

**2019 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HCR 3056**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HCR 3056  
2/27/2019  
32957

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Nicole Klaman by Marjorie Conley

## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Related to missing and murdered indigenous people and human trafficking cases.

## **Minutes:**

Attachment 1

**Rep. Ruth Buffalo:** Introduced Resolution HCR 3056.(Attachment 1)

**Rep. Skroch:** Should we wait to gather data from the 2 bills mentioned?

**Rep. Buffalo:** That is a good point. I just don't want to leave anything left out.

**Rep. Chuck Damschen:** The reservation is a sovereign nation and I don't think the leadership or people want us interfering, so how do we overcome that or even implement this?

**Rep. Buffalo:** That would be addressed with this.

**Rep. Skroch:** What is the status then if someone moves off the reservation, jurisdictionally are they still considered an active member?

**Rep. Buffalo:** Yes, they are still active. But every state is different, Oregon and Washington have not federally recognized reservations. Once that status is achieved the tribe then has the right to blood quantum.

**Chairman Weisz:** Any further questions? Hearing closed.

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HCR 3056  
3/5/2019  
33216

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Nicole Klaman by Marjorie Conley

## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Related to missing and murdered indigenous people and human trafficking cases.

## **Minutes:**

**Chairman Weisz:** Reopened HCR 3056.

**Rep. Dobervich:** Moved a Do Pass.

**Rep. Porter:** Seconded. HCR 3056 would be placed on the Consent Calendar.

**Rep. Devlin:** I don't know what a study will do that isn't already done in the other Legislation.

Roll Call Vote Yes 13 No 0 Absent 1

**Rep. M Ruby** is the **Carrier**.

Meeting closed.

Date: 3-5-19  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HR 3056**

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Dobervich    Seconded By Rep. Porter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Robin Weisz - Chairman	X		Gretchen Dobervich	X	
Karen M. Rohr - Vice Chairman	X		Mary Schneider	X	
Dick Anderson	X				
Chuck Damschen	X				
Bill Devlin	X				
Clayton Fegley	X				
Dwight Kiefert	X				
Todd Porter	X				
Matthew Ruby	X				
Bill Tveit	A				
Greg Westlind	X				
Kathy Skroch	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep M. Ruby

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3056: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3056 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

**2019 SENATE JUDICIARY**

**HCR 3056**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HCR 3056  
3/25/2019  
#34189 (19:50)

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Meghan Pegel
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the issues and data reporting challenges related to missing and murdered indigenous people and human trafficking cases.

## Minutes:

1 Attachment
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**Chair Larson** opens the hearing on HCR 3056.

## **Ruth Buffalo, District 27 Representative, testifies in favor (see attachment #1)**

**Senator Myrdal:** A gentleman talked about social responsibility. I would also say there's responsibility for the nations. My mother in law was Lieutenant Governor and she worked 8 years with fetal alcohol syndrome on reservations and was very passionate about it. This could be the cause for some of this, native or not, because some are born with a tremendous mental handicap. There are very few Natives in our legislative body. If we study that, do you foresee a way of getting more indigenous people involved in that study?

**Representative Buffalo:** I want to thank your mother in law and her legacy. We have existing structures throughout the state who would be great partners in these efforts such as NDSU's American Indian public health resource center. That provides technical assistance to all agencies throughout the state and region. It's practicing good ethical research partnering with entities who have that expertise so that there's no recreating the wheel so to speak.

## **(5:40) Ken Hall, citizen, testifies in favor**

**K. Hall:** I fully support this resolution. I was able to attend a field hearing in with our congressional folks out at United Tribes. The topic was law enforcement. This is a discussion that needs a multipronged strategy. Senator Hoeven came up with a term of "translating testimonies into results". Governor Burgum was there as well. We can come up with all the ideas and a perfect plan on paper, but if we don't have enough law enforcement on the

ground, it's not going to work. This is a rural area. Drug and sex trafficking and missing and murdered people are all entwined together. It's a discussion that needs to continue to happen. One of the things they mentioned was the collaborative efforts throughout the state. They also talked about some of the staff. Some organizations spend 80% of their time on this issue with law enforcement or human trafficking or missing and murdered people. 40% of their cases are in Indian country such as Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota. The staff spends about 80% of their time on these cases. The majority of these cases are young children. That's where the education and awareness in the schools is needed. The schools can be big partners in this initiative as well. I have a 15-year-old daughter and we worry every day when she leaves home. It's a global problem, but the world is watching North Dakota. Everyone comes here for our oil. This is an opportunity for our state to take the lead when it comes to these kind of issues. It has to be a collaborative effort, not just the tribe or state or federal government, but a collaborative effort for us to end modern day slavery and these horrific acts of violence.

