



Rosebud Sioux Tribe

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July 24, 2019

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
U.S. House Subcommittee on Indigenous
Peoples of the United States
1324 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Cook
U.S. House Subcommittee on Indigenous
Peoples of the United States
1329 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 895, the Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act of 2019

Dear Chairman Gallego and Ranking Member Cook:

I write on behalf of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to thank you for holding a hearing on July 16 regarding H.R. 895, the Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act of 2019. I also commend Representative Dusty Johnson for introducing the legislation. Additionally, I would like to express the support of the leadership of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe for the prompt enactment of H.R. 895.

H.R. 895 would provide employees of the 100 tribally controlled grant schools, including the 20 located in South Dakota, with access to Federal Employee Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employee Group Life Insurance (FGLI). Expanding access to these valuable programs will substantially reduce the healthcare costs of tribal schools, which are located in some of the nation's most underserved communities, so vital resources can be invested in educating our future leaders.

Furthermore, Tribal communities are struggling with recruiting and retaining working professionals in a myriad of fields, including law, healthcare, and engineering. The education field is not exempt from recruitment and retention shortfalls. Providing individuals working in the education field on reservations in South Dakota and across the nation will improve their quality of life and help bolster recruitment and retention. If you have any questions, please contact me at rodney.bordeaux@rst-nsn.gov or Travis Jansen, Director, RST OLA, at 605-315 or travis.jansen@rst-nsn.gov.

Respectfully,

Rodney Bordeaux, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe