

**Testimony on
Senate bill 2316
Government and Veterans' Affairs
Feb 4, 2021**

Good afternoon Chairman Veeda and member of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. For the record, my name is Senator Kathy Hogan, I represent District 21 which is the heart of Fargo.

In 2013, ND adopted *First Nations* day to be held on the Friday prior to the second Monday of October. This day is recognized in the list of official days to be recognized with other days including Mother's Day, Arbor Day, Bird Day, Four Chaplains Sunday, Vietnam Veteran's Day, Women Veterans month, Firefighters memorial weekend and Patriots day.

This bill simply changes the date from a Friday in October to the second Monday. South Dakota was the first state to recognize Indigenous Peoples day in 1989. Fourteen states – Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin – plus the District of Columbia and more than 130 cities observe Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday in October. This bill simply aligns us with other jurisdictions.

The issue I struggled in drafting this bill was whether to call it First Nations Day or Indigenous People day. Our neighbor to the north uses the term *First Nations* to acknowledge the many different nations or tribes. It is sometimes seen as a broader term than Indigenous People although both terms are help all ND citizens recognize the history, culture, and legitimacy of the original inhabitants of our beautiful state.

Chairman Veeda and Members of the committee, I urge you to will approve this change.

