

STEVE DAINES
MONTANA

320 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-2651

United States Senate

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Udall
Vice Chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Vice Chairman:

I write to request an oversight hearing in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs at the earliest available opportunity on the epidemic of the Native Americans who go missing each year.

We know many incidences of missing persons in Indian country go unreported and even when they are reported, Indian country law enforcement carry a high volume of cold cases that go unresolved. This is in part why you have joined me in designating a national day of awareness of the tragic epidemic of native women and girls who go missing or are murdered. Each year, we designate this day on the birthday of Hanna Harris, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Horrifically, Hanna went missing and was later found murdered. Her story is one of many and we think, too, of Roylynn Rides Horse, Ashley Loring Heavy Runner, Kenzley Olson, and more.

We must do all in our power to curb the crisis of American Indian and Alaska Native women, girls, and others who disappear and whose cases never see justice. Holding a formal discussion in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs would be an important next step. I encourage you to host such a hearing in early October.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


STEVE DAINES
United States Senator