



**STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN BACA AND VICE CHAIRWOMAN PRATTE ON THE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY PROCLAMATION SIGNED BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN**

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7th, 2022

WASHINGTON- This October 10th will be recognized as Indigenous Peoples' Day on a national scale after the signing of a proclamation the Indigenous Peoples' Initiative's helped draft for Indigenous Peoples' Day with the White House. This proclamation is a significant step towards proper recognition and retribution for indigenous communities and peoples in the United States.

Statement by Chairman Baca, "While the celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day alone will not alleviate poverty on reservations, it won't eliminate domestic violence, or terminate every instance of discrimination. Those things are up to us. The decisions and choices we make require us to speak out until our values are fully reflected in our laws and communities. What Indigenous Peoples' Day does show us, is an example of tangible progress, that illustrates that even in the face of oppression, America has moved forward. A great nation does not shy away from the truth, it strengthens us, emboldens us and fortifies us. It is an act of patriotism to understand our collective history. As Americans, we must recognize that the United States is a constant work in progress, and loving this country requires us as citizens to speak up for what is right. It is my hope that we can put our differences aside and work together with cooperation and mutual respect for one another to make this nation one that truly aligns with democratic principles."

Statement by Vice Chairwoman Clara Pratte, "Indigenous Peoples Day signifies our country's willingness to look hard at history, acknowledge the truth of Indigenous People perishing at the hands of manifest destiny and continue the work it takes to reconcile and rectify the pain and trauma of our foundations. Our great country is stronger facing the truth, while it may seem a small gesture to some, it says to me and many others 'we see you and we can heal together.'"