

Questions for the Record by Democrat Members

Questions from Rep. Haaland for Ms. Aurene Martin, Board Member, National Indian Child Welfare Association

1. Regarding the currently available federal funding for child maltreatment prevention programs -

- o can you explain why American Indian/ Alaska Native communities have a difficult time accessing federal funding resources that are otherwise readily available to States and other entities?

When Congress initially enacted CAPTA little attention was given to the need for these programs and services in Indian Country or the impediments to tribes accessing these resources through state agencies. While states have direct access to the Social Services Block Grant and CAPTA, the primary federal funding for child abuse and neglect prevention, tribes are not eligible receive SSBG funding directly and are not eligible for child abuse and neglect prevention funding under CAPTA except for a very small grant program shared with migrant communities under the community-based grant program (provides only two small grants a year to tribes) and select demonstration and research funding that is provided through a competitive grant program with states and universities receiving the vast majority of funding over the years. For tribes trying to access state prevention funding, they often find states not willing to share their federal resources or the programs and services are located far from tribal communities and utilize methodologies that are not well matched to tribal community values and needs often rendering them less than effective in addressing child abuse and neglect prevention.

- o Briefly, can you describe the major sources of federal child welfare services funding that American Indian and Alaska Native communities do *not* have access to?

Federal child welfare funding that tribal nations do not have direct access to include the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), CAPTA State Grants, Medicaid, CAPTA matching funds for the establishment and operation of State Children's Trust Funds. Two of these are in the top four federal sources of child welfare for states in terms of dollar amounts (SSBG and Medicaid).

Tribes are eligible to directly apply for and receive other federal child welfare services funding, but the amounts are extremely small. Title IV-B Child Welfare Services only provides an estimated \$5.5 million to tribes from a program that is funded at \$274 million annually. Under Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable Families tribes are funded at only \$12 million annually. The Court Improvement Program under Title IV-B, Subpart 2 only funds tribes at \$1 million a year. When reviewing funding levels across all major federal child welfare programs

tribal nations receive less than 1% of the total annual distribution of appropriated funds.

Questions for the Record by Republican Members

Questions from Ranking Member Bishop for Ms. Aurene Martin, Board Member, National Indian Child Welfare Association

1. In your opinion, why don't you think the Resource center as well as the two grant programs never received appropriations?

It is hard to know exactly why this did not occur, but our experience in Congress and with the oversight agencies since the 1990's has provided us with some insight into possible reasons for the inaction. One possible factor is that past administrations sometimes did not request funding for the resource centers and grant programs in their budgets making more difficult for Congress to appropriate the funds. There also seems to have been some confusion between the oversight agencies as to what their specific role was in the larger context of the law and the resource center and grant programs. Both Indian Health Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs were named as having oversight responsibility, but it became clear at an oversight hearing in the mid-late 1990's chaired by Senator McCain in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs that the two agencies were not clear about their roles and were not actively moving forward to facilitate implementation of the law.

2. Looking at the data and maltreatment of children, do these numbers hold true throughout the country and do you think that there is a greater need in tribal communities on reservations or in urban areas?

The available data is limited, but what is available indicates trends that we see in other populations, such as the influence of local factors such as availability of services in communities. Rural areas, where many tribal communities reside, often have fewer services for families and therefore we would expect that there could be different data trends or needs in these areas. Tribal families in urban areas may have greater access to services, but informal supports from extended family members and cultural services are less likely to be present. Because many tribal citizens use tribal services, even when they live off tribal lands, and states look to contract with tribes to provide specialized services such as these, having a solid base of tribal services is going to be important for both tribal communities and urban communities. Creating incentives to partner between tribal nations and urban communities will also help spur more innovative approaches

to the unique issues in each community.