

**Opening Statement of Congressman Greg Gianforte
Committee on Energy and Commerce
“Markup of 38 Energy, Health, Consumer Protection, and
Telecommunications Bills”
September 9, 2020**

As Prepared for Delivery

I appreciate that we are moving to advance important bipartisan legislation.

I especially am glad to see the Committee consider my legislation, the Tribal Health Data Improvement Act.

Montana and our Tribal communities continue to combat the invisible enemy, and the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations in Montana have been hit especially hard. But even as we respond to COVID-19, current law does not entitle Tribal public health authorities to critical public health data, putting their response at a preventable disadvantage.

The bipartisan, Tribal Health Data Improvement Act will ensure Tribal public health authorities have access to public health data. Providing data and access to health surveillance systems will help inform Tribal leadership and improve outcomes.

I thank Representatives Lujan, Rodgers, Mullin and Ruiz for joining me on this important effort. I was happy to work my colleagues

and the National Indian Health Board to draft this legislation, and I hope we can get it to the President for signature.

I also want to thank the Committee for including the Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act as an amendment to the Stop Senior Scams Act.

Scam artists have preyed on Tribes and Tribal members, seeking to steal their money and private, personal information. We must hold these scammers accountable.

The bipartisan Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act will require the Federal Trade Commission to work with Tribal authorities to study scams targeting Tribes and Tribal members. I'm grateful again to Mr. Lujan for working with me on this critical measure.

During these uncertain times it is important that this committee continue to work protect vulnerable Tribal populations – whether it's the threat of COVID-19 or unscrupulous con artists.

I thank the committee for its bipartisan work to solve issues impacting Indian country and look forward to supporting these bills on the House floor.

I yield back.