



The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

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March 9, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, I write to express our support for H.F. 1273, a bill modifying the Office for Ombudsman for American Indian Families. Currently, each minority council in the State of Minnesota appoints an ombudsperson. These councils are the Indian Affairs Council, the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. For various reasons the current structure of the office does not work and the crucial role of the ombudsperson for Indian Families is being curtailed.

H.F. 1273 would remove the ombudsperson for Indian Families from the current structure and give the ombudsperson the needed flexibility to effectively carry out their role. H.F. 1273 is an extremely important bill for the American Indian community and is one that will impact American Indian and Minnesota children in a positive and long lasting way, and we are in full support of the bill as it currently stands. We are grateful to both Senators Kunesh and Abeler for advocating for our children in the state legislature, and we look forward to working with both of them into the future.

Sincerely,

Catherine J. Chavers
President