

I want to first take a moment to give thanks for presenting this HB. This is just the beginning of instilling honor and pride in our Indigenous Youth by respecting our heritage and culture.

I fully support this bill and encourage it to be passed. There is great significance in Indigenous regalia and is a way to connect to tribal identity and there is a deep spiritual connection as well. The infringement that has been placed upon our Indigenous youth and their right to wear items of cultural significance, including eagle feathers, is unfair. Each and every student should have the opportunity to positively represent their cultural identity. It should be celebrated at a very important time in our youths lives.

Personal statement made by Annessa Hartman - Gladstone City Councilor