

# HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER: HB 2408

Support

Oppose

Neutral

Testimony Will Be: In Person Oral

Written Only

For Meeting on March 17, 2021

Testimony By: Rep. Dr. Ponka-We Victors

On Behalf Of: \_\_\_\_\_

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March 17, 2021

**House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
Representative Barker, Chairman**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2408. The Iowa tribe of Kansas and Nebraska tribal leaders approached me in January about this issue and I am here today to show my support for the bill. This bill would authorize the state historical society to transfer the Highland mission to the Iowa tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. The site is currently owned by the historical society and operated as a museum until 12 years ago, when the museum was shut down due to budget issues. However, the mission was once located within the boundaries of the Iowa tribe's reservation until the treaty of 1854 when the tribe moved north. The Iowa tribe of Kansas and Nebraska has a rich history with the mission because at one time it was used to educate the children of the Iowa and Sac & Fox nations. If the mission is transferred to the Iowa tribe, it will be used as a museum to the public and offer cultural and educational events at the site.

The Kansas state historical society and the Sac & Fox nation support the transfer. Therefore, I support the agreement that was made between the Iowa tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Kansas state historical society regarding the mission. I believe if the mission is not taken care of then the building will deteriorate. I would appreciate your support and stand for any questions. Thank you for your time and Mr. Chairman thank you for a hearing on this important issue.

Best,

*Rep. Dr. Ponka-We Victors*

Representative Dr. Ponka-We Victors