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President
Georgia Council on Native
American Concerns

Niniau Kawaihae
Vice President
Department of Hawaiian
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Nealie McCormick
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The Honorable Brian Schat
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Pass S.2907 - Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act

JULY 21, 2022

Dear Chairman Schat and Vice Chairman Murowski:

I am writing on behalf of the GOVERNOR'S INTERSTATE INDIAN COUNCIL (GIIC), to urge the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to support and pass S. 2907 - Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act out of Committee. This legislation will create a Congressional Commission to locate and analyze the records from the over four hundred known Indian boarding schools that operated across the country. This Congressional Commission will bring together boarding school survivors, tribal representatives, along with experts in education, health, and children and families to account for the long lasting impacts of the federal Indian boarding school policy. S. 2907 will also be an important additional measure to support the U.S. Department of the Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative.

For well over 150 years, hundreds of thousands of American Indian and Alaska Native children were taken, forced, or coerced to attend federal government supported Indian boarding schools away from their families, communities, and Tribal Nations. These schools were part of a policy of cultural assimilation and genocide, the disposition of tribal lands, and produced long-lasting impacts including the loss of Native languages and cultures. Many children that were taken from their families and Tribal Nations died at the boarding schools. These children were never returned home to their loved ones and often their families were never notified of their deaths. The first Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report has helped shed light on the schools.

The Congressional Commission created by S.2907 will help further ensure a full and complete review of: the total number of Native children forced to attend Indian boarding schools; the total number of Native children who were abused, died, or went missing at Indian boarding schools; and the long-term impacts that Indian boarding schools have had on the children who attended and their families.

S. 2907 will ensure that there will be a full accounting of the Indian boarding schools and will promote truth, justice, and healing. [I/WE] urge the Committee to pass S.2907 when it comes before the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

**Nealie McCormick, President
GOVERNOR'S INTERSTATE INDIAN COUNCIL (GIIC)
2610 Hwy 155 SW, Suite D, Stockbridge, GA 30281**