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Shawn Duran
Taos Pueblo

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Pascua Yaqui Tribe

David Decker
Elko Band Council

May 24, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Tribal/Interior Budget Council (TIBC) Tribal leadership, we write in support of H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, and urge its passage in the Senate. TIBC was created to provide a forum and process, consistent with Section 5303 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Executive Order 13175, and the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Government-to-Government policy, whereby Tribal Nations and DOI work together to develop budgets that ensure:

- 1) DOI is able to fulfill its trust responsibilities and treaty obligations; and
- 2) Secure levels of funding are provided to Tribal Nations to strengthen Tribal governance capacity, including the fulfillment of Tribal Nations' inherent sovereign rights of self-determination, self-governance, and self-sufficiency.

The Tribal provisions in this bill directly impact Tribal Nations' operation of public safety and justice programs through DOI, which, in turn, affects budgetary considerations for these programs. While the Department of Justice (DOJ) funds many of these programs, the day-to-day law enforcement activities are carried out by Tribal Nations and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Justice Services.

H.R. 1585, Title IX, Safety for Indian Women, includes the following sections:

Sec. 901 makes a number of findings regarding the extraordinarily high rates of violent crimes perpetrated against American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women;

Sec. 902 authorizes \$3 million per fiscal year from 2020 through 2024 for the Tribal Access Program, to enhance the ability of Tribal government entities to enter information into and obtain information from federal criminal information databases;

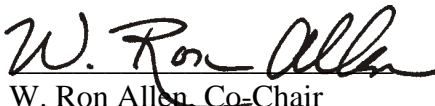
Sec. 903 amends the definition of domestic violence to reach violence committed against a victim who is a child under the age of 18 or an elder. This section also reaffirms inherent Tribal criminal jurisdiction over: assault of a law enforcement or correctional officer, obstruction of justice, sex trafficking, sexual violence, and stalking, regardless of the citizenship status of the offender. The bill clarifies that Tribal Nations in Maine are able to exercise special Tribal criminal jurisdiction and authorizes the DOJ to create a pilot project

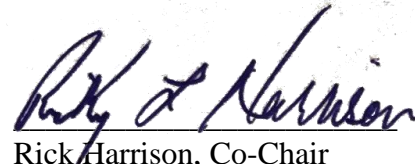
to allow up to five Tribal Nations in Alaska to implement special criminal jurisdiction. The bill authorizes \$5 million per year for each fiscal year 2020 through 2024 for DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women's Tribal Jurisdiction Program; and

Sec. 904 directs the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior to jointly submit an annual report to Congress that includes statistics on missing and murdered AI/AN women in the United States, including statistics relating to incidents of sexual assault. The report must also make recommendations regarding how to improve data collection on missing and murdered AI/AN women.

Each Tribal provision in H.R. 1585 is integral to the improvement of Tribal justice programs and the efficient use of Tribal justice funds through DOI. As such, the TIBC Tribal representatives support H.R. 1585 and urge its passage in the Senate. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


W. Ron Allen, Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council


Rick Harrison, Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council

Alvin Not Afraid, Jr., Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council