

From: Lacey Jade
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Testimony for HCR19
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Good Morning to the members of the committee:

Today, I'd like to speak towards language-based marginalization taking place today and in the history of our people.

Language is our identity in that it impacts how we understand our relationship to the world, the structure of our society, and our ability to see the possibility of the future. Without our original, indigenous language, our people cannot relate themselves to the world and to our people in a healthy way. As in the case of nurturing children, and also in the case of nurturing ourselves, neglect is tantamount to murder by inaction.

The loss of our language is directly impacted by our people being marginalized by english speaking society and colonial law. We are marginalized in that in this society we are allotted limited resources to address our societal struggles, such as poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence. This has left little or no resources left for language revitalization. Having to put our language on the backburner for so long has resulted in it's waning status as an important component to our health as a people.

Our language is the the root of our identity. It is a part of the land where we grow. Losing it from this land, is like losing oxygen from our soil. It causes a structure of toxicity where nothing will grow. We cannot hope to grow and be a healthy people, if we lose our language.

Please vote today in recognizing the linguistic emergency in Alaska, so that we may hope to have the resources allocated to bring back the roots of our identity. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,

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