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CHRISTINA HASWOOD, MPH
10TH DISTRICT

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Committee on Judiciary
Representative Fred Patton, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) include women, men, and two-spirited peoples who are disproportionately impacted by this public health crisis. It is a movement that brings action and awareness to the disproportionate rates of abduction, murder, violence, and human trafficked Indigenous peoples.

According to the 2018 National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) “homicide was the third leading cause of death for American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) males aged 1-44 years old” and it was the “sixth leading cause for AI/AN females aged 1-44 years old”. A resource called namus.gov is an online database system, by the National Institute of Justice and managed by the University of North Texas Health Science Center, where you can search and create a file for missing loved ones. As of January 17, 2020, there are currently a reported 696 missing AI/AN in the U.S. In Kansas, three results appeared: Michael L Aycok (Walton, KS, last seen May 30, 2017), Jay Kevin Shumate (Erne, KS, last seen January 17, 2016), and Bernard Francis Mulanax (Manhattan, KS, last seen December 26, 2009).

The Kansas legislature has yet to pass a bill that would be the first step to address MMIP and I believe we all have the opportunity to do that this session. I believe the solution will require all levels of government to come together to implement programs and solutions. Thank you for the opportunity and your time to testify and I ask for your support to pass HB 2008. I stand for questions.

Respectfully,

Representative Christina Haswood, MPH