers concluded I was at fault because he had once scratch on his face and I was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct. Later, the State's Attorney dismissed the charges because my ex-boyfriend told the SA what happened.

Although my story seems like one in a million, I know I am not the only Native American women who has experienced abuse by their significant partner. According to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Research Report (2016), 96% of Native female victims of sexual violence experience violence at the hands of a non-Native perpetrator; 21 percent have experienced interracial violence. More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime.

It has just been recently that Savannah's Act has passed, there is so much more we can do on a local level and passing HB 1448 would provide peace officers with training, understanding, and

assist victims in reporting incidents. I urge the committee to pass H.B. No. 1448. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.