January 24, 2020

To: Senator Walz and Members of the Committee

 From: Aubrey Mancuso, Executive Director

 Re: Support for LB 872

Schools should strive to create a welcoming environment for all students regardless of race, religion, gender identity or other personal characteristics or circumstances. Voices for Children supports LB 872 because it affirmatively protects the right of Native American students to fully express their cultural heritage in schools.

Unfortunately, there have been many documented incidents of schools not protecting students’ rights to express or display their cultural or ethnic heritage. The United States also has a long history of marginalizing and undermining Native American culture. LB 872 ensures that educational spaces in Nebraska are a protected space for Native American students to express their cultural heritage if they chose to do so.

We urge the committee to advance the bill. Thank you.