

Aaniin Alexis Davis indizhinikaaz. Sipiising indoonjibaa. Makwa indoodem dash Mikinaak wajiw aandi ingiigikinoo'amaagozed. Hello my name is Alexis Davis. Siipiising is the traditional name of where I am from and it means the Creek that Sings. Bear is my clan and I went to Turtle Mountain school. I ask that my elders and ancestors forgive me for probably saying some of that wrong as I go forth learning my language with humility. As I had mentioned I went to Turtle Mountain Community High School. I was a student athlete and in my four years I played basketball and volleyball.

It is vital that Turtle Mountain has a voice to speak on the topic of racial discrimination and harassment pertaining to North Dakota High School Activities as we were the only predominant Indigenous school in our division.

I'd like to state that I have had multiple negative experiences that happened to the teams I have been on but I never did and never will speak on the behalf of others. So I am going to speak of an event that only involved me. I have had more bad experiences than good with other teams within the Class A, Western Dakota Conference.

During my freshman year of basketball. I was on the Junior Varsity team playing against Dickinson High School. We had come back from a large defecate, the energy was high; It became a very close and nerve-wracking game. A foul was called, we lined up at the free-throw line and the Dickinson player that was in between another player and I said "effin prairie n-word". I was so completely stunned that she had said the n-word that after free throws I ran to my coach and told him that she had called me something very bad. I remember being very confused as well. It wasn't until afterwards that I had found out this was a racial slur for Indigenous people. How did she know that slur? Why did she feel it was okay to call me this out of anger? I had reported this to my Athletic Director and after further investigation she did admit to using this slur as it was said her parents believed there was nothing wrong in this situation. It was handled correctly as she was cut from the team.

This did not make the papers, it wasn't a huge event because it was just another season, another game, another day for players in Turtle Mountain. We EXPECT to go through something like this while playing in the West Dakota Conference. Why? Why do athletes of color have to accept that this is just something that comes with wanting to be a part of something more?

I am now not only a mother but an Ojibwe mother of two Ojibwe boys and I work every day to break toxic cycles and generational traumas. My two boys may want to play sports one day and what kind of cycle breaker would I be without trying to make a change for them if that was their choice one day? I don't want them to be embarrassed to be an Ojibwe Student Athlete as this is an effect that I have seen happen because of the way we are treated, I don't want harassment to come with that choice, I don't want racial discrimination towards them to be a part of that choice. House Concurrent Resolution 3022 is a step towards holding the people of North Dakota accountable during North Dakota High School Activities. A step towards better relationships. A choice to make a positive change for our future generations. I ask the committee for a Do Pass Recommendation and I will stand for any questions.