**Senator Myrdal:** Did you say that you're a former tribal...

**K. Hall:** Yes, I did four-year term for the three affiliated tribes.

**Senator Myrdal:** I agree with Senator Hoeven. I'm sick of studies and things not getting done. We do studies and these numbers don't change. Do you see a will within the tribes and councils? We had a previous bill regarding felons elected to a schoolboard. I asked why people keep electing these felons, and they said they didn't dare to otherwise. I can't sit here and help you dare. We can study and change the laws, but if you still don't dare, nothing will get done. Is there a will there?

**K. Hall:** We're probably the most studied people in the world. There's definitely a will there. The woman that replaced me after I retired went to the United Nations the past fall to address some of these issues. We take it to all of the levels. All of our leaders have children, and this is close to their hearts. There's a will, but there has to be a collaborative effort as well with education, training, tribal council, schools, businesses, hotels and others.

**(13:35) Cara Currie Hall, citizen, testifies in favor**

**C. Hall:** I thank you all for serving as legislators. Having been married to a legislator, I know the demand and the weight you carry, and it's not light. However, what an opportunity to correct things that are wrong. With the issue of jurisdiction, there already exists precedent in the state. The data and necessity of it is alarming; nonetheless, we must do it. The Governor has indicated his priority for strengthening tribal relations. That speaks to the issue of the conversation that we have with the state. The tax agreement makes it possible to cooperatively and collectively address and confront it. Missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, boys and men is a horrible thing. I don't let my daughter go out alone. I trust her, but I don't trust society. She's beautiful, and I don't know whose eyes are looking at her and how, but I know the culture and attitude to indigenous is that our lives are at state almost every day. It's something very difficult to live with. It's not just here unfortunately; it's everywhere. I live in the jet path and see the private jets flying here every day. They're probably doing the same thing I'm doing- standing in front of you to make laws to their favor. That's good for North Dakota. The MHA tribal nation are number 7 in the world for oil and

gas production. There needs to be a greater return in contribution. The finance and resources are there to support any initiative to collect this data and help us eliminate the issue. This gives us an opportunity. Different states and countries like Argentina look to North Dakota for a model of how we work with indigenous people. It's possible and doable, and now's our time.

**Chair Larson:** Yesterday at church, Pastor Boots from Cannonball spoke. He said, "Please do not ever give up hope". He said we need prayers, we need a lot, and so many times it can sound so overwhelming and too hard, but don't you ever give up hope.

**C. Hall:** I concur with Pastor Boots. We can find solutions together

**Chair Larson** closes the hearing on HCR 3056.

**Senator Luick: Motions for a Do Pass.**

**Senator Myrdal: Seconds.**

**A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent. Motion carries.**

**Senator Bakke will carry the bill.**



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3056: Judiciary Committee (Sen. D. Larson, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3056 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**2019 TESTIMONY**

**HCR 3056**

#1  
HCR 3056  
2-27-19  
Pg 1

Testimony of Rep. Ruth Buffalo  
House Concurrent Resolution 3056  
House Human Services Committee  
February 27, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Human Services Committee. I am Ruth Buffalo and I represent District 27 in south Fargo. HCR 3015 is a concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the issues and data reporting challenges related to missing and murdered indigenous people and human trafficking cases.

The purpose of this study is to use a comprehensive approach in finding solutions to the issues outlined in the resolution. Our hope is this study will also track the progress of HB 1311 and HB 1313, if and when they become law.

As a public health professional, we are trained to work proactively further upstream to get to the root cause of issues. This study will seek to find solutions to the ongoing epidemic many experience throughout North Dakota.

Why is the indigenous population targeted for human trafficking at much higher rates than the general population?

Why does the indigenous population experience violent crimes including rape and sexual assault twice as much then the general population?

Why does at least four out of five from the indigenous population experience violence within their lifetime?

Why on some reservations are indigenous women murdered ten times more than the national average?

Why is homicide the third leading cause of death among indigenous women between ages 10 and 24 years?

Why? Our hope is this study resolution will help answer some of these questions so that we can have safer communities for everyone.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Human Services Committee.



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House of  
Representatives

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Committees:  
Agriculture  
Judiciary

#1

HCR 3056

March 26, 2019

3.25.19

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Human Services Committee. I am Ruth Buffalo and I represent District 27 in south Fargo. HCR 3015 is a concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the issues and data reporting challenges related to missing and murdered indigenous people and human trafficking cases.

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As a public health professional, we are trained to work proactively further upstream to get to the root cause of issues. This study will seek to find solutions to the ongoing epidemic many experience throughout North Dakota.

Why is the indigenous population targeted for human trafficking at much higher rates than the general population?

Why does the indigenous population experience violent crimes including rape and sexual assault twice as much then the general population?

Why do at least four out of five from the indigenous population experience violence within their lifetime?

Why on some reservations are indigenous women murdered ten times more than the national average?

Why is homicide the third leading cause of death among indigenous women between ages 10 and 24 years?

Why? Our hope is this study resolution will dig deeper and help answer some of these questions so that we can have safer communities for everyone.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.