



January 7, 2020

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act

Dear Senators Thune and Wyden:

I write on behalf of the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) to support your bill, the *Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act*.

NCSEA has supported the provisions in your bill 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 bill's 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 the 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 introducing the *Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act*. NCSEA will work with you to obtain additional support for the measure and its ultimate enactment this year.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie S. Ruskin
Executive Director

