



## Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION  
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**TESTIMONY OF ELLA ROBERTSON, CHAIRWOMAN  
SISSETON WAHPETON OYATE**

March 20, 2019

Before the:

**United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs**

***“To Protect and Serve: Joint Law Enforcement Efforts in  
Building Safe Tribal Communities and Stopping Dangerous Drugs  
From Entering Indian Country”***

Oversight Field Hearing: James Henry Gymnasium Building,  
United Tribes Technical College, 3315 University Drive  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Good morning, Chairman Hoeven, Vice Chairman Udall, Members of the Committee, Honored Guests. My name is Ella Robertson. I serve as the Chairwoman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (“SWO”) of the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation in North and South Dakota. I am wearing red today to honor Savanna Greywind, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and to bring to light the importance of public safety, law enforcement, and efforts to stop drug trafficking in our Indian communities.

With great concern for our indigenous women and all of our people, with a firm dedication to public safety and justice, I offer my testimony at this important hearing on *Joint Law Enforcement Efforts to Build Safe Tribal Communities and Stop Dangerous Drugs From Entering Indian Country*.

At Sisseton Wahpeton, our Tribal Police have worked with Federal and state law enforcement to interdict drugs. We called upon the Federal law enforcement agencies, for example, to assist us with a Mobile Enforcement Unit Team to train our tribal police to work with drug dogs and stop drug trafficking. As a result of their training to combat drug trafficking, while the tribal police were executing a search warrant on tribal fee lands in North Dakota, our drug dogs hit on a Federal Express delivery and stopped packages filled with drugs from being sent into our tribal community for trafficking. SWO has invested \$1 Million over our own funds for enhanced law enforcement, drug dogs and drug interdiction efforts.

Our Tribal Attorney is cross-designated as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to handle cases arising from our area of Indian country in Federal court. SWO Parole and Probation Officers have an agreement with the State of South Dakota to handle the re-entry of tribal offenders sentenced in state courts. We do everything that we can to cooperate with Federal and state law enforcement and ensure public safety throughout the Lake Traverse Reserve, our neighborhoods and communities.

### **Extreme Danger for Native Americans, Especially Indigenous Women**

The Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer violent victimization at two and a half times the rate for the Nation as a whole: 124 violent crimes per 1,000 persons compared to 50 per 1,000 persons nationwide.

Among indigenous women, more than 4 out of 5 women will be victimized by violence in their lifetime. The National Institute for Justice (NIJ) reports more than 50% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have been sexually assaulted. More than a third of our indigenous women will be raped in their lifetime—double the incidence of rape among women in the general public. For Native girls and women aged 15 to 24, homicide is the third leading cause of death. For Native women between the ages of 25 and 34 years, homicide is the fifth leading cause of death. On some Indian reservations, Native women are murdered at a rate more than 10 times the national average. Thousands of indigenous women have gone missing.

Typically, Violence Against Women and other domestic violence are fueled by drug trafficking, alcohol and substance abuse. At the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, we have experienced sex trafficking, where some of our young women were "trafficked" off-reservation through methamphetamine drug trafficking and abused as part of a migrant industry.

Suicide is an epidemic at Sisseton Wahpeton and our sister tribes. At rates of 2.5x the national average, suicide has become the second-leading cause of death for Native youth aged 15–24. Suicide is often the result of drug abuse and domestic violence in Native communities. Mental health and substance abuse services are

extraordinarily under-funded and thus severely limited. The lack of services and the inadequate number of culturally competent providers must be addressed.

This epidemic of crime, drugs, violence, and danger impacts everyone—children, women, men and all of our families in Indian country. We must all work together to stop the drugs, crime and violence in our communities.

### **The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate: Lake Traverse Reserve**

Our Tribal Headquarters is located in Agency Village, South Dakota. We have more than 14,000 tribal members in total and approximately 7,000 live on or near our Lake Traverse Reservation in North and South Dakota. SWO provides essential governmental services to our tribal members and others residing, working, visiting and traveling through the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation and its environs in northeast South Dakota and southeast North Dakota.

