

-Legislative Hearing-

Hearing on the following bills:

- **H.R. 396 (Rep. Mullin)**, To provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes.
- **H.R. 895 (Rep. Johnson)**, To allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program. “*Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act*”
- **H.R. 2031 (Rep. Haaland)**, To amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes, and for other purposes. “*PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act*”
- **H.R. 2414 (Rep. Grijalva)**, To amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act.

OPENING STATEMENT

July 16, 2019

Thank you, Chairman Gallego.

As you mentioned, the subcommittee will be receiving testimony today on four pieces of legislation.

These bills each touch on different policy areas, and several are intended to strengthen tribal self-determination.

H.R. 396, sponsored by our colleague from Oklahoma, Representative Mullin, would address certain land claims the Miami Tribe has asserted.

The next bill, H.R. 2414, Chairman Grijalva's legislation, provides several amendments to the authorizing statute relating to the Udall Foundation and the important work it performs. The Udall Foundation is a federal agency which was created in 1992. The Foundation works to strengthen Tribal Nations by providing fellowships to students as well as self-determination, governance, and economic development resources to tribes.

The next bill explores the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, which has been a great tool for tribal nations by empowering them to have greater control over federal programs that directly benefit their members.

Representative Haaland's bill, H.R. 2031, also known as the PROGRESS Act, revises Title 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to enhance tribal ability to work directly with the Secretary of the Interior on annual funding agreements.

Finally, Representative Johnson's bill, H.R. 895, or the Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act, would allow Bureau of Indian Education tribal grant school employees to be eligible for participation in the Federal Employee Health Benefits and Group Life Insurance programs. This legislation will allow more money to be spent on education, and will incentivize quality teachers to continue working at Bureau of Indian Education schools.

I want to thank the witnesses for being here today and I'm looking forward to hearing their testimonies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.