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In this Issue, Dated March 24, 2017 through April 21, 2017, the Following Federal Congressional Legislative and Administrative Actions Were Taken on Issues Affecting Tribes—

\*For easy document search on PC use ctrl+f and on Mac cmd+f on the following terms:

- Business
- Employment
- Labor
- Climate Change
- Indian Health
- Tax
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Veterans

## **I. Federal Congressional Hearings – 115<sup>th</sup> Congress**

- i. Mar. 29, 2017 – Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Business Meeting to Consider S. 304, S. 343, S. 381, S. 607, and S. 669.**
  - [S. 304, Tribal Veterans Health Care Enhancement Act](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. John Thune (R-SD) on Feb. 3, 2017.
  - [S. 343, A bill to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians, referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) on Feb. 8, 2017.
  - [S. 381, A bill to repeal the Act entitled “An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservations](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) on Feb. 15, 2017.
  - [S. 607, Native American Business Incubators Program Act](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on Mar. 13, 2017.
  - [S. 669, Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) on Mar. 21, 2017.
- ii. Mar. 29, 2017 – Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Oversight Hearing on “Native Youth: Promoting Diabetes Prevention Through Healthy Living”.**

Witness List:

- Rear Admiral Chris Buchanan, Acting Director, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC
- The Honorable Vinton Hawley, Chair, National Indian Health Board, Washington, DC

- Mr. Jared Eagle, Program Director, Fort Berthold Diabetes Program, Three Affiliated Tribes, New Town, ND
- Mr. Martin Sensmeier, Actor and Ambassador, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Atlanta, GA
- Mr. Alton Villegas, Tribal Youth, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Scottsdale, AZ (accompanied by Ms. Rachel Seepie, Senior Fitness Specialist, Diabetes Service Program – Health Service, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community)

**iii. Mar. 29, 2017 – [House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, Hearing on H.R. 986, “Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017”.](#)**

Witness List:

- The Honorable Brian Cladoosby, President, National Congress of American Indians & Chair, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
- The Honorable Nathaniel Brown, Council Member, Navajo Nation.
- Mr. John Gribbon, California Political Director, UNITE HERE! International Union, AFL-CIO.
- The Honorable Robert J. Welch, Jr., Chairman, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.

**iv. Apr. 21, 2017 – [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Oversight Field Hearing on “Safeguarding to the Seventh Generation: Protection and Justice for Indian Children and the Implementation of the Native American Children’s Safety Act of 2016”.](#)**

Location: Spirit Lake Indian Reservation, Cankdeska Cikana Community College Auditorium, 214 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Fort Totten, ND 58335. Hearing began at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

Witness List:

- Mr. Michael S. Black, Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC
- Ms. Nikki Hatch, Regional Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families, Region 8, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Denver, CO
- The Honorable Myra Pearson, Chairwoman, Spirit Lake Tribe, Fort Totten, ND
- Cynthia Lindquist, Ph.D., President, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, ND

**II. [Federal Bills Introduced/Considered by the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress](#)  
[Organized by Latest Action]**

- i. Mar. 28, 2017 – [S. 747, Special Diabetes Program for Indians Reauthorization Act of 2017.](#)** Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

- ii. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [H.R. 986, To clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act, Hearing held by House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Prior to Referral](#). Introduced by Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN-4) on Feb. 9, 2017.
- iii. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [S. 772, AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.
- iv. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [S. 774, Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
- v. **Mar. 30, 2017** – [S. 508, Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on Mar. 3, 2017.
- vi. **Apr. 4, 2017** – [H.R. 1809, Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017](#). House Committee on Education and the Workforce consideration and mark-up session held, and ordered to be reported as amended by voice vote. Introduced by Rep. Jason Lewis (R-MN-2) on Mar. 30, 2017.
- vii. **Apr. 5, 2017** – [H.R. 1390, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay costs relating to the transportation of certain deceased veterans to veterans' cemeteries owned by a State or tribal organization](#). Hearing held by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Introduced by Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN-3) on Mar. 7, 2017.
- viii. **Apr. 5, 2017** – [H.R. 1921, Head Start Improvement Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN-3) and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.
- ix. **Apr. 5, 2017** – [S. 860, Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.
- x. **Apr. 6, 2017** – [H.R. 2035, Tribal Adoption Parity Act](#). Introduced by Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA-6) and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
- xi. **Apr. 6, 2017** – [S. 91, Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017](#). Reported out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by Chair Sen. Hoeven without amendment with written [report No. 115-26](#), and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 32. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on Feb. 10, 2017.
- xii. **Apr. 6, 2017** – [S.302, the John P. Smith Act](#). Reported out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by Chair Sen. Hoeven without amendment with written [report No. 115-27](#), and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 33. Introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) on Feb. 3, 2017.

