



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT
REP. TOM KUHN
CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 26, 2026

10:30 AM

Room 307, House Office
Building

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government was called to order by Chair Kuhn.

The Chair requested attendance to be called:

Present: Reps. Kuhn, VanWoerkom, Kelly and Snyder.

Absent: Rep. Maddock.

Excused: Rep. Maddock.

Representative VanWoerkom moved to approve minutes from the meeting held on January 22, 2026. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Chair Kuhn made introductory remarks on intended subcommittee meetings as well as background on the Native American Boarding School study.

Chair Kuhn called on Jo Ann Kauffman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Kauffman and Associates, to testify on her firm's work on the Michigan Native American Boarding School Study, contracted by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Ms. Kauffman invited Chesleigh Keene, Vice President of Research, Evaluation, and Planning to present information and answer questions from subcommittee members along with herself. Ms. Kauffman and Ms. Keene testified remotely.

Chair Kuhn called on Winnay Wemigwase, Tribal Chairperson of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, to provide testimony regarding the Michigan Native American Boarding School Study and her experiences in a Native American boarding school and her experience with participating in the study conducted by Kauffman and Associates.

Chair Kuhn called on Sandra Witherspoon, Tribal Chairperson of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, to provide remote testimony regarding the Michigan Native American Boarding School Study and her experiences.

Chair Kuhn called on Rodney Loonsfoot, Council Member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, to provide remote testimony regarding the Michigan Native American Boarding School Study and his experiences.

Chair Kuhn called on Representative Carrie Rheingans who wished to speak. Representative Rheingans yielded her time to any other elders or survivors present who wished to speak.

Chair Kuhn recognized Sharon Skutt who provided testimony on her and her family's experiences with Native American boarding schools and participating in the study conducted by Kauffman and Associates.

Representative Kelly moved to excuse Representative Maddock from the meeting. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Kuhn adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM.

Representative Tom Kuhn, Chair

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