

Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Representative Sharice Davids (D-Kan.), and Representative Tom Cole (R-Okla.)

Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN)
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association Inc of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
American Indian Catholic Schools Network (AICSN)
American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)
Americans for Indian Opportunity
Association on American Indian Affairs
Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum
Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW)
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of MT
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Dr. Alan Ray, Citizen of Cherokee Nation (does not represent the Nation; endorses only for himself)
Faith Action Network
First Alaskans Institute
Fort Belknap Indian Community
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA)
Interfaith Network for Indigenous Communities (INIC)
Jennifer De Leon, Director of Racial Justice, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology
Margo Gray, Chairwoman, United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Montana Women Vote
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.
National Coalition of Native Language Schools and Programs
National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)
National Indian Education Association (NIEA)
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC)
National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS)
NCUIH
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Red Cloud Indian School
Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, President, United Lutheran Seminary
Saokio Heritage
Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB)
Seven Religious Congregations and Denominations (the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Franciscan Action Network, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Office of Race Relations of the Christian Reformed Church of North America, and the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church)
St. Joseph Mission School
The Boulder, Intermountain, New York, and Southeastern Yearly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends
The Episcopal Church
The Leadership Conference of Women Religious
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
Transvisible Montana
Tulalip Tribes

United American Indian Involvement, Inc
United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)
Upstander Project
Shawnee Tribe

STATEMENTS & LETTERS OF SUPPORT

"The AAP supports this legislation and stands ready to support the truth and healing commission in its efforts to uncover the truth and to seek healing and support for survivors. It is essential that public policy support AI/AN children by providing access to services to meet their health and developmental needs. Thank you for your work on behalf of children and families," **wrote the American Academy of Pediatrics in a [letter of support](#).**

"American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association Inc. supports The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy in the United States Act. Hope that the United States government finally acknowledges the atrocities committed upon our Indian children by Indian Boarding schools and Religious Boarding schools, will be realized with the passing of this legislation. As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America AIANLA Inc. we know that HOPE transforms the lives of those who live with the trauma of losing relatives at Indian Boarding schools and religious boarding schools. Healing from this trauma begins for our relatives with the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy in the United States Act." - **The Reverend Joann Conroy, President of the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association Inc., of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

"The American Indian Catholic Schools Network believes this commission is an essential step for a meaningful movement of truth and healing. AICSN is honored to partner with NABS and other key players in this work as we commit each day to this work." - **American Indian Catholic Schools Network (AICSN)**

"The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), which comprises the nation's 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities, commends Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Congresswoman Sharice Davids (D-KS), and Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) for their leadership in proposing a long overdue commission to study, document, and identify strategies for addressing the continuing traumatic impacts of the federal government's Indian boarding school policy. As TCUs, we believe strongly in the power of place-based and Tribal Nation-focused education rising from within us - from our own culture and language and connected to the air, land, water around us. That is the foundation of our future. But we cannot move forward unless we acknowledge and address all aspects of our past, including centuries of oppression, segregation, and even annihilation - the legacy of the boarding school experience. This landmark legislation will provide much-needed support for our transformative journey of healing, knowledge creation, and identity." - **Carrie L. Billy, AIHEC President and CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium**

"We cannot wait any longer. Our families have been suffering for too long. The Association on American Indian Affairs supports the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act so that we – as a nation – can finally begin the process of uncovering, accepting and healing from the forced assimilation and genocidal policies that our country once believed in. We must speak truth to these great harms of the past so that it never happens again to anyone's children." - **Shannon O'Loughlin, CEO AAIA**

"Our hearts are breaking with the news of the remains of First Nations children that were found on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in Canada. Unfortunately, the same shameful history of assimilation happened in US boarding schools for Native American children run by churches and the federal government. Here at the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum in Carson City, NV, we share the first-person stories of Stewart alumni who experienced being kidnapped from their families, forced to stay in overcrowded dormitories, and were severely punished if they broke the rules of this harsh military-like environment. These stories are part of American history and must be taught as a genocidal federal policy that severely damaged but did not destroy Native culture. Our staff works closely with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition to document boarding school records in compliance with Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland's initiative to account for the lives of these students. As a gathering place for Stewart alumni and their families we are committed to sharing the stories and helping families to heal from the historical trauma caused by the boarding school experience." - **Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum**

“The Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women supports the establishment of the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy, in the hope that it begins to mend the wounds of history. The moment is upon us to address the assimilation policies of the government and its lasting implications on the Indigenous Peoples of United States. We recognize the impacts of historical trauma when advocating for healthier families and communities and believe this bill is critical to achieving this goal.” - **Angel Charley, executive director, CSVANW**