- xiii. **Apr. 6, 2017** – [S. 876, Tribal Adoption Parity Act](#). Introduced by Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.
- xiv. **Apr. 6, 2017** – [S. 883, OPENS Alaska Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### **III. Federal Administrative and Regulatory Actions**

- i. **Apr 3, 2017** – [Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee: Request for Nominations.](#)
- ii. **Apr. 5, 2017** – [Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; Native American Employment and Training Council.](#)
- iii. **Apr. 17, 2017** – [Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Application for New Awards; Indian Education Formula Grants for Local Educational Agencies; Part II of the Formula Grant Electronic Application System for Indian Education \(EASIE\) Applications.](#)
- iv. **Apr. 20, 2017** – [Federal Communications Commission. FCC Seeks Comment on Ways to Accelerate Next-Generation Networks by Removing Regulatory Barriers: Considers Streamlining Rules to Improve Networks, Spur Job Growth.](#)

### **Federal Congressional Hearings – 115<sup>th</sup> Congress**

- i. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Business Meeting to Consider S. 304, S. 343, S. 381, S. 607, and S. 669.](#)  
The following bills were considered by the Committee:
  - [S. 304, Tribal Veterans Health Care Enhancement Act](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. John Thune (R-SD) on Feb. 3, 2017. [Link to bill](#).
  - Bill amends Sec. 222 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act ([25 U.S.C. 1621u](#)) to allow the Indian Health Service to pay the cost of a copayment assessed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to an eligible Indian veteran for covered medical care. Bill also amends Title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act ([25 U.S.C. 1641](#) et seq.) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (or a designee, including the director of any area office of the Indian Health Service), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or a designee), and any tribal health program to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that authorizes the Secretary of the Indian Health Service or tribal health program to pay the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) any copayments owed to the Department of Veterans Affairs by eligible Indian veterans for covered medical care. In entering this MOU, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs will also have to consult with Indian tribes that would be impacted by the MOU. The Secretary of Health and Human Services,

- the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and any tribal health program can be exempt from entering an MOU if the aforementioned jointly certify that entering an MOU would decrease the quality of health care provided to eligible Indian veterans, impede the access of those veterans to health care, or substantially decrease the quality of, or access to, health care by individuals receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs or beneficiaries of the Indian Health Service. This joint certification must be submitted to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- [S. 343, A bill to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians, referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.](#) Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) on Feb. 8, 2017. [Link to bill.](#)
    - Bill would repeal outdated provisions regarding the treatment of Native Americans, which includes provisions related to “hostile tribes”, alcohol, work requirements, penalties for truancy, and the placement of youth in reform schools without the consent of a parent or guardian.
  - [S. 381, A bill to repeal the Act entitled “An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservations.](#) Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) on Feb. 15, 2017. [Link to Bill.](#)
    - Repeals a law (62 Stat. 1161, chapter 759) passed on June 30, 1948 that conveyed jurisdiction to the State of Iowa over crimes committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservations.
      - [Companion Bill: H.R. 1074, An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation.](#) Referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. Introduced by Rep. Rod Blum (R-IA-1) on Feb. 15, 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. Referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs on Feb. 24, 2017. [Link to Bill.](#)
  - [S. 607, Native American Business Incubators Program Act.](#) Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on Mar. 13, 2017. [Link to Bill.](#)
    - Establishes a program under the Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development to provide competitive grants to eligible applicants for the establishment and operation of business incubators serving reservation communities. Eligible applicants include an Indian tribe, a tribal college or university, an institution of higher education, or a private nonprofit organization or tribal nonprofit organization that provides business and financial technical assistance and commits to serving one or more reservation communities. Eligible applicants must also provide physical workspace, equipment, and connectivity and must not have been operational for no less than one year before receiving a grant under the program.

