

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell - Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Oversight Hearing on the President's FY2003 Budget
As it Impacts Indian Programs and Services
(Department of Education, Health and Human Services, Justice and Labor)

March 5, 2002

Good morning, and thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this important hearing.

In future hearings we will hear from the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on the request as it affects them.

Today will we hear from other agencies that provide key services to tribes and Indians on a variety of important fronts such as:

- law enforcement and policing;
- education;
- drug treatment, elder care; and
- the Administration for Native Americans.

Safe and stable communities provide safety to their members and attract business activity which is so important to Native communities nationwide.

Given the incredible demands placed on the Department of Justice to fight terrorism I am generally encouraged by the request for Indian law enforcement with a few exceptions:

- the lack of Tribal detention center funds;
- the reduction in 'COPS' funds for Tribes; and
- the static funding for Tribal courts.

Nevertheless, I am hopeful we will find the kind of resources we need for these important services.

I commend the President for his dramatic proposal to increase funds for substance abuse and mental health treatment. We all know that these problems continue to ravage Indian communities and I am glad to see the increase.

I will have several questions for our witnesses, Mr. Chairman, but I do want to take the opportunity to convey what I believe is one of the most successful Federal programs ever devised: the "Administration for Native Americans" or "ANA" as we know it.

The ANA provides seed capital for Indian businesses, language preservation, and environmental protection ... and does it in a way that reduces dependence. I urge the Department to study the ANA and find out why it works and replicate its success.

Mr. Chairman, there are many other things I'd like to mention but I will reserve my time for the question and answer period.

With that, I ask unanimous consent that my formal statement be included in the record.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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