Senator Ben Ray Luján

Senator Ben Ray Luján, a Democrat from New Mexico, brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the U.S. Senate. Prior to his Senate tenure, he served as a U.S. Representative and held key roles, including Assistant Speaker of the House. Committed to advancing healthcare, education, and infrastructure, Senator Luján works tirelessly to address the needs of New Mexicans and Americans. His extensive legislative background and dedication to public service underscore his role as a strong advocate for his constituents and the nation.

Senator Markwayne Mullin

Senator Markwayne Mullin, a Republican from Oklahoma, is a dedicated public servant known for his commitment to conservative principles. Before joining the Senate, he served as the U.S. Representative for Oklahoma’s 2nd congressional district, bringing valuable experience in healthcare, energy, and tribal issues. As a former professional mixed martial artist and small business owner, Senator Mullin advocates for economic growth, job creation, and limited government. His multifaceted background and passion for representing the interests of Oklahomans define his impactful role in the U.S. Senate.
Rashage Green is the Education Policy Director and Counsel for the House Education and Labor Committee. In this role, she leads the education team, which handles issues relating to early childhood, K-12, higher education and juvenile justice. She previously served as Deputy Chief Counsel on the Senate Special Committee on Aging. Before her time in the Senate, she served as a presidential appointee in the Obama administration in the Congressional, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Office at the Office of Personnel Management and in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at the Department of Education. She began her legislative career in the office of Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott. Rashage holds a B.A. in Political Science from Hampton University and a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law.

RJ Martin is a professional staff member for K-12 policy for the majority side of the US House Committee on Education and the Workforce. In that role, he advises member offices on legislation and helps develop congressional hearings. He was previously the manager of the education policy team at the American Enterprise Institute. He is the co-editor of two books published by AEI and his short-form work on education policy has been published in outlets such as TIME, Newsweek, National Review, and the Hill.
Manuel Contreras serves as the Senior Education Policy Advisor on the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, where he guides Chairman Sanders’ K-12 policy agenda. A Brown University graduate, Manuel, originally from San Diego, CA, is a first-generation college student and Head Start alum, born to Mexican immigrants. His unwavering commitment lies in the pursuit of creating equitable educational opportunities throughout the nation.

Hayley Sanon is an education policy advisor covering K-12 issues on the Senate HELP Committee’s minority staff. Previously, Sanon was the program manager of AEI’s Conservative Education Reform Network. She started her career in education as a Teach for America Corps Member in Greensboro, NC where she served as a 7th grade math teacher at Swann Middle School. She holds an M.Ed. in Education Policy & Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. in Public Policy and Political Science, with a minor in Education, from Duke University.
Lenna Aoki, General Counsel for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs under Chair Brian Schatz, brings extensive legislative experience, having served various roles for Senators Akaka and Inouye. With a JD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law and a BA in History from Yale College, Lenna has held significant positions, including President of Aoki and Associates, Staff Director of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, and Assistant to the Secretary at the Department of the Interior, showcasing her diverse background in government relations and international law studies in Tokyo.
The National Indian Education Association

2024 Hill Week

Federal Speakers

**Elizabeth Carr**

Liz Carr, Tribal Advisor to the Director of OMB, brings nearly 15 years of expertise to her role, fostering coordination across all OMB components on Tribal issues. Specializing in policy, regulatory, and legislative matters impacting Tribal governments, Liz is well-versed in implementing Federal Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. As a citizen of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, she began her career as an Impact Evaluator at the Administration for Native Americans in 2009, following the completion of her M.S. in Kinesiology from the University of Michigan, and holds a B.S. in Athletic Training from Grand Valley State University.

**Wizipan Garriott**

Wizipan Little Elk Garriott, an enrolled Rosebud Sioux Tribe member, is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior since October 2021. Previously CEO of Rosebud Economic Development Corporation, he led businesses and community programs, including a Native language school and buffalo herd. Born on Rosebud Reservation, he graduated from Yale and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona. Wizipan serves as a trusted advisor on Tribal issues and resides on the homelands of the Sicangu with his wife and four children.
The National Indian Education Association

2024 Hill Week

Federal Speakers

Julian Guerrero Jr.

Julian Guerrero Jr. is the Director for the Office of Indian Education at the United States Department of Education. An enrolled citizen of the Comanche Nation and affiliated with the Kiowa Tribe, Director Guerrero has been a civil servant at the Department since 2020. He is responsible for the oversight and administration of $195 million dollars in Title VI, Part A programs including: 1,300+ formula grants, 400+ competitive grants, the National Indian Education Study, and the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. Director Guerrero's vision emphasizes the importance of how Tribal consultation and collaboration can bring authenticity to the work of the OIE.

Nancy Katz

Nancy Brenowitz Katz, MS, RDN, is a Nutritionist at the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, supporting Child Nutrition Program operators through training and technical assistance. She also serves as an Adjunct Lecturer at American University, George Washington University, and Anne Arundel Community College. With previous roles including Senior Director of Content and Partnerships for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Nancy has extensive experience in promoting health and nutrition initiatives. Residing in Rockville, MD, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking, biking, cooking, traveling, and reading.
Tyler Yellow Boy
Tyler Yellow Boy, a dedicated member of the Tribal Council of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, represents the Oglala District and serves as the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Education Committee. As Co-Vice Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and Oglala Lakota Housing Authority, he brings valuable skills in crisis management and team building. Tyler actively advocates for the needs of Great Plains Tribes, recently participating in meetings in Washington, D.C. to address infrastructure, law enforcement, and education concerns.

