

January 19, 2021

Committee on Judiciary
Representative Fred Patton, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Student Government Association of Haskell Indian Nations University, I write to state our support and express the importance of having House Bill No. 2008 pass in the Kansas legislature. As the only all-Native American institution within the State of Kansas, the impact of having this legislation pass will assist in strengthening the special relationship between the State of Kansas and Native Americans.

If passed, Native Americans can be assured that action is being taken through the structured collaboration amongst the state government, Native American tribes, and other agencies on taking steps to address the matter of missing and murdered indigenous people within Kansas.

Many universities across the nation, including Haskell, participate in the REDress Project. By hanging red dresses onto the branches of trees, we are spreading awareness of the countless lives lost of indigenous women, men, and children and asking for our political leaders for support in halting more lives from being stolen from friends, family, and loved ones. I thank Chairman Patton and members of the Committee on Judiciary for your time and consideration on HB 2008.

Respectfully,

William Wilkinson
President, Student Government Association
Haskell Indian Nations University