



795 Sunset Blvd., Suite F
Kalispell, MT 59901
CommunityMedicalServices.org

December 15, 2017

Sophie Miller
Legislative Assistant
U.S. Senator Steve Daines (MT)

Dear Ms. Miller,

I am writing to express my support for the draft legislation sponsored by Senator Daines to add Indian tribes to the Cures Act for federal grants to respond to the opioid crisis. I have extensive experience treating addiction in Montana, and I have observed that opioid addiction is a serious problem on Indian reservations, where multiple barriers (such as unemployment, rural geography, and lack of local medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction) make providing services on the reservations especially difficult.

It is better for solutions to the opioid crisis on the reservations to be initiated by the tribes themselves, so that they are more culturally appropriate and more likely to be accepted by the tribal members. I agree with expanding the Cures Act to include funding for tribal initiatives in responding to the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Sherrick".

Robert C. Sherrick, MD, FASAM
Chief Medical Officer
Community Medical Services