



## NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



### Senator Richard Marcellais

District 9  
301 Laite Loop NE  
Belcourt, ND 58316-3877

R: 701-477-8985  
B: 701-477-8985  
C: 701-278-0632  
F: 701-477-8985  
[rmarcellais@nd.gov](mailto:rmarcellais@nd.gov)

### COMMITTEES:

Education  
Government and Veterans Affairs

### ***SB 2305 Testimony***

### ***Senate Government Veteran Affairs Committee***

***Room 216 2/04/21 @ 2:15 pm***

*Chairmen Vedaa members of the Senate Government Veteran Affairs Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais Senator from Rolette County District 9.*

*I am here this afternoon to testify in favor of SB 2305 – relating to creation of the truth, healing and reconciliation commission; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an expiration date.*

*This bill would allow the establishment of a five member commission with representation from all five tribal nations in the state.*

*Hire a director to examine and investigate records; receive testimony and provide a forum for indigenous victims and families to discuss state-tribal relationships in the spirit of truth, healing and reconciliation.*

*The director would be responsible for the following:*

- *Study the impact and ongoing effects of historical and intergenerational trauma in tribal communities.*
- *Collaborate and consult respectfully with tribal nations, including traveling to each tribal nation to receive testimony from tribal members, members of the public, and key stakeholders.*
- *Submit an annual report of the commissions findings and recommendations to the governor and legislative management. The recommendations must include proposed methods to address truth and reconciliation in the interest of healing historical conflicts and legacies of distrust and to address historical and intergenerational trauma.*
- *Submit a final written report regarding the historical relationship between the state and North Dakota Native Americans to5 and the legislative management on or before January 1, 2025 and travel to each tribal nation to present the final report.*
- *Conduct and coordinate an annual peace summit at the International Peace Garden to foster healing and understanding for present and future generations.*

*Chairmen Vedaa members of the Senate Government Veteran Affairs Committee, I urge a Do Pass on Senate Bill 2305.*