

# February 2022 Federal Policy Update

This month, AIPi tracked the following bills and resolutions affecting Indian Country for the month of February. This list includes legislation that was newly introduced or had other activity between January 24, 2022 and February 18, 2022.

- [H.Res.893](#) ([S.Res.500](#)) - Supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on February 1, 2022, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery. Sponsored by Rep. Alma S. Adams (D-NC-12).**
  - A resolution expressing support for observing National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month. The resolution finds that studies suggest that Native Americans experience high rates of exploitation, that there are gaps in data and research on trafficking, and that there are barriers to law enforcement.
  - Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on February 1, 2022.
- [H.R.6411](#) - STRONG Veterans Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep Mark Takano (D-CA-41).**
  - This bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensures that all minority veteran coordinators receive training in delivery of culturally appropriate mental health and suicide prevention services to American Indian and Alaska Native veterans, especially with respect to the identified populations and Tribes within the coordinators' catchment areas. Also requires that the secretary work with coordinators to develop plans to conducting mental health and suicide prevention outreach to all Tribes and urban Indian health organizations.
  - Mark-up session held by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 2, 2022.
- [H.R.1688](#) ([S.2326](#)) - Native American Child Protection Act. Sponsored by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-07).**
  - This bill reauthorizes through FY2027 and otherwise revises certain programs related to the prevention, investigation, treatment, and prosecution of family violence, child abuse, and child neglect involving Indian children and families. It also revises the Indian Child Abuse Treatment Grant Program to encourage the use of grants for culturally appropriate treatment services and programs. The bill would also allow Tribes, Tribal organizations, and intertribal consortia to use program funds for additional activities, such as operational costs for child protective services.
  - Placed on the Senate Calendar, No. 259 on February 2, 2022.
- [H.R.6491](#) - Salmon FISH Act. Sponsored by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02).**

- A bill to require the identification of salmon conservation areas and salmon strongholds. The bill requires the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service to consult with Tribes that have land, fishing rights, or cultural ties to the area in which the salmon conservation area or salmon strongholds will be prospectively located.
  - Referred to the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry on February 8, 2022.
5. **[H.R.6492](#) - Climate Resilience Workforce Act. Sponsored by Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-07).**
- This bill would develop a workforce to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, respond to, and recover from hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change. Tribes would be eligible for climate resilience planning grants, job creation grants, and workforce development grants.
  - Referred to the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry on February 2/8/22.
6. **[H.R.6654](#) ([S.3621](#)) - CASC Act. Sponsored by Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ-03).**
- This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends. Tribes would collaborate with the centers to inform decisions that aid adaptation to a changing climate and extreme weather events.
  - Referred to the House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the U.S. on February 10, 2022.
7. **[H.R.6716](#) - Native American Burial Sites and Cultural Resources Protection Act. Sponsored by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01).**
- A bill that would amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to protect Native American burial sites, village sites, and cultural resources discovered at civil works projects of the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes.
  - Referred to the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment on February 14, 2022.
8. **[H.R.2021](#) ([S.872](#)) - Environmental Justice For All Act. Sponsored by Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ-03).**
- This bill establishes several environmental justice requirements, advisory bodies, and programs to address the disproportionate adverse human health or environmental effects of federal laws or programs on communities of color, low-income communities, or Tribal and indigenous communities.
  - Hearing held in the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 15, 2022.

9. [H.R.4458](#) - **KELP Act. Sponsored by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02).**
  - This bill directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to award grants to carry out projects related to the conservation, restoration, or management of kelp forest ecosystems. Tribes would be eligible to apply to grant programs for conserving, recovering, and maintaining kelp forest ecosystems.
  - Mark-up session held by the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 16, 2022.
  
10. [S.3560](#) - **PLACE Act. Sponsored by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI).**
  - This bill finds that promoting local arts and enhancing the creative economy of the United States would support the nation's diverse citizenry, rich traditions, and vast creative talents, including the unique history and continuing vitality of Native American communities. Tribes would become eligible for creative workforce advancement programs, the creative economy grant programs, tax incentives, and cultural trade promotion programs.
  - Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on February 2, 2022.
  
11. [S.3571](#) - **Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2022. Sponsored by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM).**
  - This bill would promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines. Provides certain protections for entities reporting an abandoned mine and also provides notice of mine residue effects on water to any local entities including Tribes.
  - Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on February 2, 2022.
  
12. [S.2524](#) - **To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes. Sponsored by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).**
  - This bill would amend Section 29(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs.
  - Placed on Senate Calendar, No. 271 on February 10, 2022.
  
13. [S.3623](#) - **Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022. Sponsored by Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).**
  - This bill would reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and expand Tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-native defendants. It would expand Tribal jurisdiction over offenses involving child, dating, domestic, and sexual violence. It would also expand Tribal jurisdiction over sex trafficking, stalking, and violations of protection orders as well as obstruction of justice and assault of Tribal law enforcement officers.
  - Placed on Senate Calendar, No. 268 on February 10, 2022.

14. [S.2264](#) - **Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2021. Sponsored by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI).**

- This bill revises the Indian Housing Block Grant program and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program. Among other revisions to these programs, the bill expands allowable housing activities under the Indian program to include education-related stipends, college housing assistance, and other education-related assistance for low-income college students. It would also provide rental assistance and supportive services to Indian veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and living in or near an area where a tribe or tribally designated housing entity provides assistance for affordable housing.
- Ordered to be reported favorably in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on February 16, 2022.

15. [S.3381](#) - **Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2021. Sponsored by Sen. John Thune (R-SD).**

- This bill would require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines.
- Hearing held in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on February 16, 2022.