Minnesota, North and South Dakota are our original homeland. The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate is signatory to the 1851 Treaty with the Sisseton-Wahpeton Bands of Dakota Sioux (Traverse des Sioux). Our 1867 Treaty continues our “friendly relations with the Government and people of the United States,” and recognizes our right to self-government and to enact laws “for the security of life and property,” the “advancement of civilization” and “prosperity” among our Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota people. More than two decades before North and South Dakota statehood, the 1867 Lake Traverse Treaty set aside the Lake Traverse Reservation as our “permanent reservation” homeland:

Beginning at the head of Lake Travers[e], and thence along the treaty-line of the treaty of 1851 to Kampeska Lake; thence in a direct line to Reipan or the northeast point of the Coteau des Prairie[s], and thence passing north of Skunk Lake, on the most direct line to the foot of Lake Traverse, and thence along the treaty-line of 1851 to the place of beginning.

Under the Allotment Policy, significant tribal lands were sold as surplus lands against our wishes, but under the modern Indian Self-Determination Policy, Congress affirmed our efforts to recover that portion of our homeland and treats our recovered Indian trust lands as “on-reservation” acquisitions within the original boundaries of the Lake Traverse Reservation. Public Law 93-491 (1974).

The Lake Traverse Reservation is located in the Northeastern part of South Dakota and the southeastern corner of North Dakota. The Reservation boundaries extend across seven counties, two in North Dakota and five in South Dakota. The Dakota Magic Casino in Hankinson, North Dakota on our tribal reservation lands has been a major success and tourism destination for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, with over 750,000 visits per year and with some customers visiting 4 or 5 times, we estimate that more than 150,000 people visit our facility annually. We

operate Dakota Winds Golf Course, a hotel, restaurant, buffet and lounge at our North Dakota Resort. We employ 425 people in Hankinson, 55% of our employees are tribal members and 45% are non-members from nearby towns. We also have two tribal housing areas near our Casino and Resort in Hankinson.

Our Dakota Sioux Casino is located just north of Watertown, South Dakota and we employ 202 people, 58% of our employees are tribal members (or Indians from other tribes) and 42% are non-members from nearby towns. We also operate a convenience store and service station, buffalo herd, fuel company, extruded film factory, and we recently opened a grocery store, so we are working hard to create jobs and develop our economy.

### **Savanna's Act, S. 227**

Savanna Greywind was kidnapped and murdered by a drug addicted non-Indian couple in Fargo, North Dakota, who killed her and took her baby from her womb. Senators Murkowski and Cortes Masto reintroduced Savanna's Act on a bipartisan basis to honor Savanna's memory and promote public safety for indigenous women. Savanna's Act would require, among other things, annual consultations between U.S. Attorneys, Tribal Leaders and Tribal Law Enforcement on sexual violence, training and technical assistance for tribal police, and new rules for reporting and sharing crime data and responding to violent crime in and around Indian country. Savanna's Act now has 14 co-sponsors, including Senator Hoeven and Senator Cramer.

With appreciation for all of your efforts Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate calls upon Congress to immediately enact Savanna's Act.

### **The SURVIVE Act, S. 211**

I also want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Committee for re-introducing the S. 211, the SURVIVE Act with its positive purposes to provide resources for Indian Crime Victims, including resources to:

- i) Respond to the emotional, psychological, or physical needs of a victim of crime;
- ii) Assist a victim of crime in stabilizing his or her life after victimization;
- iii) Assist a victim of crime in understanding and participating in the criminal justice system; and
- iv) Restore a measure of security and safety for victims of crime.

The bill would provide continuing funding for domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse programs, child advocacy centers and programs to prevent and address elder abuse, transitional housing, medical equipment, treatment and related

services, including emergency medical care for crime victims, alcohol and substance abuse therapy, and mental and behavioral health counselling.

For several years, the President's Budget has recommended a 5% Set-Aside for Indian Tribes from the Crime Victims Fund due to the high level of violent crime victimization among American Indians and Alaska Natives and the unique Federal law enforcement authority for areas, including North and South Dakota, Montana, New Mexico and Arizona, which are under the Indian Major Crimes Act, 18 USC sec. 1152, and the Indian Country Crimes Act, 18 USC sec. 1153.

