

Closing Remarks – 02/11/14

Joanne Shenandoah: Thank you very much for your words. [APPLAUSE] On behalf of myself and the advisory committee, I would like to say thank you—[NATIVE LANGUAGE @ 50:41 – 0211E] in our language—to the witnesses and to our audience for being here today, for your dedication.

As co-chair, Senator Dorgan indicated at the beginning of this hearing there's nothing more important than the health and safety of our children. And this advisory committee is passionate and extremely committed to improving the lives of our Native children.

So I would also like to say thank for the Tribal Law & Policy Institute for their commitment and dedication and all the work that they put together and coordinated this event, as well as our host today for inviting us and allowing us to be here. Thank you so much.

The advisory committee will convene for two other hearing. Hearing number three will be on April 16 and 17 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, immediately following the NICWA conference. The theme for hearing three is "American Indian Children Exposed to Violence in the Community."

And hearing number four will be June 13th through 14th in Anchorage, Alaska, following the NCAI mid-year conference. The theme for hearing number four is "Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, Special Issues in Alaska."

Do please visit the website at www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood for more information on this.

I'd love to just personally leave you with these words. In our language, when we tell someone "I love you," it's not really what it means. What it means is, "How can I be of help to you?" Isn't that a beautiful thing? So in our language I would say [NATIVE LANGUAGE @ 52:28 – 0211E] to all of you. Everyone on the advisory committee, all those who came from Department of Justice.

Thank you so much for your dedication and for moving

forward on the healing.

Eddie Brown:

I also want to thank you again for coming. I would like to remind again—we've stated a couple of times that you can submit any written testimony that you might have by emailing your testimony to testimony@tlpi.org. And there is no formatting requirements for the written testimony.

I would like to call upon—before our meeting ends—and introduce Mr. Jim Clairmont, who will be providing our closing invocation. Jim is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Nation and provides spiritual guidance and support to those in need, including victims of crime and abuse. Jim is known for his healing ceremonies, his guidance, and spiritual support. And we want to thank Jim for being here to close our meeting today.

Jim Clairmont:

[NATIVE LANGUAGE @ 54:20 - 54:57 – 0211E] Oh, heavenly father, this evening we say thank you to you. You are the giver and taker of life. And I thank our brothers and sisters from this area, of what they have done. Welcome all of us to their land. Their homeland.

To add my prayer onto Mr. Ray this morning that started us off, to come to an end of what this committee have heard and what the people have testified. Oh, heavenly father, you heard all these things. And again, I ask you watch over this committee here. Put their minds and their hearts of the words that they have heard of our children. Our Indian children, what they are going through. So that we can make a better life for them.

So heavenly father, bless us all. Watch over us throughout the night, our travels, until we meet again on the third session. All these things [NATIVE LANGUAGE @ 56:37]. I humble myself. I ask that you listen to my humble prayer to you, oh, heavenly father. All these things I ask in your precious Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Eddie Brown:

We now adjourn the second public hearing of the Advisory Committee of the Attorney General's Task Force on American Indian Alaska Native Children Exposed to

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Violence. We wish safe travels to everyone. Thank you.

[END CLOSING REMARKS]