



Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

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Statement by the Executive Committee in Support of Representative Ponka-We Victors

March 24, 2022

Yesterday, Kansas State Representative Ponka-We Victors made history as the first Native American woman to chair the Kansas House of Representatives. The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska stands tall and proud of Rep. Ponka-We Victors, Rep. Stephanie Byers, and Rep. Christina Haswood, the three Native American women in the Kansas House of Representatives, and the many accomplishments they have and will continue to achieve.

We are disappointed by the remark made by Rep. John Wheeler during this historical moment. His words, coming only a month after the comments made by Kansas Education Commissioner Randy Watson, are unacceptable. This should come as no surprise in the year 2022.

We are resilient Indigenous peoples, and we will continue to persevere throughout these difficult times. We extend our unceasing support to these women. Continue to keep your head held high as our ancestors are watching from above. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

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