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Monday, May 19, 2025

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jill Tokuda
United States House of Representatives
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Warren, Senator Merkley, and Representative Tokuda,

As a direct descendant of the Wounded Knee Massacre, I write to express my deep gratitude to you for reintroducing the **Remove the Stain Act** in the 119th Congress.

The Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890 is one of the most painful and horrific chapters in our nation's history. My great grandfather Nape Opi (Shot in the Hand) was killed there and buried in the mass grave.

Bringing this bill back shows real courage and commitment to truth, accountability, and healing. Taking back those medals won't erase what happened, but it does help set the record straight. Military honors should never be used to justify or celebrate violence against unarmed people - especially women and children.

I fully support the Remove the Stain Act and hope Congress passes it without delay. It's long past time to face these historical injustices honestly and take real steps toward making things right.

Thank you again for your commitment to justice.

Respectfully,
Violet Catches
Descendant of the Wounded Knee Massacre