September 05, 2021

**VIA EMAIL [AND/OR MAIL]**

Senator John Tester

311 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510-2604

[Email Submission Website](https://www.tester.senate.gov/?p=email_senator)

Fax: (202) 224-8594

Senator Tester,

In August 2019, 18-year-old Kaysera Stops Pretty Places was murdered in Big Horn County, Montana. It has been two years and the FBI, Montana Department of Justice, and the Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office, still refuse to investigate or meet with Kaysera’s family—letting her murder go unpunished and preventing Kaysera and her family from getting the justice they deserve. You have the power hold the FBI accountable for their failure to take action, you have the power to help bring Justice for Kaysera.

Kaysera went missing on August 24, 2019 in a suburban neighborhood of Hardin, Montana, less than a half mile from Crow Reservation boundary. On August 29, her body was found in that same neighborhood. Law enforcement knew they had found Kaysera’s body, but did not tell the family that Kaysera’s body had been found until September 11—causing the family to hopelessly search for almost two weeks.

Days before Kaysera went missing, she filmed and posted to social media the beating of her 15-year-old brother by law enforcement at Crow Fair. The officers beating the minor in a wheelchair included Big Horn County deputies. There is reason to believe that one of the Big Horn County Sheriff’s deputies under investigation for the scene filmed by Kaysera was a responding officer when her body was discovered.

Despite the suspicious circumstances surrounding Kaysera’s death, the FBI refuses to investigate because Kaysera’s body was found half a mile from the Crow Reservation border. The FBI has ignored its federal trust responsibility when there is absolutely *no* evidence Kaysera was not murdered on the reservation and moved.

For almost twenty years, you have worked in the Senate to combat the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (“MMIWG”) crisis. Now, Kaysera and her family need your voice to hold the FBI accountable for its lack of investigation. Demand the FBI testify to its failures in a hearing at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

You are in a unique position to require the FBI to testify before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and answer for their complete lack of action and investigation of Kaysera’s death. The family asks that you hold the FBI to their federal trust responsibility and duty to protect tribal citizens, including Kaysera. When a tribal citizen living on a reservation goes missing and is murdered, the FBI has a trust duty and responsibility to investigate. One of the most significant factors in the continuing MMIWG crisis is the fact that the FBI refuses to investigate the murders of Native women and girls. One reason why they refuse to investigate the murders of our women is because politicians allow them to. Right now, there is no consequence for the FBI when they refuse to do their job. We are asking you to hold them accountable. We are asking you to call for a hearing and require them to come and testify as to why they will not investigate the murders of our Native women and girls. We are writing on behalf of Kaysera. But the list of lives we have lost is in the thousands.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to watching the hearing before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs where the FBI is called to answer for its complete abdication of its treaty and trust duty to investigate the murders of the Native women and girls of our Tribal Nations.

Respectfully,

[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]