

To: House Judiciary Committee and Chairman Fred Patton

**From: Carole Cadue-Blackwood, an enrolled member of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
and a Lawrence, Kansas Resident**

Date: February 17, 2020

**Re: HB 2646- Requiring the Attorney General to coordinate training for law enforcement
agencies on missing and murdered Indigenous people**

Good afternoon Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee. My name is Carole Cadue-Blackwood and I'm a longtime resident of Lawrence, Kansas. I'm an enrolled member of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas and am affiliated with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe in Kansas. I'm also a long-time domestic violence and sexual assault advocate.

I appreciate the opportunity to present written testimony in support of HB-2646.

I live off of the Kickapoo Indian Reservation like so many of our greater majority Indian people who live off-reservation in Urban America. Our United States citizenship does not end at the Indian reservation border nor does the unique status of government obligations to our Indian people of the United States terminate at the Indian reservation border. Our Indian people are guaranteed the full United States Constitutional rights as all other citizens and we accept the responsibilities of citizenship. We all treasure our constitutional rights whether we are from Horton, Mayetta, Lawrence or Topeka, Kansas. These full guaranteed constitutional rights should be at the centerpiece of the debate and decision making in the consideration for passage of House Bill 2446.

The significant numbers of disappearance and deaths of our Native American people have placed our and communities in a crisis of sexual and criminal victimization. Our Indian people are the most vulnerable in America's society and the State of Kansas must act urgently and with strong resolve to prevent this ever-growing crime against humanity. Indian people are human beings with a zeal for life as any other citizen. Indian people come from throughout the United States to my hometown and alma mater, Haskell Indian Nations University to seek higher education and as Kansans we wish them to know we regard their homeland as our own.

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their communities, including urban areas. It's time for the State of Kansas to take strong action to stop this epidemic of violence and seek justice for those who have been impacted.

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Carole Cadue-Blackwood