- [S. 669, Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) on Mar. 21, 2017. [Link to Bill](#).
  - Requires the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs to consult with the affected Columbia River Treaty tribes to assess current sanitation and safety conditions on lands held by the United States for the benefit of said tribes, which includes all the permanent federal structures on such lands. Authorizes an appropriation in such sums as necessary for improvements to existing structures and infrastructure to improve sanitation and safety conditions assessed during consultation and to improve access to electricity, sewer, and water infrastructure where feasible.
    - Companion Bill: [H.R. 1630, Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act](#). Introduced by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3) on Mar. 20, 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. Referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native [Link to Bill](#).
- ii. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Oversight Hearing on “Native Youth: Promoting Diabetes Prevention Through Healthy Living”](#). To view a recording of the hearing, [click here](#).

Witness List:

- Rear Admiral Chris Buchanan, Acting Director, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC. [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony provided an overview of IHS services to prevent and treat diabetes in tribal communities. Also stated that there was no rise in type 2 diabetes in tribal youth from 2001 to 2009. Proclaimed support for reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.
- The Honorable Vinton Hawley, Chair, National Indian Health Board, Washington, DC. [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony stated that tribal communities need access to fresh and nutritious foods, safe places for physical activity and diabetes treatment and intervention program. Traditional tribal subsistence has been replaced by federal programs and store bought foods that have contributed to American Indian and Alaska Natives having higher rates of obesity and type 2 diabetes.
- Mr. Jared Eagle, Program Director, Fort Berthold Diabetes Program, Three Affiliated Tribes, New Town, ND. [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony provided overview of Fort Berthold Diabetes Program and how important funding from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians has been in sustaining Fort Berthold’s program for 18 years. Funding has been able to provide clinical care and prevention for the first 15 years and specifically targeted towards prevention initiatives for the past three years. Fort Berthold’s Diabetes Program provides access to nutrition and physical activities, which include

cooking classes, grocery store tours, dietician consulting, and group fitness classes.

- Mr. Martin Sensmeier, Actor and Ambassador, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Atlanta, GA. [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony provided an overview of the nutrition and physical activity resources provided at Boys and Girls Clubs located in Indian Country. The Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Healthy Habits program serves K-12 to promote healthy eating habits in culturally sensitive and appropriate ways. The Boys and Girls Clubs of America also developed a comprehensive health and wellness program in coordination with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to improve the health of Club members between ages 6 and 18 by increasing daily physical activity and teaching good nutrition habits.
- Mr. Alton Villegas, Tribal Youth, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Scottsdale, AZ (accompanied by Ms. Rachel Seepie, Senior Fitness Specialist, Diabetes Service Program – Health Service, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community). [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony provided an overview of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's (SRPMIC) Diabetes Services Program and the importance of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. The SRPMIC Diabetes Service Program provides community based services by collaborating with SRPMIC clinic providers to address community member needs for diabetes prevention and treatment.

iii. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, Hearing on H.R. 986, "Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017"](#). To view a recording of the hearing, [click here](#).

Witness List:

- The Honorable Brian Cladoosby, President, National Congress of American Indians & Chair, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony proclaimed support for passage of H.R. 986 to nullify a decision by the National Labor Relations Board that subjected tribal governments to the National Labor Relations Act. H.R. 986 would affirm the sovereign governmental rights of Indian tribes to adopt their own labor policies to govern their own governmental employees based on the social and economic conditions that exist on tribal lands.
- The Honorable Nathaniel Brown, Council Member, Navajo Nation. [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony also supported H.R. 986 to bring tribal governments in parity with states and local governments by exempting tribes from jurisdiction under the National Labor Relations Act. Testimony also cited a previous National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) case, *Fort Apache Timber Co.*, 226 NLRB 503, where the NLRB chose not to assert their jurisdiction over tribal governments, including

tribal enterprises, in 1976 but reversed that stance in the 2004 proceeding in *San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino*, 31 NLRB 138.

