May 5, 2021

Honorable John Thune

United States Senate

SD-511

Washington, DC 20510

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Senator Thune:

The National Council of Child Support Directors (NCCSD) is writing to express its support for S.534, which would authorize Tribal IV-D access to the federal offset process.

Effective interaction between Tribal and State IV-D programs is vital for providing child support services to Tribal children. The interaction is most likely to be successful if each participating IV-D program has comparable authority and sources of information. For that reason, NCCSD supported the successful effort for Tribal IV-D programs to obtain access to FPLS, and continues to support Tribal IV-D program access to the federal offset process, including IRS tax refund offsets.

NCCSD appreciates that S. 534 includes needed amendments to the existing safeguarding requirements of state IV-D programs regarding federal tax information (FTI). Issues have surfaced in various states regarding IV-D authority to disclose FTI to courts, contractors engaged in IV-D activity on behalf of a IV-D program, auditors, state information technology departments, and even custodial parents. Avoiding or resolving these issues would allow Tribal IV-D programs to share the benefit of access to the IRS tax offset process without the operational challenges currently faced by state IV-D programs.

If NCCSD can be of further assistance in your efforts, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

James C. Fleming

NCCSD President