

### **Press Conference Remarks of Frank C.**

“Good morning, everyone. I am the grandfather and legal guardian of Stephen C., one of the children bringing this case. For too many years, I have seen the BIE fail to give my grandson and other children a chance at a decent education.

Because of the BIE’s failures, Stephen is currently in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade but does not have basic skills or knowledge. He is struggling to read and write after spending nearly 7 years at the school; he can barely write a sentence. He does not know basic facts about history or geography - recently, I was explaining to him and some other kids about the protests in Standing Rock, and I had to show them where to find North Dakota on a map.

Unfortunately, this are just a few examples. The BIE has failed my grandson time and time again. He has special education needs, which the school has never met. Instead, Stephen has been excluded from the school over and over again. For years, he was sent home early from school nearly every day. Even though my grandson has a disability and is just 11 years old, this fall he was suspended and prosecuted in federal court for pulling the wires out of the back of a computer monitor. And now, he has been placed on a restricted schedule, where he gets just one hour of education a week

My grandson cannot afford to lose any more education. It is about time for the federal government to live up to its legal duty to these children – to finally give them the real education that they need and deserve. “

- Frank C., grandfather and legal guardian of Plaintiff Stephen C.