



Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota

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Morton, MN 56270

Cansayapi Otunwe

January 30, 2017

Dear Minnesota House of Representatives:

I am writing to express the Lower Sioux Indian Community's full support for HF501. This important bill will provide funding to expand txt4life's statewide text message and voice response program to prevent suicide and mental health crises.

Suicide affects too many young people in the State of Minnesota. My community is no exception. In recent years, we have seen a flurry of deaths of young people through drug overdose and suicide.

In response to these tragedies, young and older tribal members have come together to develop positive alternatives for our young people. Having knowledgeable and accessible resources we can count on, like the statewide text message response program identified in HF501, complements and strengthens our tribal efforts.

Thank you for considering our letter in support of Minnesota's txt4life's suicide prevention resources.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Larsen
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