Nickolaus D. Lewis
Nickolaus D. Lewis, a Lummi Nation tribal citizen and Chairman of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, is a dedicated veteran with eight years of service in the U.S. Navy. As a grandson of the late Chief Sa-hum-kun (Donald Lewis) of the Lummi Nation, he is committed to honoring his grandfather’s legacy by serving his people. Currently a Councilmember of the Lummi Indian Business Council, Mr. Lewis actively addresses homelessness both on and off the reservation. With a background in probation services, he played a key role in developing Lummi Chinqinst Probation, a model focused on swift, certain, and fair probation for Native American tribes.
Kitcki Carroll

Kitcki A. Carroll serves as the Executive Director for United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund, representing 33 federally recognized Tribal Nations. As a strong advocate for justice and an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, he brings over 20 years of experience in tribal government and the nonprofit sector. Committed to protecting the inherent sovereign rights of USET’s member Tribal Nations, Mr. Carroll actively works to ensure the United States fulfills its moral and legal trust and treaty obligations to Indian Country.

Katie Klass

Katie Klass, In-House General Counsel for the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund, is a dedicated advocate and enrolled citizen of the Wyandotte Nation. With a strong background in safeguarding Tribal Nations' sovereign rights, she holds the United States accountable for trust, treaty, and statutory obligations. Previously a partner at Hobbs, Straus, Dean, and Walker in Washington, D.C., Katie also served in the Obama Administration's Department of the Interior. She earned her Juris Doctor in 2011 from the University of Arizona, specializing in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy.
Liz Malerba
Liz Malerba, a Mohegan Tribe citizen, is the Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs for United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund, advocating for 33 Tribal Nations. Based in DC, she collaborates with Congress and the Administration on legislative priorities such as Tribal rebuilding, trust relationship modernization, government reform, land restoration, healthcare, and the federal budget. With over 15 years of federal policy experience, Liz, an Allegheny College graduate, previously served in the U.S. House of Representatives and as Legislative Assistant for the National Indian Health Board. She resides in the DC metro area with her husband and son.

Tyler Scribner
Tyler Scribner, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, currently serves as Budget and Appropriations Counsel for the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). Since 2014, he has been dedicated to Indian Country, specializing in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA). During the COVID-19 pandemic, Tyler led a coalition of over 150 Tribal advocates, swiftly translating policy into enactment within 30 days. His expertise extends to groundbreaking reports and analytics for tribal spending, contributing significantly to the historic push for IHS advance appropriations. Recognized by the DC Native American Bar Association, Tyler was nominated for the 2022 Significant Contributions in Indian Law award.
Moriah O’Brien, a Senior Government Relations Advisor at Hobbs Straus since 2009, excels in federal legislative and appropriations processes. Her impactful work includes expanding Self-Governance to the Department of Transportation and securing full funding for Tribal Grant Support Costs. Moriah specializes in Tribal transportation, infrastructure, education, housing, and economic development. She coordinates strategy for the Hobbs Straus Tribal Sovereignty Defense PAC, contributing to successful policy and appropriations goals. A 2008 graduate of Virginia Tech, Moriah is a seasoned runner, cyclist, and traveler with a goal to visit all seven continents.

Elizabeth Bailey
Elizabeth, a Government Relations Advisor at Hobbs Straus since June 2023, specializes in Tribal health, housing, and public safety issues. With experience at the National Indian Education Association, she actively contributed to legislative efforts impacting Native education. Elizabeth excels in reporting legislative updates, drafting congressional testimony, and advising on political landscapes, leveraging extensive knowledge of the federal budget’s impact on Indian Country. A graduate of the University of California - Berkeley and Villanova University, she is passionate about advancing Tribal legislative priorities and expanding self-determination.
Miranda Rainey
Katie Klass, In-House General Counsel for the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund, is a dedicated advocate and enrolled citizen of the Wyandotte Nation. With a strong background in safeguarding Tribal Nations' sovereign rights, she holds the United States accountable for trust, treaty, and statutory obligations. Previously a partner at Hobbs, Straus, Dean, and Walker in Washington, D.C., Katie also served in the Obama Administration's Department of the Interior. She earned her Juris Doctor in 2011 from the University of Arizona, specializing in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy.

Deb Koolbeck
Deborah, a Federal Lobbyist at the National Education Association, manages a diverse portfolio, leading advocacy efforts in healthcare, education, and more. With prior roles at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Council on Competitiveness, she brings extensive leadership experience. Deborah's background spans education and scientific research at institutions like Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Arizona and a Master of Arts in Education from DePaul University.
Germaine Chappelle

With over 30 years of experience, Ms. Chappelle is the outside general counsel for the Central Consolidated School District (CCSD) in Shiprock, New Mexico. Her impactful advocacy includes amending New Mexico law to redirect impact aid allocations, securing approximately $80 million in additional funding for CCSD over three years. Ms. Chappelle focuses on closing achievement gaps, promoting equitable education, ensuring school safety, fostering collaboration with the Navajo Nation, and supporting economic development for sustainable educational funding and community services.