[Insert date]

[Insert name and address for each of your Senators – please develop a separate letter for each Senator. Find your Senators here: https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm]

Re: Support for H.R. 9076, Protecting American's Children by Strengthening Families Act

Dear Senator [fill in the name of your Senator],

The [tribe or organization] is writing in support of the bipartisan bill (H.R. 9076) approved overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives on September 18, 2024, marking a crucial step toward reauthorizing Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. We recognize the work the Senate has been doing this session through the Finance Committee and elsewhere to look at the child welfare needs of our communities and appreciate how this builds understanding of our families needs and support for this legislation to be enacted into law this year. We support this legislation because it seeks to increase funding for tribal child welfare programs, expand the number of tribal nations eligible for Title IV-B funding, improve implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act, and maintain the flexibility that tribes need to effectively serve their children and families. **We urge you to support this legislation and advocate for a full Senate vote in November after Congress returns from the elections. We also want to emphasize the importance of considering the child support and child welfare provisions together in this bill. This is a top priority for us, and we want to ensure this legislation is enacted into law before the end of the year.**
[Include 2-3 sentences about your tribe or organization]

While there are several critical provisions in H.R. 9076 that support tribes and American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and families, we want to focus on a few key provisions.

Additional funding is vital to maximizing tribal access to Title IV-B programs and ensuring that AI/AN children and families receive necessary assistance. This priority is recognized in the provisions that expand mandatory funding under Subpart 2 (Promoting Safe and Stable Families), change the regulatory formula under Subpart 1 (Child Welfare Services) to ensure a 3% set-aside from the overall appropriation, and the doubling of funds under the Tribal Court Improvement Program from $1 million to $2 million per year. While Title IV-B programs provide a small amount of funding to tribes overall, the funding can be used to enhance access to essential services that help keep families out of the child welfare system, provide targeted training for staff, and support the recruitment and licensing of homes for children who cannot safely return to their parents. Furthermore, increases in funding must be prioritized alongside ensuring tribes have the necessary flexibility to operate programs that meet the needs of their children and families. We commend the provisions that seek to reduce administrative burdens and allow for flexible use of funds, ensuring that funding supports tribal nations rather than hinders efforts to serve their children and families.

We also support the provisions that require the Department of Health and Human Services to gather data on Indian Child Welfare Act implementation from states regarding cases involving AI/AN children that can inform improved technical assistance for states and tribes. These provisions foster collaboration at the federal, state, and tribal levels to improve outcomes for AI/AN children and families involved in state child welfare systems nationwide. We will continue to advocate for investments that strengthen tribal capacity and increase support for states and tribes working together to implement the Indian Child Welfare Act.

We look forward to working with you and others to ensure the essential and timely reauthorization of Title IV-B of the Social Security Act through the passage of this legislation. Please contact [fill in the blank with contact person's information] if you have any questions or would like to discuss further assistance.

Sincerely,