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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Sound good? All right. Thank you for speaking again. Thank you for this interview today. Can I just have you slowly say and spell your first semester?

[00:00:09] **Speaker 2** Sure. Apache Danforth, A-P-A-C-H-E-D-A-N-F-O-R-T-H.

[00:00:16] **Speaker 1** What tribe are you from? I'm from the Oneida Nation. Thank you so much for this today. He spoke about the significance of students being able to wear their traditional regalia at their high school ceremonies and that's for students to be okay and comfortable with that as part of their identity. Tell me about what you think about what he said about that today.

[00:00:36] **Speaker 2** Well, it definitely is very important and it's a right that I think that our people have been advocating for for many, many years, so it's not a new issue, however, it continues to be an issue. So just recognizing that graduation is a milestone for many of our young people, and they, you know, many of the first ones graduating from high school and their family. So wearing the traditional regalia really honors that tradition. of accomplishment and a lot of times the regalia is an heirloom from a family, so it also represents their family and what they're successful for, their family, representing their family. I know that a lot of states have already passed legislation allowing students to wear traditional regalia and I think that the state of Wisconsin can follow suit and do the same. to help protect our Indigenous students here in our state, and allow them to wear that regalia, allow them to have that accolade and to represent our people in that way. It really promotes an inclusive culture. I also want to ask you about... We did that really good. That was perfect timing.

[00:01:57] **Speaker 1** I want to ask you about cannabis regulation in this state. You mentioned the statistics, 86% of Wisconsinites say they're in favor for it. What do you think about that and how would it specifically impact native people here in Wisconsin?

[00:02:13] **Speaker 2** Well, I think there's two sides of the coin on cannabis, and I think that the legislator, in many ways, is right to kind of be careful in producing legislation that allows for the regulation of cannabis in our state. However, it is an economic tool that the tribes can use to build our communities and fund many programs that help our communities, societally. However, it has to be done with caution. I really encourage them to think about our kids when they're looking at legislation and legalizing cannabis in our state and how they're protecting our children from abusing and using and having access to cannabis. However, in terms of plant medicine, definitely we've all seen the studies. It can definitely be a tool that helps our people, you know, escape addiction, pain management, so that we don't have to get, you know, pharmaceuticals and heart opioids and fentanyl and all of these things to help regulate our pain so that we're understanding that it is a plant medicine and it is important, it is spiritual in many ways, and respecting that. So respecting that spiritual part of the plant medicine, but also being aware that, you know, it can be abused and what are we doing to protect?