The SURVIVE Act would provide a continuing authorization for the 5% Set-Aside of resources from the Crime Victims Fund for American Indian and Alaska Native victims of crime programs. Our Sisseton-Wahpeton people, who are victimized by violent crime, suffer post-traumatic stress akin to what some military veterans have suffered. We suffer high rates of suicide as a result, and Crime Victim Funding for counseling and support services is essential to address Indian crime victimization issues, including Human Trafficking.

Again, with appreciation to the Chairman and the Committee, the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate calls upon Congress to immediately enact the SURVIVE Act.

### **Tribal Law and Order Act Reauthorization, S. 210**

The Tribal Law and Order Act authorized the Justice Department's Tribal Law Enforcement Programs for five years, and the authorizations expired in 2015. S. 210, introduced by Senator Hoeven and reported on favorably by the Committee, would re-authorize the Tribal Law and Order Act. Reauthorization of this Act is critically important to law enforcement, and requires coordination of detention, and other law enforcement activities and funding programs.

The Tribal Law and Order Act enhanced tribal sentencing authority to deal with the most serious offenders and we need detention cells to do so:

The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA) was signed into law on July 29, 2010. (*Pub. L. No. 111-211, 124 Stat. 2258*). TLOA was enacted in an effort to clarify governmental responsibilities regarding crimes in Indian Country; increase and improve collaboration among jurisdictions; support tribal self-governance and jurisdiction; reduce the prevalence of violent crime in Indian Country; combat crimes such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and drug trafficking; reduce the rates of substance abuse in Indian Country; and support the collection and sharing of crime data among jurisdictions....

[W]ith the amendments to ICRA made by TLOA, tribes now have an option to enhance sentences in criminal cases by imposing sentences not to exceed 3 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$15,000 or both for qualifying crimes so long as the tribe has met the specific requirements set forth in TLOA.

Sentences may include a combination of incarceration and community corrections such as probation and halfway houses. Under no circumstance can the term of the sentence exceed 9 years. Tribes are not required to implement enhanced sentencing authority but rather can choose whether it is necessary for their community.

The requirements that must be satisfied by tribes opting to impose enhanced sentences are set forth in Section 234 (a) (b) & (c) of TLOA. Tribes can impose higher sentences if:

- The defendant is provided effective assistance of counsel at least equal to that under the United States Constitution, and at the expense of the tribes for indigent defendants;
- The defense counsel must be licensed by any jurisdiction that applied appropriate licensing standards, ensure competency, and has rules of professional responsibility;
- The defendant is not subject to excessive bail, excessive fines or cruel and unusual punishment;
- The presiding judge has sufficient legal training for a criminal proceeding and licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction in the United States;
- All criminal laws, rules of evidence, and rules of procedure etc. are publicly available; and
- The tribe shall maintain a record of criminal proceedings.

*See TLOA Pub. L. No. 11-211, Sec. 234 (a)(1)(2); 234 (c); see also 25 U.S.C. §1302 (c); as explained by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, Tribal Law and Order Act: Enhanced Sentencing Authority (2015).*

At great expense and effort, the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate is compliant with the enhanced sentencing requirements of TLOA.

To enhance TLOA, Congress should establish an Indian Law Enforcement Improvement Commission to be composed of the Justice Department, Interior and Indian tribes to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of Indian law enforcement, as follows:

- The Department of Justice shall cooperate with the Department of the Interior in providing comprehensive law enforcement services to assist Indian tribes to ensure public safety, maintain law and order, and administer justice in Indian country, including detention facilities; and
- The Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General shall establish a Joint Indian Country—Indian Nations Justice Commission composed of Indian Country Public Safety, Law Enforcement, Justice and Budgetary Components

to address the needs of Joint Federal—Tribal Law Enforcement, Plan with, Strategize, and Coordinate with Tribal Leaders and Tribal Law Enforcement on a Government-to-Government Basis;

The TLOA Reauthorization should also include a demonstration project modeled upon Public Law 102-477 for Great Plains Indian tribes under Federal and Tribal Law Enforcement Jurisdiction:

- Indian tribes under Federal and Tribal Law Enforcement Jurisdiction with 2,000 tribal members or more (and intertribal consortia serving 2,000 Indians or more) may submit comprehensive plans for public safety, law enforcement and the administration of justice and such comprehensive law enforcement plans shall be jointly funded by Interior and Justice, with unified reporting to both agencies and a unified program audit, and shall be administered by Interior under Public Law 93-638;
- After consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Indian Country Law Enforcement Improvement Commission, the Attorney General may waive administrative, statutory and regulatory provisions when such waivers are deemed necessary to promote Indian Self-Determination and public safety, effective Indian country law enforcement, and efficient administration of justice in Indian country, provided that overall public safety, law enforcement and criminal justice program goals shall be maintained and a report shall be provided annually to Congress concerning waivers.

