

**Please consider this testimony in support of Due Pass HCR 3022**

In light of recent events in the state of North Dakota involving racism and racial indignities, there are much more chronicled events that have happened in recent years to disparage myths that racism is going away.

The Black Lives Matter is just one. However, for other people of color like the Native Americans, this has been very prevalent in our State as well as our sister state South Dakota for many years. It will not take long, if you google

racism in our state (ND) or South Dakota, to find hundreds if not thousands of countless acts of racism aimed at people of color. From blatant disregard for the human race from the powers that are there to enforce our civil rights (Police)

to bystanders not knowing the difference with what is being said or done and just being followers, the hatred still exists. In North Dakota, all students are supposed to take a course on Native American "Indigenous" people but where does that education go? Below is what TMBCI and TMCS are supporting for the State of North Dakota through the NDHSAA and Executive Director. This comes from a Zero Tolerance Law drafted by TMBCI and other local reservations who have joined the plight to tackle and eradicate this

behavior that has been going on for far too long.

"I would like to start the dialogue for the attempt at creating a successful by-law for the NDHSAA that would help with inclusion and add a needed dimension in diversity and cultural sensitivity.

This stems from recent incidents involving member schools and the need for cultural training and exposure to the different walks of life, nationalities/ethnicities that are present within our Great State of North Dakota.

To provide testament to why it is important, Indigenous Tribes, who are scattered among all directions in our state, have for centuries walked this area. Due to many reasons, reservation life was pushed upon them, and the stigma that arose

due to not knowing this new lifestyle and the government-imposed food stamps, alcohol and commodities led to an almost genocide (extinction) of that culture. Through the understanding of our leaders, they knew that to survive, elements of what was now

"hand-outs" would have to be used wisely and in moderation. If we didn't, diabetes, heart disease, alcoholism and many other diseases (Hypo-kinetic) would be developed later and would be the end of our people. Before reservation life, malignancies such as cancer were never found within our people.

Through the many treaties and trust agreements, land was taken and so were the rights of the many before us. We went from being plenty full with food and land that was reduced to barely nothing and that too came at a price where millions of Native Indigenous people lived throughout the territories in the beginning; but, by the end of the reservation period of

late 1800's to early 1900's that number was reduced to thousands. A genocide had occurred, and oppression was to follow. Many people believe that Natives get things for free and that stems a hatred; however, it is protected treaties and trusts of what was promised years ago is what is given and that is from government bodies taking so many things

away from Indigenous people and in part is what is still back-owed.

With that being said, the By-Law that we would like to start conversation on would be something as follows:

Turtle Mountain Community School would like to recommend a by-law to the NDHSAA that would either 1) add a NDHSAA Board Member who qualifies using the same criteria for all

other positions (Superintendent, Principal, or AD) and that they be a person of color or affiliate/member to an ethnic group within the State of North Dakota to assist the board with inclusion and diversity.

There is more, TMBCI people feel that inclusion, diversity need to be taught at every level, with every board that has jurisdiction over the masses. If education is power, then why are we not putting diversity in our business sectors, in our public building amongst our tallest buildings. For the future of all people of color and especially those on our 6 x 12 or enrolled members of TMBCI,

we want to help our state move forward. Zero tolerance is a start, education and diversity need to be the cornerstone of this movement. Indigenous people or 1st to originate this area should be protected and classified as so. Education has got to be the key to solving racism and putting in law for all people to follow above and beyond would be another just like the Zero Tolerance from

NDHSAA, TMBCI, United Tribes, etc.

This push has to continue until all avenues are pursued and all angles are covered so that our Native kids, kids of color, people of color and TMBCI members can feel protected in our state free from racial slurs, indignities and pursuant cultural disparities attached with 100- to 200-year-old treaties.

Sincerely,



Jamie Azure, Tribal Chairman
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

