

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U. S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Chairman  
U.S. Committee on Indian Affairs  
838 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Chairman Hoeven:

For many years, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the body as a whole has aimed to work together to pass legislation affecting Native American, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in a bipartisan manner—this is a tradition we wish to maintain.

We hope that your recent commitment to address the needs of Indian tribes will open the door for us to work together on other pieces of legislation that are equally important to Native American, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. The U.S. government has a trust responsibility to the Native peoples of our country, a commitment that Congress must continue to fulfill in good faith as part and parcel of the promises and treaty obligations that our government has made to Indian tribes. We urge you to work with us to act expeditiously to pass the following bills that we know are important to Native communities and tribal governments alike:

- S. 458, Native Educator Support and Training Act
- S. 747, Special Diabetes Program for Indians Reauthorization
- S. 1333, Tribal HUD-VASH Act of 2017
- S. 1400, Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017
- S. 1942, Savanna's Act
- S.1870, Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act
- S. 1895, Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act
- S.2146, Urban Indian Health Parity Act
- S. 2205, Tribal Connect Act
- S. 2233, Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act
- S. 2437, Opioid Response Enhancement Act
- S. 2409, Tribal Nutrition Improvement Act
- S.2498, Tribal Food and Housing Security Act
- S.2515, PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act of 2018
- S. 2545, Native Behavioral Health Access Improvement Act

Each of these bills addresses an unmet need in Indian Country: funding security for vital tribal housing programs; access to resources to address public health challenges like diabetes and substance abuse; restoring tribal criminal jurisdiction to ensure safer tribal communities; calling on the Department of Justice to work with tribal governments to ensure that Native

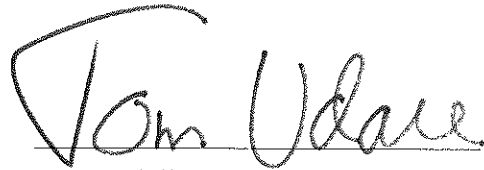
American/Alaska Native women, children, and tribal safety officers are better protected; creating a grant program to tackle the broadband accessibility gap in Indian Country; and empowering tribes to safeguard their cultural patrimony from theft and sale.

We stand ready to work with you to get these bills to the President's desk and ensure that we are doing our part to keep our Country's promises to Native American, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
U.S. Senate Democratic Leader



Tom Udall  
Vice Chairman  
U.S. Committee on Indian Affairs