

June 15, 2014

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Chairman  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
838 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6450

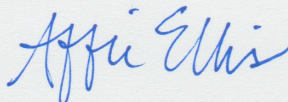
Dear Chairman Tester,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on February 12, 2014 on the Indian Law and Order Commission Report, "A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer."

On June 13, 2014, I received your letter requesting additional information for the hearing record. Attached is our response.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. Please let me know if I can be of any further help to the Committee.

Sincerely,



Affie Ellis  
Ellis Public Affairs



**Questions for the Record**  
**Submitted by Senator Tim Johnson**  
**Senate Indian Affairs Committee**  
**Oversight Hearing on the Indian Law and Order Commission:**  
**“A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer”**  
**February 12, 2014**

**Response by Affie Ellis and Troy Eid,**  
**Indian Law and Order Commissioners**  
**July 15, 2014**

*On the topic of juvenile justice, what methods of rehabilitation for Native juvenile offenders have been most effective? What preventative measures can be taken to lower the incarceration rate of Native youth?*

Of foremost importance in the treatment and rehabilitation of Native youth is bringing the juveniles into a community-based treatment rather than detention in distant locations. Assessment, treatment and other services that attend to juvenile trauma should be local, fully integrated with tribal child welfare and local behavioral health agencies. It is only at the local, tribal level that tribal elders can play a role in mentoring, instructing and healing juveniles. The most positive rehabilitation outcomes have been where there is continuity of culture, community support and events, and integration with prevention programs.

The Commission visited the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota in May 2012 and learned about the tribe’s effort to educate juvenile offenders and not just incarcerate them. The Commission met Miskoo Petite, Facility Administrator for the Wanbli Wiconi Tipi, a juvenile detention center, and visited the center to learn about its services. The center conducts a Juvenile Assessment and Intervention system for each juvenile, weaving together a risk and needs assessment. The center provides moral reconnection therapy designed to bolster ego, social, moral and positive behavioral growth. The center has group discussion about gang prevention, suicide prevention, anti-bullying and other behavior management strategies. The center requires daily exercise, offers an educational program, including Lakota language and cultural classes, and provides voluntary prayer circles and sweat lodge sessions. Petite testified that when young people have their basic needs met, they perform better academically.

Additionally, the Commission learned about center’s Green Re-entry program, supported by a federal Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention grant that provided resources to allow juveniles to develop and implement environmentally green technologies. Specifically, juveniles receive education and training opportunities to create organic gardens, bee keeping, biodiesel fuels and renewable energy in solar and wind energy. Rosebud Children’s Court Judge Janel Sully testified about the program and stated, “When the youth come in they are sullen, angry and upset. They spend some time in the Green Entry program and in a matter of days they are smiling, happy and energetic.”

Other effective preventive programs have been local youth councils programs, such as the UNITY chapter at Wind River Reservation, the Boys and Girls Clubs, such as at the Pine Ridge Reservation, and integration into community sports teams, active social services, anti-bullying programs and education on the effects of drug and alcohol abuse. The Boys and Girls Clubs of America, when integrated into reservation life and when appropriately funded, have made a significant difference in establishing role models for juveniles, keeping them away from drugs and alcohol, bringing them into contact with a continuous line of mentors and past graduates of the tribally-based club, and serving as a “home away from home,” especially for those juveniles from broken and dysfunctional homes or abusive families.