



Native American Development
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Bismarck ND 58501
Tel: (701) 595-5181
Website: www.ndnadc.org

Fargo Downtown Engagement
Center
222 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
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Website: www.ndnadc.org

March 16, 2023

NATIVE, Inc.
SB 2012
House Appropriations Committee
Human Resources Division

Mr. Chairman Nelson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Antell. I am an enrolled member of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. I am a single father raising four children in Bismarck ND.

I am here today in **support** of Senate Bill 2012.

I have been a client of NATIVE, Inc.'s Community Connect program since August 2022. I have been receiving peer support services since enrolling into this program. I also attend NATIVE, Inc.'s Men's Talking Circle held every Friday evening.

The community connect program has helped me obtain stable housing by applying through the ND Rent Help program. It provided me with rental assistance and helped me find a landlord that would rent to me. It, also, helped me get food, pay for my phone bill and pay for gas until I was able to get my first check from my new job. This was all paid through gap funding from this program. But this program also helps me with peer support services. This helped me by giving me someone at times of need. I have a mental health diagnosis, so this helps me with doubts of depression and anxiety. My peers support offers me to come in to smudge and pray with me. This helps me to be encouraged and get through the rest of the day in a good way. I needed this program because I had recently gone through a divorce. I was restarting my life from scratch with my four children. This program has helped me obtain stability back into my life.

The Men's Talking Circle has helped me by providing me with an outlet when I'm feeling frustrated or alone. This men's talking circle at NATIVE, Inc. is a support group where Native American men talk about the issues that Native men struggle with. As an Indigenous people we are force to walk in two worlds—one is our traditional ways, and the other is the modern world. The men's talking circles are different than other non-Native men support groups because our circle involves our culture, our traditional medicines in the form of the drum, ceremonial songs, smudge, prayer, and a shared sense of humor.

Thank you for your time. I stand for any questions.



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Mr. Chairman Nelson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shiloh Eagle. I am an enrolled member of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. I am a single father raising two children in Bismarck ND.

I am here today in **support** of Senate Bill 2012.

I have been a client of NATIVE, Inc.'s Community Connect program since July 2022. I have been receiving peer support services since enrolling into this program.

The community connect program has helped me obtain stability. This program helped me get my own apartment for me and my children. It has also helped to find resources that apply to helping me in my situation. Most importantly, it has helped me stabilize my housing. This program also helped me get gas, food, and household cleaning supplies until I was able to get my next paycheck. But it has also helped me to learn how to budget my monthly income.

I needed help because I became a single parent with one income. So, me and my children had to stay with friends and even at a hotel. I learned about NATIVE, Inc. and they helped me get housing and services. In my situation I have a genetic disability diagnosis that put me on social security benefits. The community connect program helped me find the landlord that was willing to rent to me. My care coordinator was critical to making this happen because she facilitated the needed paperwork and needed program requirements that paid for first month's rent and security deposit. Peer support services has helped me become comfortable with who I am now. I am a single father of two kids. Becoming a better parent has always been what I wanted to do but I've always been hesitant to ask for help but the help that I get at NATIVE, Inc. is not forced and is more natural, more like a friendship. they helped me work with mental health, helped me with the small victories everyday not just the big one that everyone sees or knows.

NATIVE, Inc. is helping me break the generational traumas. I grew up with my dad who spent our money and moved us around place to place. But with NATIVE, Inc.'s help I know that I can make our place a home to me and my kids. A place to feel safe and stable.

NATIVE, Inc. is important to the community because it's building a Native community. It helps us create new friendships amongst other Native people who might not otherwise ever met, leaving us isolated and alone.

Thank you for your time. I stand for any questions.