



NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE

Tribal Council

4820 She-Nah-Num Drive S.E.
Olympia, Washington 98513
360.456.5221
www.nisqually-nsn.gov

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland
U.S. House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4710

Dear Representative Strickland,

On behalf of the Nisqually Indian Tribe, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Health Equity and Rare Disease ("HEARD") Act of 2025. We appreciate your leadership in introducing this critical legislation, which will provide much-needed resources and support for tribal communities.

The HEARD Act of 2025 is especially vital for tribal nations as it directs resources toward research on rare diseases that disproportionately affect American Indian and Alaska Native populations. This legislation establishes a Tribal Epidemiology Center Grant Program, which will provide essential resources for clinically and culturally appropriate research within tribal health systems. Additionally, the bill supports the mentorship of health care professionals seeking to treat patients with rare disease and conditions at tribal entities. These resources will increase Native representation in healthcare, ensuring that tribal members receive care from providers who understand their unique medical and cultural needs. By expanding research, improving education, and increasing access to healthcare professionals, this legislation will have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of tribal communities.

We sincerely appreciate your dedication to tribal health and look forward to working together to advance the HEARD Act of 2025. Thank you for your continued advocacy and leadership in supporting healthy tribal communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. K. Choke". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ken Choke
Chairman
Nisqually Indian Tribe