

United States Senate

September 30, 2019

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

I write concerning recent reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) decision to reassign duties for the lone FBI agent focused on human trafficking in Montana. According to these reports, the FBI agent will now spend half of his time on human trafficking cases and half on Indian Country cases. I commend the FBI for providing urgently-needed additional law enforcement services in Indian Country. However, the FBI's efforts to fight human trafficking in Montana should not be reduced as a consequence. Both of these needs are critical to safety and each deserves complete attention. As such, I request the FBI assign a full-time agent focused on human trafficking in Montana and another full-time agent focused on Indian Country crime in Montana.

Montana has actively engaged in the fight against human trafficking, and the FBI agent's work has been crucial in this space. Montana's Attorney General, State Legislature, law enforcement, task forces, and others have all raised awareness and taken action to bring human traffickers to justice. Despite these efforts, modern-day slavery still persists throughout the state. The FBI's investigative and law enforcement abilities are critical in helping Montana combat this appalling crime.

Additional FBI resources and attention to address cases in Indian Country are also needed. Violent crime on Indian reservations is more than 2.5 times the national average. The ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women must be addressed with greater urgency. Improved communication and coordination between federal agencies, law enforcement, and tribes are essential and will help save lives. Tribal communities and families in Montana know this tragic reality firsthand.

Fighting human trafficking and reducing crime in Indian Country are both critical challenges in Montana. Each area requires undivided attention and additional action. I urge you to assign a full-time agent to focus on human trafficking cases in Montana and another full-time agent to focus on Indian Country cases in Montana. As always, I stand ready to work with you as we combat crime and increase safety for Montanans.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator