

HOUSE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE MEMBER DAY HEARING

Congressman Tracey Mann, November 21, 2025

MEMBER DAY REMARKS

- Thank you, Chairman Walberg, Ranking Member Scott, and Members of the Committee, for the opportunity to speak with you today.
- Today, I would like to discuss Haskell Indian Nation's University, located in my district in Lawrence, Kansas.
- Established in 1884 by federal legislation aimed to fulfil the United States' treaty and trust obligations to provide a high-quality education to American Indians, Haskell is the only Tribal university in the world with an entirely indigenous population. It is a one-of-a-kind, historic and invaluable institution. However, and let me be clear – when it comes to Haskell, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Education have dropped the ball. Years of mismanagement, lack of oversight, and cycles of misconduct have all compounded, and Congress needs to conduct serious oversight.
- The students and faculty at Haskell deserve a safe learning and working environment. I have been encouraged by the House Education and Workforce and Natural Resources Committees' oversight efforts over the past few years, and hope to see that continued.
- I, along with Senator Jerry Moran, introduced the Haskell Indian Nations University Improvement Act, which would federally charter Haskell and separate them from the governance of the BIE. The Federal government has sadly done a disservice to this school,

and one way to make this right is to put the education of Haskell's students back in the hands of Indian country. While the Federal government will still be obligated to provide necessary funds to the school, governance would be transferred to qualified Tribal leaders from across the country. This legislation would open the door for opportunities that Haskell is currently not eligible for, the ability to expand educational programs, and provide Native students with a safe learning environment.

- I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and to reach out to my office should you have any questions.
- I would also like to take the time to discuss another piece of legislation I, along with Representative Joe Neguse, introduced called the States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment Act, or the SHARE Act.
- Hospitals and other health care facilities are experiencing workforce shortages that are causing a considerable strain on our health care system. One way to address this shortage is to expedite licensure processes for our current providers.
- Current law requires health care providers to obtain a license or certification from each state in which they wish to practice. If a provider licensed in one state relocates to another, that provider must complete the licensure process again for each new state in which they wish to practice. This process is burdensome and strips providers of the ability to practice in any new state until the application is approved – sometimes taking more than half a year.

- **The SHARE Act** would make a technical correction to modernize a vital component of the licensure process for health care providers by authorizing the FBI to share criminal history record information between states for licensure purposes, allowing cooperation between states while protecting each states' authority to determine whether a provider is eligible to practice in the state.
- This legislation extends the reach of health care professionals, improves access to medical specialists, and leverages the use of medical technologies like telehealth.
- As the Committee continues to work on legislation and oversight surrounding Haskell Indian Nations University or our healthcare workforce, I ask that you ensure my comments today are taken into consideration.
- Thank you for the opportunity to speak on these timely and important issues, and I yield back the remainder of my time.