Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 18, 2021

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We write to you today to respectfully inquire about your implementation of *Savanna's Act* (Public Law 116-165), bipartisan legislation that was signed into law on September 21, 2020. The law addresses the disproportionately high number of missing Native American women by directing the Department of Justice (DOJ) to review, revise, and develop law enforcement protocols, increase coordination, and improve data collection to address missing or murdered Native Americans. Additionally, the law authorizes the Department to provide grants to carry out these activities. *Savanna's Act* was signed into law more than a year ago and we are eager for your report on how DOJ has implemented these reforms to better protect indigenous women.

All too often, cases involving indigenous women go unreported, despite the fact that they are murdered and disappeared at unconscionably high rates. For instance, federal statistics show that Native American women are murdered at rates more than 10 times the national average and yet are the least likely of all ethnic groups to have newspaper coverage. Native Americans, women of color, and their families deserve the primetime coverage and government and public response that other cases have received. According to a Government Accountability Office report released on November 1, 2021, the implementation of *Savanna's Act* would, "present opportunities to increase and improve data on the number of missing or murdered Indians, including AI/AN women" (GAO-22-104045).

We understand that the change in executive administration and agency leadership has adversely impacted your ability to meet the deadlines set forth in the law, but our communities cannot wait any longer. You play a pivotal role in the national effort to find justice for these women, and we urge you to

provide Congress with an update on your efforts to implement *Savanna's Act.* We hope you will do your utmost as Attorney General to oversee a robust law enforcement agency response to cases of missing or murdered Native Americans, the recording of Tribal enrollment information or affiliation of victims in Federal databases, and the reporting of this data to the public. We are requesting complete transparency in the implementation process of this legislation, which calls for a report from the Department detailing the annual data on missing Native Americans and the law enforcement agencies that provide such data.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to finding justice for those who lack a voice. We appreciate your assistance in this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress