



March 11, 2020

**RE: Request to Cosponsor the Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act (S. 3154)**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA), I respectfully request your co-sponsorship of the *Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act (S. 3154)*.

Introduced by Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), NCSEA has supported the bill's provisions for many years. The measure would provide parity for tribal child support programs by giving them the same tools available to their state partners when pursuing and collecting financial support for children. The provision to provide tribes with direct access to the Federal Tax Refund Offset Program to collect past-due support is critical to ensuring that tribal agencies have the same array of collection tools available to support Indian children that state agencies have to serve non-Indian children.

The child support program is one of the most cost-effective and efficient federal programs. Serving nearly 15 million children, state and tribal child support programs in 2018 collected \$5.14 in support for every one dollar spent to do so, with 96 percent of collections going to families. Through direct access to federal tax refunds, tribal programs will be able to further enhance those efforts.

Sixty-one tribes administer their own child support programs. The bill would give long overdue resources to tribes and place them on equal footing with their state partners through direct access to the tax refund offset and other resources to locate parents while ensuring that all Internal Revenue Service confidentiality safeguards are met.

Thank you for considering co-sponsoring the measure. If you have questions, please contact Adam Wek with Senator Thune at [Adam\\_Wek@thune.senate.gov](mailto:Adam_Wek@thune.senate.gov) or Marisa Morin with Senator Wyden at [Marisa\\_Morin@wyden.senate.gov](mailto:Marisa_Morin@wyden.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Ruskin  
Executive Director

