



July 3, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0203

The Honorable Norma Torres
U.S. House of Representatives
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0535

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debra Haaland
U.S. House of Representatives
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3101

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cortez Masto, and Representatives Torres and Hyland:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we are pleased to support Savanna’s Act (S. 227/H.R. 2733) to help curb the tragic epidemic of violence against Native American women and girls.

It is fitting that this legislation is named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, the pregnant 22-year-old member of the Spirit Lake Tribe who was murdered in 2017. According to the [National Institute of Justice](#), more than 84 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women experience violence during their lifetimes. In particular, we appreciate that this legislation would:

- Give Indian tribes greater access to federal crime information databases
- Require the U.S. Departments of Justice, Interior, and Health and Human Services to seek tribal recommendations on enhancing safety and access to federal data during annual consultations mandated by the Violence Against Women Act
- Develop, in consultation with tribes, standardized guidelines for responding to cases of missing and murdered Native Americans
- Provide an annual report to Congress that includes statistics on missing and murdered Native American women, and recommendations for improving data collection

Taking these steps would give local and tribal law enforcement the federal resources they need to seek justice for—and stem the tide of violence against—Native American women and girls. We are pleased to support Savanna’s Act.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association