- Mr. John Gribbon, California Political Director, UNITE HERE! International Union, AFL-CIO. [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony stated that the NLRA jurisdiction is needed over tribal casinos in the absence of robust tribal labor ordinances with a neutral dispute resolution process. Stated that employees of tribal enterprises have few rights to free speech on the job when NLRA jurisdiction is absent, including workplace discrimination and harassment.
- The Honorable Robert J. Welch, Jr., Chairman, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. [Link to Testimony](#).
  - Testimony stated support for H.R. 986 and addressed fallacies associated with tribes as being “anti-union”. Testimony stated that many tribes across the country that operate gaming and resort facilities have developed and adopted employee rights’ and labor ordinances and even voluntarily enter into agreements with labor unions to provide services to individuals under the tribal enterprise’s employ.

**iv. Apr. 21, 2017 – Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Oversight Field Hearing on “Safeguarding to the Seventh Generation: Protection and Justice for Indian Children and the Implementation of the Native American Children’s Safety Act of 2016”.** Location: Spirit Lake Indian Reservation, Cankdeska Cikana Community College Auditorium, 214 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Fort Totten, ND 58335.

Witness List:

- Mr. Michael S. Black, Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC
- Ms. Nikki Hatch, Regional Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families, Region 8, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Denver, CO
- The Honorable Myra Pearson, Chairwoman, Spirit Lake Tribe, Fort Totten, ND
- Cynthia Lindquist, Ph.D., President, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, ND



## **FEDERAL BILLS INTRODUCED/CONSIDERED BY THE 115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

### **[Organized by Latest Action]**

- i. **Mar. 28, 2017** – [S. 747, Special Diabetes Program for Indians Reauthorization Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. [Link to bill](#).
  - Reauthorizes the Special Diabetes Program for fiscal year 2018 in the amount of \$150 million and adjusted for inflation to equal such amount for fiscal years 2019 through 2024. Grant funds will be utilized by tribes to develop diabetes treatment and prevention programs.
- ii. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [H.R. 986, To clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act, Hearing held by House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Prior to Referral](#). Introduced by Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN-4) on Feb. 9, 2017. [Link to bill](#).
  - Would exempt an Indian tribe, or any enterprise or institution owned and operated by an Indian tribes located on its lands, from being regulated by the National Labor Relations Board. Issue addresses legal matters regarding union activities in tribal gaming facilities and would not prevent organized labor on reservations, but instead leave such matters up to tribal governments to enact laws addressing labor issues.
- iii. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [S. 772, AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. [Link to bill](#).
  - Would make tribes eligible for grants to participate in and access the AMBER Alert program. Bill would also provide a waiver of the federal share if the Attorney General determines that an Indian tribe has insufficient funds to comply with the federal share requirement and thereby increase the federal share of the costs as the Attorney General deems necessary. One year after passage of the bill the Attorney General would also be required to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, the House Committee on Natural Resources, and the House Committee on the Judiciary that evaluates the readiness, education, and training needs, as well as the technological challenges and specific obstacles encountered by tribes to integrate in state or regional AMBER Alert communications plans.
- iv. **Mar. 29, 2017** – [S. 774, Trauma-Informed Care for Children and families Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. [Link to Bill](#).
  - Bill would establish an Interagency Task Force to develop best practices for trauma-informed identification, referral, and support. The Task Force will be comprised of Federal employees, including the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and one representative from the following: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Center

for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health; Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality of that Administration; Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration; Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services; Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and Indian Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services, among others.

