

**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States**

Hybrid Legislative Hearing  
May 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. ET

**Legislative Hearing on H.R. 5444**

**Questions from Rep. Grijalva** for James LaBelle, Sr., 1st Vice President and Boarding School Survivor, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

1. Thank you for your testimony. For how long have you shared your story?
2. Are there characteristics or patterns you see in your grandchildren because of your boarding school experience?

**Questions from Rep. Grijalva** for Matthew War Bonnet, Boarding School Survivor, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

1. How long did you attend the St. Francis Boarding School?
  - a. How often were you required to attend church services?
2. Your testimony mentions how generations of youth withstood abuse at Indian boarding schools, including the generations in your own family.
  - a. In your experience, what has helped you and your family the most in the healing process?

**Questions from Rep. Grijalva** for Dr. Ramona Charette Klein, Boarding School Survivor, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

1. Your testimony notes that, despite your experiences with education at the boarding school, you became an educator later in life.
  - a. Can you elaborate on how your life story has impacted your work as an educator?

**Questions from Rep. Grijalva** for The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chief, Shawnee Tribe

2. As a tribal leader, can you explain how the federal trust responsibility obligates the federal government to address its role in the Boarding School Era?
3. Can you speak to the obstacles you've faced when attempting to locate and reveal records pertaining to boarding schools?
  - a. Do you think that legislation like H.R. 5444 is needed to gain access to these records and testimonies?

**Questions from Rep. Grijalva** for Deborah Parker, Chief Executive Officer, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

1. As someone who worked previously on truth and healing efforts in Canada, do you have any recommendations for how the federal government should address its role in the creation and implementation of Indian boarding schools?