

**TESTIMONY OF  
COUNCILMEMBER DAVID KILLS-A-HUNDRED  
ON BEHALF OF  
THE FLANDREAU SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
BEFORE THE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES  
THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018**

Good afternoon Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. My name is David Kills-A-Hundred, Trustee II of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. On behalf of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify today regarding issues of importance to our Tribe.

Before I begin, I would first like to thank both the Members and Staff on both the majority and minority who serve on the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies for their efforts in assisting the Tribe in securing much needed funds within the Fiscal Year 2018 Continuing Resolutions for the Tribe's Joint Venture Health Clinic with the Indian Health Service. You took action after hearing the Tribe's concerns in this same hearing last year, and now the Tribe, its members, and the entire community are benefiting from a fully funded, state-of-the-art health care facility.

The tribal clinic is only one of many issues of importance to our Tribe and I am here again today to speak to these issues, and to seek solutions that will serve the best interests of the Tribe and our people.

**METHAMPHETAMINE AND OPIOID TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Opioid addiction and its collateral consequences are debilitating Indian Country. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe is plagued with an epidemic of opioid addiction and abuse, causing a substantial loss of resources with little to no funding available to address this serious issue. Every facet of our community has been affected including a direct impact on children suffering from the abuses of the adults that care for them. The costs on the tribe are not only emotional and physical but financial. We have seen costs increase dramatically as the epidemic expands. We have seen increases in public safety needs to combat the epidemic, increases in healthcare and rehabilitate services to those who have been suffering and the families they have impacted. Our community will overcome, that is our nature, but we need help in this battle. Most government funding programs allocate funds to the states with the expectation that funds will trickle down and find their way to Indian Country. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Tribes are disproportionately affected by methamphetamine and opioid abuse and our tribe is in a crisis situation. And as such, our limited resources are overburdened and have been exhausted.

To address the impacts of methamphetamine and opioid abuse and the unmet needs facing our community, we urge the Subcommittee to increase funds for IHS Mental Health Services,

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programs, as well as increased funding for in-patient, long-term treatment. It is critical and necessary.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DETENTION FACILITY**

Public safety is of the utmost importance to the Tribe, especially in a region currently damaged by methamphetamine and opioid abuse. As a result, expenses in operating our Tribal Law Enforcement Program have increased exponentially while funding has flatlined. An issue we touched on last year before this Subcommittee was the need for a detention facility to house individuals arrested on the reservation. This need has grown exponentially. As you will recall the nearest detention facility for the Tribe is located 125 miles away from the reservation. This distance puts significant burden on our Tribal Police who must make the 250 mile round trip drive in order to place those who they have arrested in to a detention facility. The situation takes officers away from duty on the Reservation for substantially long periods of time and poses a serious and significant safety risk to the community. The need for a local detention facility to house individuals arrested within the Tribe's jurisdiction has been a critical need for our tribe for years and we have been actively trying to remedy this situation but we need your help. In 2012-2013, our Tribe received funding for planning grant to design a local detention facility. With this funding, we successfully obtained the design plans, but have yet to receive funding to build the detention facility. Our need for a detention facility has now reached desperate levels. With timely and proper funding, our Tribe can quickly start new construction and begin to alleviate some of the substantial burden that has been placed on our tribal law enforcement. Again, we request appropriations for construction of a reservation based local detention facility.

## **TIMELY DISPENSEMENT OF FUNDING**

I thanked the committee earlier for their assistance in obtaining the funding that was contractually obligated by the Federal Government to the Tribe for our Health Clinic. However, the funding that is owed to the tribe for operations of the clinic has been delayed for long periods of time, creating serious problems with operations of our Health Clinic. Often, we are forced to overburden tribal funding sources to pay for operations of the clinic including payroll and supplies. When funding is consistently late, the Clinic is without adequate funds for operations, programming, and contract support costs. This jeopardizes the health of our community. There needs to be a faster way to receive funds through the Aberdeen Area Office in South Dakota. We ask the committee to seek workable solutions to this problem and respectfully suggest IHS look into restructuring the protocol and process for funding distribution. It would also be beneficial to timely approve the appointment for the new Director of Indian Health Services, and other positions critical to Indian Country.

Please keep in mind that both police and health care are treaty and contractual obligations of the United States. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe thanks the Sub Committee for its efforts in addressing tribal priorities and addressing the critical needs of tribal communities. The decisions made by the committee impact the lives of the people of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe and we ask that you take our requests into consideration.