

Hannah Howard  
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January 20, 2024

Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee

Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask you to vote in SUPPORT of HB 2208.

My name is Hannah Howard. I work for Camp Fire National Headquarters, a national youth serving organization. I am testifying in favor of HB 2208. I went to school at Bishop Miege High School, which is located right next to the Shawnee Indian Mission. Every day, I would pass the property, which is a beautiful piece of land. But I never knew the story behind it or why it was there. And the Mission never partnered with my school for any activities or education.

The history of the Mission is tied to the history of the Shawnee Tribe. It was the families and children of the Shawnee who were impacted by the Mission, as well as who the Mission was named after. It has not been made available, via the current management of the site, what the experiences of the Indigenous children were during their time at the school. We have little information on how their experiences impacted them or their families.


What has been made clear through the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative by the United States Government is a national goal of addressing the intergenerational impact of board schools and shedding light on the effects they had on Indigenous communities.

To communicate the historical significance of the Mission, it must be transferred to the Shawnee Tribe. They are who should have the opportunity to care for the land their children walked on. They are who should share the stories of the Shawnee Indian Mission with others.

I also believe the Shawnee Tribe will improve upon the maintenance of the Mission, which currently is deteriorating and in need of property repairs. It is in need of restoration so the public can benefit from this historic treasure.

Please vote YES on HB 2208.

Sincerely,



Hannah Howard