“Our community is well aware of the damages our people suffered at the hands of the Indian Board School Policy adopted by the United States. The stories have been handed down and those impacts felt by many generations. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have embraced multiple efforts to heal ourselves and to improve our health and wellness overall. We support the creation of this committee to propel these efforts forward for the good of all people who have been impacted. We also do this to honor our ancestors who sacrificed so we could be here today.” - **Shelly R. Fyant, Chairwoman, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council**

“Momentum is gathering in Congress and the Department of the Interior for a full accounting of the Indian Boarding Schools. The legislation proposed by Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Sharice Davids is an important step toward such an accounting. Once passed, the legislation will provide a measure of redress and a means of healing for those in Indian Country who continue to suffer from the legacy of the Indian Boarding Schools. It will also help educate the public about a chapter in American history that is far too little known or understood.” - **Dr. Alan Ray, Past President, Fisher College and Elmhurst University**

“We call upon our member faith communities here in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the country to tell the truth about their own association with Indian Boarding Schools in the United States. We pledge to advocate and work within each of our denominations to identify boarding schools sponsored by or in any way associated with our faith communities. As advocates motivated by our faith traditions’ call to justice, we support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act.” - **Faith Action Network**

“The time for this bill has long been coming since the founding of this country. It is time for the light to shine in the dark spaces of this country’s origins, its present reckoning, and the future of its soul as a country based on truth, justice, and healing. Will we live up to this aspiration? Are we capable of doing so? This bill gives us the opportunity to begin to do so. As Alaska Natives our story is inextricably linked to all of our Indigenous relatives across this country. Every person freely brought to this country has benefited because of what has been done and is being done to our peoples, and worse our precious children bore the brunt of these atrocities. We need justice, we need love, and we need all those who now call this country home to stand beside us. Let us find all our children, bring them home, and help this country live up to its ideals and its promises to our Native Peoples.” - **La quen náay Liz Medicine Crow (Haida/Tlingit), President/CEO, First Alaskans Institute**

“The Fort Belknap Indian Community council strongly supports the proposed Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act. Boarding Schools were the government sponsored genocide of Indian people,” **Andy Werk Jr., President, Fort Belknap Indian Community, wrote in a [letter of support](#)**. “We applaud the efforts of Senator Warren and U.S. Representative Sharice Davids in reviving this effort to document the boarding school policies and provide another avenue to help heal any past transgressions.”

“Franciscan Action Network (FAN) welcomes the long-awaited introduction of the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. We endorse the bill for several reasons: the gospel of Jesus Christ teaches that we are all sisters and brothers so we must respect and care for each other; FAN advocates for human rights and human rights were violated with the institution of Indian Boarding Schools; a few of our member organizations managed Indian Boarding Schools. There can be no healing of past injustices and injuries without first acknowledging painful truth. The Commission will begin this process that is long overdue.” - **Stephen Schneck, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network**

“The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) welcomes and supports this important legislation to investigate and address the atrocities committed at Indian boarding schools.” - **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

“The historical trauma resonating from this painful time in our collective history is not fully known by those outside of the American Indian community. The Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) supports Senator Warren and Representative Davids in their efforts to bring healing to every American Indian family that still has the painful effects the Federal government's Indian boarding school policies. The "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act," will create the pathway forward for national dialogue to take place and hopefully for the eventual healing of individuals and families that experienced trauma as result of the federal boarding school system. It is time to review the administrative history of this federal policy, its detrimental effects on the American Indian community, and the institutions that implemented this federal policy.” - **Maria Dadgar, (Piscataway), MBA, Executive Director Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA)**

“The faith community must acknowledge our complicity in the historic trauma of the boarding school era and work in solidarity with tribal nations to advance congressional efforts to establish a truth, reconciliation, and healing process for the families and communities affected. Although the wrongs committed at these institutions can never be made right, we can do a lot more to honor the promises made to tribes.” - **Interfaith Network for Indigenous Communities (INIC)**

“We cannot begin to address or talk about racial justice in the United States while continuing to ignore the legacies of the doctrine of discovery which include the ongoing trauma the Native American community experiences resulting from Indian boarding schools and other atrocities committed against them by our government. The Truth and Healing Commission is long overdo and is a good start to addressing our sin of racism.” - **Jennifer De Leon, Director of Racial Justice, Office of the Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

“Our work must also continue beyond the Commission in supporting the Indigenous languages, cultures, and peoples these policies were intended to destroy and erase. Only then can we create a future we are all proud to be a part of.” - **Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology**

“On behalf of the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas an organization that represents the 44 tribes for an united voice on issues that impact Native Americans I respectfully request that you consider co-sponsoring the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act (“Indian Board School Commission Act”),” **wrote Margo Gray, Chairwoman, United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, in a [letter of support](#)**. “Accordingly, we urge you to stand with Indian Country, and the families—past and present—who have been impacted by prior policies that supported coerced or forced attendance of Native children at Indian boarding schools across the United States.”

