

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

April 10, 2018

Tony Dearman  
Director, Bureau of Indian Education  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW, MS-3609-MIB  
Washington, DC 20240  
Phone: (202) 208-6123

Dear Mr. Dearman,

I write to express my grave concerns with the Bureau of Indian Education's (BIE) management of the Havasupai Elementary School. The lack of attention to Havasupai Elementary and the resulting poor educational outcomes and safety concerns are completely unacceptable. The BIE must do a better job to ensure that students receive a quality education, in accordance with the agreements between the Havasupai Tribe and the U.S. Government.

I understand that the school only has one permanent teacher and one special education teacher for all nine grades, kindergarten through eighth grade. It is obvious that this staffing level is woefully insufficient to address the educational and safety needs of the school's students. I recommend that you work to fully staff the school and address all safety concerns immediately.

I have received notification from a concerned constituent that at least one student has been bullied and sexually assaulted. Such treatment in any school is unacceptable and the agency must ensure that the school provides a safe environment where students can focus on learning, not worrying about keeping themselves safe. It is my understanding the school's response was to tell the victim not to come to school. This response is both inappropriate and insufficient, as it impedes the victim's education. I request that you take every step necessary to ensure that the school provides a safe environment for students and train all BIE staff to swiftly handle assaults in an appropriate manner.

Reports I have received indicate that the school's performance this year has been abysmal. No students achieved proficiency in math or English in the 2014-2015 school year. This level of education is completely inadequate and the students deserve better. The BIE must work to ensure that students are receiving a quality education and obtaining positive outcomes. I encourage you to work with parents and local leaders to develop a plan to remediate poor performance caused by the BIE's inadequate attention to the school's needs.

When we met in August, you expressed a willingness to address the needs of all tribal schools and have a frank conversation about the needs of the BIE to better serve the students of Indian

County. I hope that we can arrange a meeting to discuss the needs of the students of Havasupai Elementary in the near future.

I look forward to your response, which I hope indicates the steps you are taking to address the safety, staffing, and performance needs of the school. Such a plan should include timeline and input from parents and tribal leadership. If the BIE needs additional resources from Congress, I hope you will not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom O'Halleran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress