

-Legislative Hearing-

**OPENING STATEMENT**

November 13, 2019

Thank you, Chairman Gallego.

As you mentioned, the subcommittee will be receiving testimony today on your bill, H.R. 4957 the Native American Child Protection Act. I am an original cosponsor and proud supporter of this legislation.

This bill primarily reauthorizes programs established by the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, which was enacted in 1990. It created two grant programs and mandated that child resource service centers be established throughout the twelve Bureau of Indian Affairs regions.

The two grant programs are intended to provide treatment to victims of child abuse or neglect and provide a means to help prevent these atrocious acts of abuse or neglect from occurring in the first place.

Sadly, funding for the child resource and family service centers and the two grant programs has been absent since the law was passed.

This committee has acted on issues impacting native children in the last several Congresses and I stand ready to work with you, Mr. Chairman, on your bill to address important and outstanding issues needing this committee's attention.

I want to thank our witnesses for being here today and I look forward to their testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.