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Nevada Office of Minority Health
United Natives CEO | Indigenous Health

Chairwoman Brittney Miller

Interim Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting
401 S Carson St
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Nevadans Count - Public Input Meeting on Tribal Land

Dear Chairwoman Miller and Committee Members:

My name is Dr. Crystal Lee, and I am an expert in Indigenous public health issues. I am a citizen of the Navajo Nation, a resident of the ancestral land of the Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute) for over 15 years. About half of the urban Native population in Clark County are citizens of Navajo Nation, the largest Tribe in the U.S.

I continued my work in the community on the Board of Directors for Las Vegas Indian Center, the Nevada Office of Minority Health, and Senator Horsford's Equity Cabinet. I am also the CEO of an Indigenous health program in Phoenix, Arizona.

Barriers in accessing health care services only exacerbate health disparities between Native and US populations, many of which can be mitigated, at least in part, through access to effective preventive primary care services. Unfortunately, access to healthcare for Native people is one of the most significant challenges facing our community in the State of Nevada. While there are primary care clinics on some Tribal lands, there is no Indian Health Services hospital in Nevada. Our Tribal members, Nevada Tribes, and urban Tribal citizens must travel out of the state for major medical services.

Earlier this year, the Nevada Legislature was celebrated for protecting democracy and expanding access to healthcare while other states across the nation pushed back. Today, Nevada is pushing back by not hosting a public input meeting on tribal land.

My question for this body is: *If Arizona is consulting with Tribal communities on redistricting, and if Kansas can host a public input meeting on Tribal land, what can't Nevada?*