“September 30th is the National Day of Remembrance for victims of the Boarding/Residential School Era. The United States had more than 350 government- funded boarding schools in operation in the 19th and 20th centuries with around 160 being in operation today. With the recent discovery of over 1,500 unmarked graves in Canada, Montana Women Vote stands with those who are grieving and reliving the trauma inflicted by the boarding school era and supports the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy in the United States Act of 2021; so that moving forward a path to recognition and healing can be found.” - **Montana Women Vote**

“The National Coalition of Native American Language Schools and Programs (NCNALSP) advocates for the use of Indigenous languages as the medium of instruction in our community-led schools and programs across the United States.

"NCNALSP wholeheartedly endorses the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act. It is time to come out from the shadows of the dire and intentional consequences on the languages and cultures of Indigenous peoples that were brought on by boarding school policies and actions over the course of several generations.

"Creating and committing to this Commission on Indian Boarding School policies is an honorable step towards healing and growth for all of our country. We support Commission activities that will recommend actions that the Federal Government can take to adequately hold itself accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School policies and the ongoing removal of children through modern-day assimilative practices carried out by States. The assimilation practices of the Federal Government advanced by the attempted cultural and linguistic termination of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through historic and ongoing Boarding School policies and traumas must be faced and reversed to build a healthy and just U.S. nation. Culturally respectful and meaningful collaboration of the proposed Commission will provide an opportunity to begin to heal and move into the future with strength.

"We appreciate your support for the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act and stand willing to help out with further support activities." - **Leslie Harper, President, National Coalition of Native Language Schools and Programs**

"The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act would provide an important avenue for an investigation about the losses that occurred through the Indian Boarding School Policies and the lasting consequences of the violence of this attempted genocide. Only through a formal investigation which includes meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and significant input from survivors and their descendants, can the US begin to reconcile with the past and can tribal communities begin to move toward healing from the egregious abuses which occurred," **Juana Majel Dixon, NCAI Board Secretary and Traditional Councilwoman of the Pauma Band of Mission Indians, stated in a written statement.** "National Congress of American Indians commends the bipartisan efforts of Senator Warren and Representatives Davids and Cole to address the systematic destruction of tribal cultures and communities, something which is long overdue."

"The National Indian Child Welfare Association greatly appreciates the efforts of Senator Warren and Representative Davids to introduce the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. As we witness the international shock and outrage at the identification of mass burial sites and unmarked graves of Indigenous children in Canada who were residents of residential schools, we see the parallels to the boarding school era in the United States and the accounts from survivors of the horrific abuse they experienced. The legacy of those policies and practices is evident in Native communities today. This legislation is critical to exposing the truth about the individual and collective trauma that was imposed upon Native communities and furthering the process of healing for all Native people." - **National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)**

"Native communities have suffered loss of traditional thought and philosophy, culture, language, identity, land, and resources since 1491. The purpose of the act is respected, however over 500 years of broken promises and failures to uphold the trust responsibility will require more than just written policies. For this act to make effective and lasting change, Native communities and the US government MUST communicate, collaborate, and trust to determine the most appropriate ways for healing to begin for Native people. We are encouraged by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's announcement on June 22, 2021 of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, and this codification in law of such an initiative will ensure that this investigation and documentation continues under future administrations." - **National Indian Education Association (NIEA)**

"During an era of damaging federal law and assimilation policies, Indian Boarding Schools served as another direct attack on Indigenous women and Tribal sovereignty, with the forced removal and trafficking of Native children meant to deliberately erode Native families. Boarding School policies left an indelible scar on the spirit of Indigenous families and Tribal nations, but it is with the commitment of Secretary Haaland that we support the work of the Truth

and Healing Commission in holding the Federal Government accountable for the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies.” - **Lucy R. Simpson (Dine')**, **Executive Director, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center**

“We are in a moment in history where the wound of unresolved grief from Indian boarding schools is being ripped wide open. The truth is being unearthed and yet so much more is still unknown. It is time for a federal Truth Commission to provide answers to the thousands of relatives of those children who were taken, went missing, or died at these schools. The Truth and Healing Commission on U.S. Indian Boarding School Policies will be the beginning of profound healing for the Indigenous Peoples of this country.” - **Christine Diindiisi McCleave, CEO of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) & Citizen of Turtle Mountain Ojibwe Nation**

“Federally funded boarding schools ripped AI/AN children from their families and their Tribal communities and contributed to the urbanization of AI/AN populations. Today, over 70% of AI/AN people reside in urban areas, but only 1% of all Indian Health Service funding is for urban Indian health. We are pleased to see Senator Warren introduce this legislation to create a commission to begin to heal the decades of historical trauma inflicted on our people and hope this will usher in a new era where the trust responsibility is better upheld to all Indigenous people.” - **Francys Crevier (Algonquin), CEO, NCUH**

“The Office of Hawaiian Affairs thanks Senator Warren for introducing this bill to begin addressing the more than two-hundred-year history of American assimilation policies and practices that the federal government adopted in its treatment of generations of Native Americans, including Native Hawaiians. We are particularly appreciative of the bill’s inclusion of Native Hawaiians in the Commission’s scope and on the Advisory Committee with at least two representatives of our community. We look forward to working with Senator Warren to not only bring to light the history of what happened in the Indian Boarding Schools and the boarding and day schools in Hawai’i, but also take steps to address the lasting effects and inequities that these policies continue to have on Native children and communities across the country,” **stated Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Chair, Board of Trustees, Office of Hawaiian Affairs.**

“Today at Red Cloud, we openly acknowledge our institution was, at one point, explicitly involved in the destruction of the Lakota culture, language, and spirituality it now seeks to celebrate and revitalize. It is beyond time this nation acknowledges and reckons with the historical injustices experienced by Indigenous peoples due to the federal Indian Boarding School policy. Healing is made possible when harm is admitted with unflinching honesty and work is done to right historical wrongs. The Truth and Healing Commission marks the beginning of a much-needed process in our nation. It is a process that we at Red Cloud Indian School have already begun locally. Our sincere hope is that this commission will spread awareness of this history, bring people to deeper understanding, and heal our community and Indigenous people across the country.” - **Red Cloud Indian School**

“Though the boarding school system was only one of the many injustices visited on the Native community by the advance of the settler population, one could think of it as the “final solution” of the “Indian problem.” That sounds harsh, but the re-education and mainstreaming of Native children by forced systems of schooling was really the cultural component of genocide; the Indian school system was the end phase of a process in which America’s Native population would forever be rendered harmless and even invisible. I can think of no deeper, more cruel kind of cultural destruction than to wipe out a people’s memory and identity.” - **Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, President, United Lutheran Seminary and Former Evangelical Lutheran Church in America synod bishop**

“Our mission is to ‘Honor Our Ancestors Knowledge’ by working to revitalize Indigenous knowledge and languages. Why is this necessary? Because of U.S. policies of cultural genocide that violently broke the knowledge transmission between grandparents and grandchildren in the era of “stolen children.” Now is the time to investigate and document these policies to allow for healing and a return to utilizing our ‘Ancestors Knowledge.’” - **Rosalyn LaPier, (Blackfeet/Metis), Ph.D., Founder, Saokio Heritage**

"I thank Representative Davids and Cole and Senator Warren for amplifying the voices of boarding school survivors who speak truth to the grave injustices and intergenerational harm caused by the United States," **said Abigail Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), Executive Vice President of the Seattle Indian Health Board and Director of the Urban Indian Health Institute.** "These are the people that need to lead this effort. The 'Truth and Healing Commission' is a step forward, and we need to see more like it in order for our communities to heal."

"As representatives of religious denominations and congregations that operated many boarding schools for Indigenous children, we welcome the introduction of the 'Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act' and urge all members of Congress to support this important legislation," **the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Franciscan Action Network, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Office of Race Relations of the Christian Reformed Church of North America, and the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church wrote in a [letter of support](#).**

"As the Principal of St. Joseph Mission School that serves the people of Acoma and Laguna Pueblos we support this bill.

"Native American Communities have suffered under policies of many dominant cultures attempting to strip away the dignity found in their members. This can be brutally seen in the attempt to strip that dignity found in language, customs, and native religious practices among families who were the schools of their communities. For healing to begin we must recognize the sin created in imposing the values at the expense of another person or community. Then we must listen and recognize that the values found in one culture are as valid in another culture. One is not better than the other, both have gifts to share and incorporate in their own societies to grow in knowledge and wisdom." - **Antonio Trujillo, Principal, St. Joseph Mission School**

The [Boulder](#), [Intermountain](#), [New York](#), and [Southeastern](#) Yearly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends support the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act."

