

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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**Proponent for HB 2772**

Dear Chairwoman Concannon & members of the committee,

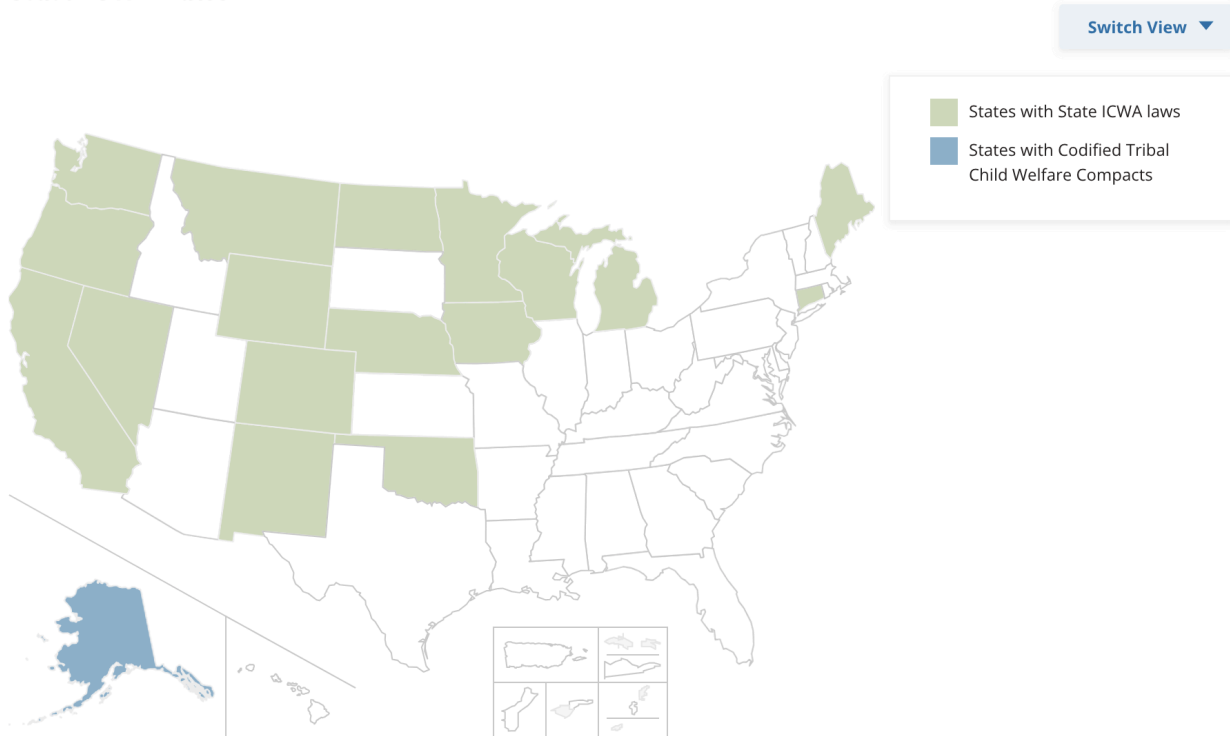
I stand as a proponent of HB 2772, in creating the Kansas Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The purpose of this bill is to create a Kansas-specific ICWA in the case that the federal ICWA is in jeopardy again, as it was in 2023 with the U.S. Supreme Court Justice Case (SCOUTS), *Haaland v. Brackeen*. This will also allow the opportunity for Kansas to make any adjustments needed to help the ICWA process run smoother in our state.

The reason why ICWA was needed is the historical injustices of Native children like the boarding school era, where Native children were forced to send their children to be assimilated into “mainstream society”. The horrendous practices of boarding schools included cutting off their hair, changing schools, and prohibiting the use of the child’s Native language, and cultural practices. This happened all across the U.S., and as close as in my district, Lawrence, at Haskell Indian Nations University, where it was first established in 1884.

The historical accounts continue as Native children were disproportionately removed from custody of their families, by DCF agents, and placed into non-Native homes where many lost ties to their culture, language, and opportunity for Tribal citizenship.

HB 2772, purpose is not to change much but to make sure ICWA has a home in our state statutes. This legislation was modeled off of Nebraska’s ICWA (2015) with the intention that this would flow the best between our neighboring states. According to a [report](#) done by the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL), 17 states have passed a state-specific ICWA, including our neighboring states, [Oklahoma](#) (1982), Colorado (2023), and previously mentioned Nebraska (1985). Below is a map from the NCSL article.

## State ICWA Laws



Thank you, Chairwoman Concannon, ranking member Rep. Ousley, and members of the committee for this opportunity to speak on this important issue. Many of our families are impacted by ICWA and we want to ensure every Native child who faces these unfortunate circumstances knows there is a system that is fighting for their right to culture and heritage.

I strongly ask this committee to pass out HB 2772.

Thank you,  
Rep. Christina Haswood