Such a pilot project has been shown to be practical and effective under Public Law 102-477 (Labor—Interior Employment Training Programs), and Indian tribes under Federal and tribal law enforcement jurisdiction need more basic assistance for law enforcement than is currently provided by grants.

Again, we appreciate the Chairman's and the Committee's efforts in the important area of public safety, law enforcement and justice and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate calls for Congress to swiftly enact S. 210 into law.

### **S. 290, To Protect Native Children and Promote Public Safety**

S. 290 finds that: "Childhood exposure to violence has immediate and long term effects, including increased rates of altered neurological development, poor physical and mental health, poor school performance, substance abuse, and overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system." Violence against children, dating violence, and domestic violence reduce health outcomes, reduce educational attainment, hinder economic development, and undermine public safety. The U.S. Attorneys decline 52% of cases from Indian country, so this bill is critically important to stem the rising tide of violence.

Vice Chairman Udall's Bill would restore tribal prosecutorial jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit crimes against Native Children and/or crimes against Tribal Public Safety Officers in Indian country. Again, the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe supports swift passage of S. 290 to safeguard our children and restore tribal jurisdiction, promote public safety and law enforcement.

### **S. 288, Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act**

Senator Tina Smith together with Senators Murkowski and Udall has introduced S. 288, the Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act. This Act restores the original jurisdiction of Indian tribes to try and punish sexual violence against Native women when committed by non-Indians. It expands the scope of tribal jurisdiction restored in 2013 by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA). According to GAO's report, the U.S. Attorneys declined 67% of sexual assault and abuse cases arising in Indian country, so it is critically important that tribal justice systems be empowered to handle these cases. The legislation is supported by the National Congress of American Indians, STOP Violence Against Women organizations, and regional Indian organizations. The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate urges Congress to enact S. 288 to fight the rising tide of violence against our indigenous women.

### **VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2019**

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate supports the 2019 VAWA Reauthorization. VAWA is critically important to STOP Violence Against Women. Indian nations and tribes receive important grant funding under the Act, and we must continue to make progress under VAWA. NCAI adopted resolution ECWS-19-005, which sets forth five priorities for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2019:

- 1) include provisions, like those included in the bipartisan Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act and Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act, that amend 25 U.S.C. 1304 to address jurisdictional gaps including: child abuse and endangerment; assaults against law enforcement officers; sexual violence; stalking; trafficking; and the exclusion of certain tribes from the law;
- 2) create a permanent authorization for DOJ's Tribal Access to National Crime Information Program and ensure that TAP is available to all tribes;
- 3) improve the response to cases of missing and murdered women in tribal communities;
- 4) identify and address the unique barriers to safety for Alaska Native women and provide access to all programs; and



5) reauthorize VAWA's tribal grant programs and ensure that funding is available to cover costs incurred by tribes who are exercising jurisdiction pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 1304.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate supports NCAI's principles.

H.R. 1585, the House VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2019 reinforces current law and makes critical improvements to address dating violence, stalking and related concerns, increases protections for Native American women and also addresses violence against Native men and children. On March 13, 2019, the House Judiciary Committee favorably voted H.R. 1585.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate urges Congress to enact an enhanced VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2019.

### **Rising Crime Statistics Nationwide and in North and South Dakota**

The FBI UCR Crime Report finds a 6.8% nationwide increase in crime over 2013. Aggravated assaults are 65.0 percent of violent crimes reported to law enforcement in 2017. Robbery offenses are 25.6 percent of violent crime offenses; rape (legacy definition) accounts for 8.0 percent of violent crime; and murder accounts for 1.4 percent of violent crime.

