



COMMITTEE STATEMENT

Opening Statement of Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Chairman
Education and Workforce Committee
Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
“Enhancing Educational Outcomes in Indian Country: Postsecondary
Education at the Bureau of Indian Education”
June 24, 2025

Let me first extend my thanks to Subcommittee Chairman Gosar for initiating this hearing and also thanks to Subcommittee Chairman Owens who has faithfully led our Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee in the 118th and now the 119th Congress. He has repeatedly talked about how education is the key to unlocking the American Dream, and of course I lend my hearty “amen” to that.

This is the second time our Subcommittees have come together to hear about the recurring operational challenges of the Bureau of Indian Education. Over and over, we have read reports and heard testimonies by GAO, the Inspector General, and others about BIE’s poor management of its K-12 and postsecondary schools and inability to exercise meaningful oversight of Haskell Indian Nations University. It is well documented.

The problems at Haskell are apparent – the failure to maintain a safe and secure learning environment for students; misconduct by students and staff, including sexual harassment that has often gone unaddressed; bullying; nepotism; employee favoritism – the list goes on.

Within the last few weeks, we learned of the Inspector General's report about the sexual harassment of students on Haskell's women's basketball team, the failure of a supervisor to report the harassment, and potential violations of a Kansas state law involving athletic trainers.

More broadly, and as I have observed from my role as Chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee, we continue to investigate campus antisemitism, advocate for changes in the student loan program through reconciliation, and deal with malign foreign influence by China at our colleges and universities. I am grateful that we are making strides on these fronts.

At the same time, we must do more to ensure Native American students are provided a safe and secure learning environment at Haskell and that BIE, once and for all, rises to the occasion.

I look forward to working with President Trump and his team to hear their solutions for BIE and Haskell, and Mr. Davis, I look forward to your testimony.