"We welcome the introduction of this legislation and thank Senator Warren and Congresswoman Davids for their leadership. As part of our work on racial reconciliation, justice, and our commitment to truth-telling, we are dedicated to addressing the legacy of violence and abuse perpetrated by boarding schools, including our church's role in the kidnapping of indigenous children from their families by participating in the boarding school system. The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act will begin the work of healing intergenerational trauma and advancing efforts of racial reconciliation. We urge this legislation's swift passage." - **The Episcopal Church**

"The Leadership Conference of Women Religious welcomes the introduction of legislation that will establish the first Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies. It is long past time we examined the genocidal policies and human rights abuses that sought to erase the rich cultures and languages of Indigenous peoples, to steal their land and their lives.

"We acknowledge our own complicity as members of a Church deeply implicated in the origin and perpetuation of our nation's perduring sin against native peoples. The complicity began with the 15th century Papal Bulls that sanctioned violence against the original inhabitants of this land and resulted in the genocide of up to 20 million Indigenous in the Americas. It continued with the participation in the Indian Boarding School system by Catholic bishops, priests, and religious women and men. It persisted through our tacit or explicit engagement in other injurious personal and government-supported practices. We see its pattern to this day as we take part in our national reckoning with racism. We believe that profound truth-telling, repentance, and reconciling reparations work are imperative as we work to build God's beloved community." - **Carol Zinn, SSJ, Executive Director, Leadership Conference of Women Religious**

“TransVisible Montana recognizes transphobia as one of many symptoms of the atrocities brought on by the United States Government Indian Boarding Schools through forced assimilation, dispossession & genocide of Native American children. TransVisible Montana fully supports the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act & asks all crimes be held accountable.” - **TransVisible Montana**

"The atrocities of the Indian Boarding School Policies can no longer be ignored, and the Federal Government must be accountable for the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted on us by these policies." - **Chairwoman Teri Gobin, Tulalip Tribes**

“My name is Joseph Quintana (Kewa Pueblo) and I am the Vice-President of Development at the largest non-profit human and health service provider for American Indians and Alaskan Natives in Southern California, United American Indian Involvement, Inc. (UAI). I am in support of the creation of the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act. In order to heal the wounds caused by the Boarding School era we must first acknowledge the truth of its devastating and lasting impact on generations past, present and future. The promise of a hopeful future through education has instead had direct connections to forced assimilation, acculturation, cycles of poverty, suicide ideation, gaps in educational achievement, and the severing of ties to our communities. This includes isolation, disease, depression, and those who succumbed to being homesick. A continued marginalization of Native Peoples has left us voiceless and invisible at a time where we were already vulnerable and ill-prepared for a society that was relegating us to the history books. If we are in a country where no child is truly left behind, then we are only as good as those peoples who are left voiceless. The Justice we have sought has remained outside the grasp of our reach, and a commission’s findings would be a formal acknowledgement of the policies that have proven to be devastating to America’s first people, ensure an apology and accountability, and join together on a long term plan of healing and policy reform.” - **Joseph Quintana (Kewa Pueblo), United American Indian Involvement, Inc**

"USET SPF continues to insist that the United States atone for centuries of sins against Tribal Nations and Native people. Our hearts remain heavy with the weight of lasting intergenerational trauma caused by the horrors our ancestors faced at U.S.-run boarding schools. Hundreds of thousands of Native children were forcibly removed from their people and lost their culture, language, innocence-even their lives-at the hands of the federal government. The time is long overdue for the federal government and the American people to engage in honest reconciliation with the atrocities of the past, so that we can all move forward as citizens of a more just and honorable nation. Rep. Congresswoman Davids’ and Senator Warren's bill would not only provide an opportunity for this reckoning, it would also provide for the examination of modern-day assimilationist policies resulting in the continued theft of Native children from their Tribal communities. We offer our full support to this legislation." - **Chief Kirk Francis, President, United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund**

“The Shawnee Tribe is grateful for Congresswoman Davis’ leadership in introducing this bill. The damages to Native children and tribal nations by residential schools have been buried and ignored for far too long, and many mission-run schools predating those owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs have been overlooked. The Commission formed by this legislation will ensure that schools mandated by Indian Agents, outsourced to faith organizations but not directly managed by the US government will receive the same investigation as the later schools, such as Carlisle. If we are to have reconciliation and healing, we must look for every child at every school, including those managed by religious organizations.” - **The Shawnee Tribe**