



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

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COMMITTEES:

Education
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SB 2303 Testimony

Senate Human Committee

Sakakawea Room 2/09/21 @ 9:30 am

Chairwomen Lee members of the Senate Human Services Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais Senator from Rolette County District 9.

I am here this morning to testify in favor of SB 2303– relating to tribal health units. Under current North Dakota Century Code 23-35-02.1, tribal nations residing in North Dakota may establish a tribal public health unit if “the external boundaries of which boarder more than four counties.” Under current law, all tribal nations residing in North Dakota may establish a public health unit, except the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Nation. Our nation’s land base borders three counties and a country. While there are no immediate plans to establish a tribal public health unit, this bill would create equity in the ability of all tribal nation’s residing in North Dakota to if they chose to, establish a public unit.

This bill also changes the requirement that the tribal public health unit shall collaborate regarding the provision of health services with bordering public health units, to may collaborate. No other public health units in the state are required to collaborate with another public health unit.

Chairwomen Lee members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I urge Do Pass on Senate Bill 2303. I stand for questions.