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January 22, 2023

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Lorraine Davis, Founder and CEO of a community-based organization called NATIVE, Inc. serving Native Americans and other marginalized populations in the Bismarck and Fargo metropolitan areas of North Dakota. I am also a council member of the Governor appointed ND Behavioral Health Planning Council. I am here today to support HB1536. It would be important for the juvenile court statutes and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to be in alignment. It is imperative to support ICWA at the state level. As a provider of juvenile delinquency prevention services and the lead organization in ND for providing culturally responsive behavioral health prevention programs for Native American adults and youth and family programs through our Great Plains Indians Youth and Family Engagement Center, I'd like to ensure this committee that we would be able to assist in supporting the implementation of this bill.

NATIVE, Inc. takes a strength-based approach to foster the healthy development of youth, adults, and families through culturally responsive services, tribal connections, and cultural identity development for Native Americans living in urban areas of ND.

I stand for any questions. If you have any questions later, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time.