

Senate Education Committee

Testimony HCR 3022, Monday, March 20, 2023

Chairman Jay Elkin

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Scott Davis. I am here today in Support of HCR 3022. I am representing the Ft. Yates Public School, Belcourt School and New Town School District.

For decades the ND High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) has failed to provide adequate Native American representation regarding the number of Tribal and Public Schools on Tribal lands. This also includes the high number of Native Americans that attend schools in Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Bismarck, and Mandan. NDHSAA has also failed to follow their own policy procedures when it comes to fan conduct, sportsmanship, respect and dignity during games.

Back in the early 1980's when I began to play sports, I was subject to several racist taunts, harassment and behaviors against me because of me being Native American. I can stand here today and talk for at least an hour or two of what was said, yelled and how I was treated in a number of high school venues across the state. Today, not much has changed. In fact, it has gotten worse. This is why HCR is so important.

Weeks ago, I again witnessed racist taunts, chants towards my two friends' sons who were playing basketball in Jamestown. I was so appalled and angry that the next day I approached the United Tribes Board of Directors in asking them to take action and submit a Resolution that mandates a Zero Tolerance policy to the ND High School Activities Association. This has also been followed up by several North Dakota citizens requesting changes and improvement to the NDHSAA.

HCR 3022 provides the correct study actions needed to improve the NDHSAA as it relates to Native American student/athletes.

Please join your colleagues from the House side and vote Green on HCR 3022.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members, this concludes my testimony.