

**Testimony of Halley Ya-Hua Vincent to the  
Kansas House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

Proponent for HB 2006 • January 25, 2021

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of HB 2006 concerning legal public holidays and amending K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 35-107 and 35-205 to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day. As an 11 year old in Kansas, I am determined to see other people my age take an interest in accurate historic events.

HB 2006 will have a positive impact by reminding local Kansas teachers, students, and families to take a moment of their time to learn about the incredible Indigenous history of the land they call their home. HB 2006 will allow a moment of celebration recognizing living cultures and the 574 Federally recognized Tribal Nations, including the 4 who have reservations here in Kansas. This is important because normally we blend them all together into one stereotype.

I have recently worked on similar issues in my local Shawnee Mission School District where I have received dozens of letters in support for adding a Native Studies course requirement for every high school in the district. This tells me that people want to support their Native friends and neighbors and that they want them to be included and recognized in a larger way. HB 2006 will do just that.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Vincent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Halley Ya-Hua Vincent