

One day, all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education.



July 18, 2019

The Honorable Ruben Gallego  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States  
United States House of Representatives  
1131 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Cook  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States  
United States House of Representatives  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gallego and Ranking Member Cook:

Teach For America is pleased to endorse the Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act, H.R. 895, introduced by Congressman Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and we hope the subcommittee will advance this important legislation.

The legislation would allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) programs. This change would free up resources to improve recruiting and retention efforts for professional educators in tribal communities by allowing schools to spend less on health insurance and more on education-specific items.

By endorsing this bill, Teach For America is standing by our long-term belief that Native students should have an equal opportunity to attain an excellent education. Providing Native children with a quality education is central to the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes. Congress should pass this bill to provide tribal communities with all the resources necessary to support the educators serving our students.

Again, we hope the committee will advance this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

WaziHanska Cook, MA Oglala Lakota  
Senior Managing Director  
Teach For America Native Alliance

Jim Curran  
Executive Director  
Teach For America South Dakota



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