

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

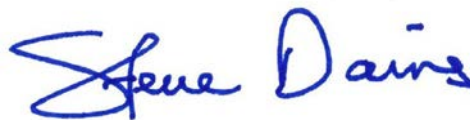
Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Peters,

I write to highlight my legislation, the Denying Pensions to Convicted Child Molesters Act, which has been pending before your committee for more than a year. In that time, perpetrators of some of the most heinous crimes imaginable remain eligible to receive tax-payer funded pensions. That this is allowed to continue is unconscionable. I urge your committee to hold a business meeting on my bill as soon as possible so this common sense solution can be passed into law.

As you know, Stanley Patrick Weber, during his time as a pediatrician with the Indian Health Service (IHS), molested a number of Native American children in both Montana and South Dakota. Despite warnings about his behavior for years, it was only last year that he was finally brought to justice. In total, between his convictions in Montana and South Dakota, Mr. Weber has been sentenced to imprisonment of five lifetime terms plus 63 years. Despite this, he is still set to receive a federal pension nearing \$100,000 per year. There have also been recent reports that another IHS physician, this time within the Fort Belknap unit, has been accused of sexual assault. That is currently under investigation but highlights the continued potential for federal employees to commit unthinkable crimes and face no repercussion with respect to federally-backed pensions.

While I understand that my legislation would not impact these particular cases, we must ensure that going forward, convicted pedophiles are not receiving federal pensions. I again urge you to immediately bring this bill before committee.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator