



# Jeff Mursau

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 36<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Committee on State Affairs

AB 576 – Use of Tribal Identification Cards

January 3, 2018

Chairman Swearingen and Committee Members –

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of AB 576, relating to the use of tribal identification cards for specific state purposes. This bill was drafted as a result of meetings of the Joint Legislative Council's Study Committee on State-Tribal Relations. I serve as chair of this committee.

Similar to a driver's license, a tribal ID contains the individual's name, address, date of birth, and a picture. Currently, the Federal Government accepts a tribal identification card as an acceptable form of ID when applying for a passport. The Department of Homeland Security allows the use of a tribal ID at all TSA checkpoints and Customs and Border Protection Checkpoints. Further, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recognizes a tribal ID as means to determine employment eligibility.

In Wisconsin there are several state laws that require a person to present identification for a variety of purposes. Those include proof of identification for the purpose of voting or proof of age when purchasing alcoholic beverages. Unfortunately, tribal members have found inconsistent recognition that tribal ID's may be considered an eligible form of identification. This is due to the fact that our state laws don't recognize a tribal ID as an "official identification card" for specific purposes.

This bill provides that an identification card issued by a federally recognized American Indian Tribe in this state can be used as a valid form of identification for the following purposes:

- Proof of residence for voter registration (current law already allows the use of a tribal ID as proof of identification for voting)
- Purchasing alcohol beverages
- Purchasing cigarettes, nicotine products, or tobacco products
- Confirming identity for picking up prescription medications
- Selling nonferrous scrap and other metal articles to scrap dealers
- Selling used home furnishings to an antique dealer or recycler
- Selling secondhand articles or secondhand jewelry to a pawnbroker, secondhand article dealer, or secondhand jewelry dealer

Once again, thank you for your consideration of AB 576. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.



Oneida Nation  
Oneida Business Committee  
PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54155-0365  
oneida-nsn.gov



To: Representative Rob Swearingen, Chairman  
Members of the Committee on State Affairs,  
From: Brandon Stevens, Oneida Nation Vice Chairman  
Date: January 3, 2017  
Re: Supporting Testimony on Assembly Bill 576: Tribal Identification Cards

Good afternoon Chairman Swearingen and members of the Committee. My name is Brandon Stevens representing the Oneida Nation as the Vice Chairman.

On behalf of the Oneida Nation I am testifying and urging support for Assembly Bill 576, legislation that would recognize Native American tribal identification cards in specific areas of Wisconsin statute where official government identification is required.

As you all may be aware, there are eleven federally-recognized Native American Indian Tribes in Wisconsin. Like the federal, state and local governments – Tribes are a recognized government providing essential services to our citizens and identification cards are one of the services provided. Many tribal nations, issue tribal identification cards (IDs) to their citizens for a variety of purposes.

Assembly Bill 576 simply expands that recognition of tribal identification to other areas in Wisconsin statute that require a government sponsored identification card. Wisconsin statutes often require a state or national form of identification for certain sales, purchasing, dispensing of prescriptions and voting in official elections.

Our reservation, like most tribes in the state, has several communities located within our boundaries. For us, that includes two counties, 5 municipalities and 6 school districts. This means there are numerous opportunities in our area where our citizens should be able to use their tribal IDs to make transactions.

Current law already allows the use of a Native American tribal identification card as proof for voting purposes. Further, it should be noted that each of the tribal representatives here today hold a tribal-issued photo identification that are recognized by the federal government. That means right now, today, I am able to use my tribal identification card at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) airport and border checkpoints. In 2006, the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles approved the Nation's Tribal Identification Card to the list of acceptable DMV documents. As our Tribal ID Cards are accepted more and more, the Nation takes the



Oneida Nation  
Oneida Business Committee  
PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54155-0365  
[oneida-nsn.gov](http://oneida-nsn.gov)



opportunity to continuously enhance the security of our identification cards to maintain the integrity of the cards.

Starting January 2018, our ID cards will have a 10 year expiration date and more secure technology; such as ink and dual imaging. As the evolving demands of the world are ever-changing, the Oneida Nation will continue to review and determine the necessary changes required to ensure our tribal identification cards have vital security features.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time and ask for your support of the passage of Assembly Bill 576. I am happy to answer any questions if I am able.



# **MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

P.O. Box 910

Keshena, WI 54135-0910

To: Representative Rob Swearingen, Chair  
Members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs  
From: Gary Besaw, Chairman, Menominee Tribal Legislature  
Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2017  
Re: Supporting Testimony on Assembly Bill 576 and Senate Bill 488 – Tribal Identification Cards

Chairman Rob Swearingen and members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs, I am honored to be here to testify today in support for Assembly Bill 576 legislation, which expands the recognized use of tribal identification cards as a form of valid identification in specific purposes.

Our Tribal Governments have long recognized ID cards issued by federal and state governments, and we are honored that Wisconsin legislation, as a matter of government-to-government cooperation and respect is willing to recognize our tribal identification cards in more areas that require proof of identification. Currently our Federal Government recognizes tribal identification cards as acceptable identification.

Assembly Bill 488 simply declares that a tribally issued identification card as valid to identify a person. Wisconsin law current already allows tribal identification cards for use when voting. This proposed legislation merely extends a tribal identification card as a valid form of identification when picking up prescription medications; purchasing cigarettes and tobacco products; purchasing alcohol beverages; selling scrap and metal articles; selling used home furnishings; selling secondhand articles or jewelry; and actually registering to vote in the first place.

Many of our Tribal Nations, like our Wisconsin State government, issue tribal identification cards to our members for a variety of reasons and uses and for the purpose to prove a person is an enrolled member of the Tribe. Our Menominee government issued Tribal ID cards meet this Bill requirements for valid identification information, including containing cardholders photograph, full name, address, and date of birth. Like the State, we as a Tribe, are concerned with ID card security, hence we actively employ security features, practices, and enhancements to make our Tribal ID impervious to tampering or duplication.

We humbly and respectfully request that the Wisconsin State Legislature pass AB576 and SB488. I am glad to answer any questions you may have or provide further information.