In North and South Dakota crime rates are increasing: The South Dakota Crime Rate was up 2.7% per 100,000 in 2017 compared to 2016: South Dakota 433.6 per 100,000. In North Dakota Crime Rate per 100,000 increased by 11.6% to 281.3 per 100,000.

***South Dakota State 2017 Crime Reports*** include a 13.1% increase in rape crimes, although murder was down. Past South Dakota AG Marty Jackley said, "[T]here's a meth epidemic across the Nation.... It affects the Reservations as well as the State when the methamphetamine come into the State from across the Southern borders.... We need to ... spread the message to the youth and do everything we can for prevention and treatment." KSFY TV, Reservation Crime Would Nearly Double SD Crime Stats (March 20, 2017).

The FBI, U.S. Attorneys and tribal law enforcement have jurisdiction over Indian reservation crime. "The number of cases and number of users of methamphetamines has been rising on Indian reservations across the state. The increase in drug activity is correlating to an increase in the violent crime. Specifically, we've seen an increase in violent crime incidents in all of the Indian reservations throughout the state," said Matt Moore, FBI Supervisory Senior Resident Agent for Sioux Falls.

In the Governor's race last year, the question arose "Just how safe is South Dakota." Governor Noem says, "South Dakota has grown increasingly unsafe," as the

growth of violent crime has outstripped the growth of the population. “Violent Crime Outpaces Population Growth,” Sioux Falls Argus Leader, May 14, 2018. That was especially true in rural areas. **Drug crime offenses in South Dakota grew 222% over the last 10 years.** The Governor pledged to fight drug crime, and at Sisseton Wahpeton, our Tribe is committed to fighting drug crime as well.

***Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Crime Statistics.*** At Sisseton-Wahpeton, we have seen continuing serious increase in drug related crime and violence consistent with, and more severe, than the overall pattern of North and South Dakota.

Due to the drug and alcohol abuse problems affecting our Reservation, our tribal police made about *1400 arrests last year on the Lake Traverse Reservation in North and South Dakota. In recent years, SWO youth and adults on our Reservation have been suffering with chemical dependency, drug and alcohol abuse, and violent crime resulting in the key incarceration figures:*

- ✓ *Substance abuse offenses & criminal offenses account for approx. 75% of all adult arrests, of which 15% exhibit highly repetitive substance abuse and criminal behavior. This group uses a disproportionate amount of justice (and potentially other) system resources.*
- ✓ *About 80% of all juveniles charged have a substance abuse offense, often accompanied by a curfew violation. This pattern shows a lack of parental supervision and clearly underscores a need to address these offenses in the context of families and family networks.*

## **Adult Detention Center**

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate identified our Justice Center as our top congressional funding priority. Concerning public safety, community health and wellness, we have focused on Behavioral Health, including addressing chemical dependency, mental health, adolescent treatment, detox, transitional care, inpatient/outpatient services for adult and youth, as our community health and wellness action area. We currently lack sufficient facilities and services to adequately address these health care needs. Our 1974 building for law enforcement services, which the BIA closed and decommissioned in December 2016 due to operational and other deficiencies.

The BIA’s closure of our jail has left us with little recourse against drunk driving, drug crimes and domestic abuse. In 2017, when former Governor Daugaard came to visit Sisseton Wahpeton, my assistant Scott German observed two drunk drivers travelling our roads together which required immediate police response, so our Chief of Police was not able to attend our law enforcement meeting with the Governor.

Our tribal police have had to send home domestic violence abusers and recently, we had a 7 year-old bring a syringe to school, which his mother used for meth. We had to let the mother back on the streets until her trial because we have no place to detain her.

Our incidents of drug related crime problems are serious. The BIA suggested contracting with nearby county detention facilities, but the counties are overwhelmed and have no room for our offenders.

**Priorities for Safe, Healthy Sustainable Tribal Communities.** SWO has identified our Justice Center as our highest priority.

Among health care, the Oyate identified Behavioral Health, including addressing chemical dependency, mental health, adolescent treatment, detox, transitional care, inpatient/outpatient services for adult and youth, as our top community health and wellness priority. We currently lack sufficient facilities and services to adequately address these health care needs. We had a 1974 jail, which the BIA closed in December 2016.

