Chairman Weisz and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Tara Lea Muhlhauser, and I am the Director of Children and Family Services (CFS) in the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am here today at your request to provide you with information in regard to child welfare-related memorandums of understanding with tribal entities.

Children and Family Services (CFS) currently has IV-E related memorandums of understanding [MOU] with every tribe in ND. IV-E dollars are federal dollars used to provide payment for maintaining children in a foster care placement. These MOU agreements allow tribes to claim these federal dollars for payment of foster care-related expenses for children that meet IV-E eligibility. Claims are made through the state and typically are made on a quarterly basis through DHS with a reimbursement payment flowing back to the tribe. [Handout provided of two examples of IV-E MOUs].

At present, there are no tribal memorandums of understanding in place regarding child protective services.

If you would like any additional information, I would be happy to provide you with such or answer questions you have. Thank you.