



# Global Indigenous Council

June 17, 2019.

**RE: URGENT MMIW LEGISLATION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GIC,  
RMTLC AND GPTCA.**

Dear Senator Tester,

As one of Indian Country's strongest advocates in the US Senate, I respectfully appeal to you to move forward with formulating our proposed amendments to *Savanna's Act* into stand-alone legislation to counter the ever-increasing MMIW/MMIWG epidemic. We devised those amendments with the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council and the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association. Our alliance of accord on effective legislative measures to combat the MMIW crisis covers representative organizations for every tribal nation in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and extends into Idaho, Oklahoma, Arizona, Minnesota, Michigan and Texas. This constitutes the "frontlines" of the tragedy, and our recommendations in those proposed amendments reflect our first-hand experiences of what will be effective to fight back in this years-long assault on indigenous women and children that is tearing the very fabric of our communities apart. Without the inclusion of those recommended amendments, *Savanna's Act* will have limited impact, even if it is passed and signed into law.

I write to you as a full-blooded Native American woman, a Northern Arapaho/Hunkpapa Lakota. The statistics that hang over my head are these: I am among the most stalked, raped, murdered, sexually assaulted, and abused of any women in any ethnic group, and I am among those who suffer domestic violence 50 times higher than the national average. But as I write to you, neither me, my daughter, nor my sisters throughout Indian Country are protected by any law written specifically to address this crisis, as no legislation has been passed that achieves that. We must change this, urgently, and writing legislation based upon the recommendations we made in the amendments for *Savanna's Act* would become that effective law. We can no longer wait on committees, commissions and their recommendations; we must act in the interim.

None of the legislation introduced in the House or Senate to date addresses the issue of extractive industry "man camps," which is a grave omission, as these "man camps" are deadly drivers of the human trafficking of indigenous women and girls. Our executive director spoke to you about this when our GIC/RMTLC/GPTCA delegation met with you in April. Also omitted from the raft of

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**Executive Director:**  
Rain Bear Stands Last

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proposed legislation are measures to address the human trafficking “tracks” that result in Native American women and minors being forced into sex-slavery on container ships between US and Canadian waters. Duluth, Minnesota, has long been a hub for this misery. In the wake of the recent MMIW Inquiry findings in Canada, now would be an opportune time to include this in legislation. This is not a new development; it has been happening for decades, but nothing has been done. Eleven-years ago, the *Report of the Canada-United States consultation in preparation for World Congress III against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents* highlighted this, and a year later the *Shattered Hearts* report by the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center added to those findings. Over a decade later, we still await action.

On a personal note, I began this work before the term “MMIW” existed. I am the founder of Not Our Native Daughters, and in 2017 I provided statistics and research on missing and exploited Native women and children for the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Previously, I served as Chair of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs at the Governor’s office, and on the Arizona Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force. The Attorney General of Wyoming recently appointed me to the state’s human trafficking task force and soon-to-be announced MMIW task force. Senator Tester, we desperately need this legislation, and the recommendations we have made for that legislation will impact this tragedy.

Thank you again for your commitment.

Sincerely,



Lynnette Grey Bull,  
Senior Vice President.

“For one to survive, all must survive. And for all to survive, one must survive.”



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