

Dear House of Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Randall Sanderson. I am writing in support of H.R. 5444 the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

I grew up in South Dakota, and participated along with my family in volunteering and charitable work as part of our community and family life. South Dakota has a large American Indian population, and as a young person I came to know a number of Lakota people whose families were ripped apart and traumatized by the assimilation policies and trauma that were forced on Native peoples through boarding schools. The damage caused to people by these policies is immense, and HR 5444 is an important step in addressing the Native genocide and historical injustices that were perpetrated by boarding schools.

Thank you to the Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States,

Randall Sanderson