

Legislative Proposal for **HONORING PROMISES TO NATIVE NATIONS ACT**

Congresswoman Deb Haaland and Senator Elizabeth Warren

This proposal outlines options for developing legislation, the *Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act*, to implement the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' landmark 2018 report, *Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans*. The *Broken Promises* report evaluated whether the federal government has met its trust and treaty obligations to Native peoples—particularly pertaining to federal spending—and concluded that the federal government has systematically failed to honor its promises.

Congresswoman Haaland and Senator Warren have announced this legislative proposal in order to further a process of soliciting and receiving feedback and input from Tribal governments and citizens, Tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, experts, and other stakeholders. This feedback will inform the development of the *Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act* for introduction in the 116th Congress.

This legislative proposal includes a number of provisions aimed at reaffirming the nation-to-nation relationship between the federal government and Tribal Nations and improving federal programs that support Indian Country:

- **Introductory Sections:** Options for improving budgetary certainty (e.g., advance appropriations, sequestration exemption, mandatory funding, inflation adjustment), budgetary transparency, increasing Tribal representation in the Executive Branch, and addressing the *Broken Promises* report's recommendations regarding Native Hawaiians.
- **Title I—Criminal Justice and Public Safety:** Proposals for guaranteed, full funding for Tribal justice systems, Tribal law enforcement and detention facilities, including the Tiwahe Initiative, increased access to crime data, victim services, and programs to combat violence against Native women.
- **Title II—Health Care:** Proposals for guaranteed, full funding for Native health care programs, including mandatory funding for the Indian Health Service, full implementation of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, Urban Indian Health Programs, behavioral health, and public health.
- **Title III—Education:** Proposals for guaranteed, full funding for Bureau of Indian Education schools, Native language programs and culturally inclusive education, programs to support Native students in all public schools, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.
- **Title IV—Housing:** Proposals for guaranteed, full funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant Program, the Indian Community Development Block Grants, various loan guarantee programs, and housing for Native veterans.
- **Title V—Economic Development:** Proposals for guaranteed, full funding for Native American Community Development Financial Institutions, Native business incubators, roads and transportation programs, E-rate expansion, the Federal Communications Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy, and tribal water pollution control, as well as increased funding of fractionated land buybacks.

Written input or public comment on the legislative proposal may be sent to HonoringPromises@mail.house.gov or HonoringPromises@warren.senate.gov by September 30, 2019.