

David Schweikert (R)

My extensive legislative experience, financial expertise, and dedication to healthcare and Native American communities make me well-suited to represent this community. Since 2011, I have held leadership roles on the Ways and Means Committee, contributing significantly to tax reforms to help strengthen our communities. My advocacy for telehealth and healthcare cost reduction during COVID-19 demonstrates my commitment to improving healthcare access. Finally, my initiative to host a field hearing on tribal lands and my work with Native American communities demonstrates my commitment to addressing their unique challenges. I will continue my work to advance policies that foster economic growth and productivity, which are critical for job creation and reducing costs for American families. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee I will also continue to fight to make sure federal programs enjoyed by state and local governments are also made available to Indian Country, including in the area of foster care, adoption policy and economic development. Tribal nations are recognized as distinct, sovereign entities with inherent powers of self-governance. This sovereignty predates the founding of the United States and is affirmed by the U.S. Constitution, treaties, statutes, executive orders, and judicial decisions. Specifically, Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution provides Congress with the obligation to protect tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights, and to provide essential services to tribes. The respect for tribal sovereignty and self-determination is paramount. Members of Congress must also honor treaties and support the well-being and self-determination of tribal communities. Third, a Congressman needs to understand and REPUBLICAN appreciate jurisdictional complexities when considering and crafting legislation to make sure it appropriately supports tribal sovereignty while ensuring efficient governance and services. Finally, a Member of Congress needs to demonstrate awareness and respect for the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and languages of tribal communities. To respect tribal sovereignty, it is essential to first listen to and learn from tribal leaders and members. Using congressional oversight tools, such as holding hearings to gather insights from those with lived experiences in Indian Country, is crucial. Additionally, leveraging the status and influence of a congressional position can effectively navigate government bureaucracy, helping tribal communities achieve their goals. As a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, I will continue to advocate for policies that enhance the placement and adoption of Native children. Additionally, I will push for legislation to ensure health care professionals working in Indian Country receive equitable benefits. My efforts will also focus on promoting economic development on Indian lands.