- v. **Mar. 30, 2017** – [S. 508, Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act](#). Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on Mar. 3, 2017. [Link to Bill](#).
- Transfers approximately 17,519 acres of land from the Canyon Mountain Land Conveyance to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to be held in trust and become part of their reservation; transfers approximately 14,742 acres of land from the Oregon Coastal Land Conveyance to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians to be held in trust and become part of their reservation; and amends the Coquille Restoration Act to require unprocessed logs harvested from the Coquille Forest to be subject to the same federal statutory restrictions on export to foreign nations as those unprocessed logs harvested from federal lands, and requires all sales of timber from the Coquille Forest to be advertised, offered, and awarded according to competitive bidding practices and sales being awarded to the highest responsible bidder.
    - [Companion Bill: H.R. 1306, Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act](#). Referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands and the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs. Introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4) on Mar. 2, 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. Referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands and the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs on Mar. 13, 2017. [Link to Bill](#).
- vi. **Apr. 4, 2017** – [H.R. 1809, Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017](#). House Committee on Education and the Workforce consideration and mark-up session held, and ordered to be reported as amended by voice vote. Introduced by Rep. Jason Lewis (R-MN-2) on Mar. 30, 2017. [Link to bill](#).
- Would explicitly support tribal programs aimed at preventing juvenile crime and would allow for the dissemination of current and relevant information on effective and evidence-based programs and practices for preventing juvenile delinquency. Provisions would also allow for programs that address mental/behavioral health, intervention, and substance abuse treatment that have been scientifically proved to create positive outcomes for at-risk youth.
- vii. **Apr. 5, 2017** – [H.R. 1390, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay costs relating to the transportation of certain deceased veterans to veterans' cemeteries owned by a State or tribal organization](#). Hearing held by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Introduced by Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN-3) on Mar. 7, 2017. [Link to Bill](#).

- viii. **Apr. 5, 2017** – [H.R. 1921, Head Start Improvement Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN-3) and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. [Link to bill](#).
- Bill would amend the existing Head Start Program that allows for direct financial assistance to replace it with block grants to states and tribes for prekindergarten education. Block grant allotment would be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to states and tribes relative to their proportions of children from low-income households that are age 5 years and younger. Oversight and control of Head Start would also be shifted to the states and tribes instead of the Department of Health and Human Services, which currently designates, monitors, and establishes standards for Head Start agencies. Bill would also allow grant recipients to use grant funds to establish portable voucher systems to allow costs to be paid for attendance at private prekindergarten establishments.
- ix. **Apr. 5, 2017** – [S. 860, Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017](#). Introduced by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. [Link to bill](#).
- Would explicitly support tribal programs aimed at preventing juvenile crime and would allow for the dissemination of current and relevant information on effective and evidence-based programs and practices for preventing juvenile delinquency. Provisions would also allow for programs that address mental/behavioral health, intervention, and substance abuse treatment that have been scientifically proved to create positive outcomes for at-risk youth.
- x. **Apr. 6, 2017** – [H.R. 2035, Tribal Adoption Parity Act](#). Introduced by Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA-6) and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. [Link to bill](#).
- Bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow Indian tribal governments the authority to determine if a child has special needs and therefore eligible for the adoption tax credit.
- xi. **Apr. 6, 2017** – [S. 91, Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017](#). Reported out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by Chair Sen. Hoeven without amendment with written [report No. 115-26](#), and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 32. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on Feb. 10, 2017. [Link to bill](#).
- Bill recognizes Indian tribes and tribal organizations as eligible to carry out programs under the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1922. It also expands programs that may be integrated by a plan to include skill development, assisting Indian youth and adults to succeed in the workforce, encourage self-sufficiency, familiarize individual participants with the world of work, facilitate creation of job opportunities, and to create economic development. Bill also seeks to reduce administrative, reporting, and accounting costs of these services.
- xii. **Apr. 6, 2017** – [S.302, the John P. Smith Act](#). Reported out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by Chair Sen. Hoeven without amendment with written [report No. 115-27](#), and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 33.

Introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) on Feb. 3, 2017. [Link to bill.](#)

- Bill proposes to increase road safety on tribal lands by streamlining the permitting process for tribal transportation safety projects that would improve a hazardous road location or feature, or address some highway safety problem. The bill also directs the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to work with an Indian tribe to provide a schedule for completion of permit reviews, and coordinating with other federal agencies to complete such reviews in a timely manner.