### **Initial Funding for Adult Detention Center**

SWO has identified our Comprehensive Justice Center—which includes Adult and Juvenile Detention, Detoxification, and Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation—as our highest priority.

At the end of FY 2018, the BIA Facilities Division awarded SWO \$4.875 to plan and construct a 25 medium security bed Adult Detention Facility. That is the first component of our Sisseton Wahpeton Justice Center, and we appreciate your help with funding this important first step of our Justice Center.

### **FY 2020 Request:**

At the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, we need more congressional help to build our comprehensive Justice Center. Congressional request for FY 2020:

- **\$4 Million for High Security Detention Cells;**
- **\$2 Million for BIA Detention Staffing; and**
- **\$4.84 Million for Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center.**

For FY 2020, the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate urgently needs \$4 Million in additional funding for: a) high security cells for the most serious offenders incarcerated under Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) enhanced tribal sentencing authority; b) \$2 Million for BIA Detention Staff; and c) \$4.84 Million for our Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Center.

#### **a) High Security Adult Detention Cells: \$4 Million.**

At the outset of FY 2019, the North and South Dakota congressional delegations supported our request for additional funds for high security cells in our Adult Detention Center. **We need those funds for 12 beds for more serious adult offenders, such as rapists, other violent recidivists, and drug dealers.**

We are ready to sentence serious tribal offenders that the U.S. Attorney and the FBI have not dealt with, including drug dealers, rapists, other serious violent crime recidivists, and drug addicts. At SWO, we need \$4 Million in funding for an additional 20 high security cells for these offenders.

**b) Detention Staffing: \$2 Million to Pay for Necessary Detention Officers**

The BIA knows that we need an increase in funding for Detention Staff for our Adult Detention Center. Last year, the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate requested an increase of \$2 Million in BIA Detention Staffing, and the Senate adopted the request to increase BIA Detention Staffing. Now, the BIA tells us that we cannot count on the increase without a clear statement from Congress directing the funding towards newly constructed facilities. So, we are requesting that Congress increase BIA Detention Staffing by \$2 Million to provide Detention Officers for New Constructed Tribal Detention Facilities. We also need to know that if we fund our Juvenile Detention Facility, Congress will direct the BIA to include that Component of our Justice Center on the BIA Facilities List.

**c) Rehabilitation Center: \$4.84 Million**

**Priorities for Safe, Healthy Sustainable Tribal Communities.** SWO has identified Behavioral Health, including addressing chemical dependency, mental health, adolescent treatment, detox, transitional care, inpatient/outpatient services for adult and youth, as our top community health and wellness priority. We need sufficient facilities and services to adequately address these health care needs.

The Tribal Council adopted a Tribal Action Plan (TAP) in July 2016 which identifies addictions as a health status priority. Development of a new treatment and recovery support center to expand and enhance our capacity. Co-occurring substance use disorders, behavioral and criminal justice issues are rooted in inter-generational trauma. There is critical need to break the cycle through intervention and healing. The proposed new Community Justice including Rehabilitation Center concept focusses on a restoration to community wellness and re-entry by offenders into healthy and productive family and community life.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate requests that funding to construct and staff the addiction treatment component of the Community Justice and Rehabilitation Center be provided to the Tribe consistent with the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and the TAP provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act. The component square footage from the concept design work we completed in January 2017 is 15,873 square feet. The construction cost is \$4,840,000. Inpatient capacity would be 24 and the increase in our concurrent outpatient treatment and prevention services will be substantial.

**Conclusion:**

At Sisseton Wahpeton, we strongly believe that Public Safety, Law Enforcement, the Administration of Justice, Rehabilitation and Re-Entry for drug and alcohol offenders and other offenders are essential to health community life and healthy Indian nations. We stand ready to work cooperatively with Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, as we have demonstrated through cooperation by our tribal law enforcement, officers and attorneys to interdict drugs, fight human trafficking, promote law enforcement, and assist with prosecutions, probation and parole and re-entry of rehabilitated offenders into the community.

Please help us with the necessary appropriations to fully build out our Tribal Justice Center. It is essential to our efforts to fight drug trafficking, crime, and violence. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the community.