

Comments from Supporters of Savanna's Act

"This legislation is an important and needed step toward addressing the exploitation of Native women and girls. Senator Heitkamp has long been an advocate for Native women, children, and families, and we appreciate her taking action to prevent the kind of tragedies that have too often stricken our communities. We're encouraged that this bill includes several of the recommendations made by UTND, and we fully support and encourage its passage."

- **Dave Flute, UTND Board Chairman**

"The vulnerability and targeting of our Native women is undeniable, and we must begin looking for new ways to urgently address this plague of violence and disregard. One of the most significant contributors to the crisis is the glaring absence of Indigenous peoples in the North American consciousness. Accurate statistics aren't gathered in our communities, leaving problems undiagnosed and potential resources on the table. Senator Heitkamp's legislation aims to close the information gap and make much-needed improvement in coordination between local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies. We appreciate that Senator Heitkamp is listening to our concerns and taking action to protect Native women."

- **David Archambault II, Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman**

"We are grateful for Senator Heitkamp's attention to the crisis of missing and murdered Native American women. For too long, horrific attacks on Native women have not gotten the attention and action they deserve. Senator Heitkamp's bill would provide the information and coordination we need for real action by the U.S. Department of Justice and United States Attorneys."

- **Mark Fox, Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Chairman**

"NCAI commends Senator Heitkamp for introducing this legislation to address the crisis of missing and murdered women in Indian Country. Native women face a staggering rate of violent crime and this legislation would remove some of the most significant barriers needed to protect women and girls who are at risk. NCAI fully supports the passage of Savanna's Act."

- **Jacqueline Pata, Executive Director, National Congress of American Indians**

"Senator Heitkamp's bill is a significant step toward understanding the scope of the tragic epidemic of missing and murdered Native women and directing federal resources to combat this crisis. Tribes need more data and closer coordination with federal, state, and local law enforcement to better protect Native women and girls. Senator Heitkamp is a longtime supporter of legislation to address violence against Native women and children, and I appreciate this effort to address the needs of North Dakota's tribes and tribes across the nation."

- **Michelle Rivard Parks, Assistant Director at UND's Tribal Judicial Institute, Tribal Attorney for Spirit Lake, and Chief Justice of the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Supreme Court**