**xiii. Apr. 6, 2017 – S. 876, Tribal Adoption Parity Act.** Introduced by Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. [Link to bill.](#)

- Bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow Indian tribal governments the authority to determine if a child has special needs and therefore eligible for the adoption tax credit.

**xiv. Apr. 6, 2017 – S. 883, OPENS Alaska Act of 2017.** Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. [Link to bill.](#)

- Bill would rescind any Presidential memoranda, Executive Orders, or any other Executive actions taken that would withdraw from mineral leasing the areas of the outer Continental Shelf described in a December 20, 2016 Presidential Memorandum titled, “Withdrawal of Certain Portions of the United States Arctic Outer Continental Shelf from Mineral Leasing”. Bill would also direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a planning areas for the purposes of conducting lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act ([43 U.S.C. 1331](#) et seq.) to be known as the “Nearshore Beaufort Sea Planning Area”. It would also establish a tribal resilience program to support tribes in dealing with the effects of climate change on their communities and develop modern, cost-effective infrastructure. Grants would be authorized to support adaptation training, planning, vulnerability assessments, emergency preparedness planning, and capacity building.

## **Federal Administrative & Regulatory Actions**

**i. Apr. 3, 2017 – Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee: Request for Nominations.** [Link to Federal Register Notice.](#)

- Notice solicits nominations for one member to serve on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee, which monitors NAGPRA Inventory and identification processes, facilitates resolution of NAGPRA disputes, compiles an inventory of culturally unidentifiable human remains and develops a process for disposition of such remains, and consults with tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations and museums affecting them as well as with the Secretary of the Interior in developing recommendations for NAGPRA compliance. NAGPRA Review Committee members are not paid, but are reimbursed for travel expenses related to Review Committee meetings and federally-registered lobbyists are prohibited to serve. Nominations must be submitted by an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian Organization on official letterhead and signed by an authorized official. Nominations

must be received by July 3, 2017 and can be submitted to:

Melanie O'Brien  
Designated federal Officer  
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee  
National NAGPRA Program (2253)  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, Rm 7360  
Washington, DC 20240  
Or via email at [nagpra\\_dfo@nps.gov](mailto:nagpra_dfo@nps.gov).

- ii. **Apr. 5, 2017** – [Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; Native American Employment and Training Council. Link to Federal Register Notice.](#)
  - A meeting date has been announced for the Native American Employment and Training Council, which will be held at the Sheraton Gateway, 6101 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90045, on May 23 and May 24. The meeting on May 23 is reserved for participation and comments from the public.
- iii. **Apr. 17, 2017** – [Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Application for New Awards; Indian Education Formula Grants for Local Educational Agencies; Part II of the Formula Grant Electronic Application System for Indian Education \(EASIE\) Applications. Link to Federal Register Notice.](#)
  - The Indian Education Formula Grants to Local Educational Agencies program provides grants to support local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, and other eligible entities in developing elementary and secondary school programs that serve Indian students. This notice announces Part II of the Formula Grant Electronic Application System for Indian Education applications. Applications will be available on May 17, 2017 and the deadline to submit is June 15, 2017.
- iv. **Apr. 20, 2017** – [Federal Communications Commission. FCC Seeks Comment on Ways to Accelerate Next-Generation Networks by Removing Regulatory Barriers: Considers Streamlining Rules to Improve Networks, Spur Job Growth. Link to FCC Press Release.](#)
  - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, a Notice for Inquiry, and request for comment to streamline poll attachments, identify regulatory barriers, and to retire copper networks and transition them to internet protocol networks. While the full text of the rulemaking has not been released, there was a [draft notice of proposed rulemaking](#) that was shared and commented on to inform the formulation of the notice and included several tribal issues regarding Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act compliance in cell tower citing on aboriginal and reservation lands. The National Congress of American Indians, United South and Eastern Tribes, and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers hosted a webinar discussing the various tribal concerns with industry recommendations to streamline Sec. 106 compliance, the webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmv0ccv-jkA>.

Tribal Comments submitted:

- National Congress of American Indians, United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund, and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers joint filing
- Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Hualapai Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Dawn Hubbs
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
- Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Office
- Otoe Missouri Tribe of Indians
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Kaw Nation
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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