



1

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

- Kerri Colfer (Tlingit), Senior Native Affairs Advisor, NIWRC

Members of Congress:

- Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Chairman, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Panelists:

- Chief Mike Williams - Chief of the Akiak Native Community
- Patricia Whitefoot (Yakama Nation) - Family Advisor
- Kelbie Kennedy (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) - Policy Manager and Policy Lead on National Security and Community Safety, National Congress of American Indians

2

The Alarming Pattern of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

- ❖ 84% of AI/AN women experience violence in their lifetime - over 1.5 million people (NIJ study)
- ❖ 56.1 percent have experienced sexual violence, 55.5 percent have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, and 48.8 percent have experienced stalking (NIJ study)
- ❖ The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women released reports finding that 64% of trafficking survivors in Hawaii identified as being part Native Hawaiian.

3

The Alarming Pattern of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

- ❖ On some reservations, women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average.
- ❖ Homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among AI/AN women and girls between ages 10-24 and the 5th leading cause of death between ages 25-34 (CDC)

4

6-Point Action Plan for Reform and Restoration

1. **Restoring the full authority** of American Indian and Alaska Native Nations to protect Indigenous women, including through implementation of the recently reauthorized Violence Against Women Act;
2. **Recognizing and respecting responses of Native Hawaiian communities** and organizations to protect Indigenous women, including through the support of a Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence;
3. **Ensuring adequate resources** for Tribal victim services through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Victims of Crime Act,
4. **Removing the systemic barriers** facing families of MMIW by supporting implementation of Savanna's Act and Not Invisible Act and the development and adoption of additional MMIW legislation in consultation with Alaska Native and American Indian Nations and Native Hawaiians;
5. **Implementing a thorough federal response** to MMIW by requiring every federal department to develop action plans with meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and Native Hawaiians; and
6. **Recognizing that both land and Indigenous women are sacred** and connected, and that both require legislative and policy actions to protect them from extractive industries and corporate interests.

5

U.S Senator Brian Schatz (HI)



6

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK)



7

Tribal Perspective on MMIW: Chief Mike Williams Akiak Native Community



8

**MMIW Family Member
Perspective:**
Patricia Whitefoot (Yakama Nation)



9



10

National Tribal Policy Perspective:
Kelbie Kennedy (Choctaw Nation)
 Policy Manager and Policy Lead on
 National Security and Community Safety
 National Congress of American Indians



11

**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
 Reauthorization Act of 2022**

- Passed in the omnibus government funding bill on March 10, 2022
- Signed into law on March 15, 2022

VAWA 2022 Provisions:

- Builds on VAWA 2013 by restoring critical categories of Tribal criminal jurisdiction, including: sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, child violence, obstruction of justice, and assault of Tribal justice personnel
- Establishes an Alaska pilot project and clarifies that Tribes in Maine are eligible to exercise special Tribal criminal jurisdiction
- Increases funding and resources for Tribal Nations and establishes a reimbursement program for certain cost
- Reauthorizes and Improves the Tribal Access Program (TAP)
- Codifies the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Tribal Prisoner Program

12

What's Next?

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Reauthorization

- FVPSA provides critical support for shelters, coalitions, training and technical assistance centers, children's services, emergency response hotlines, and prevention initiatives.
- FVPSA (H.R. 2119) passed in the House in October.
- The **Senate bill, S. 1275**, has yet to pass.
- This FVPSA reauthorization bill would expand grant programs and make many needed improvements so more survivors have access to support and safety, including:
 - Increase Tribal set-aside from 10 to 12.5%;
 - Dedicated funding for Tribal coalitions;
 - Permanent funding for the national Indian domestic violence hotline;
 - Permanent funding for the Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on DV; and
 - Permanent funding for the Native Hawaiian Resource Center on DV.

13

FY 2023 Appropriations

- **VAWA 2022 Authorizations to Appropriations**
 - \$25 Million for the tribal grant program and the reimbursement program.
 - \$6 Million for the Tribal Access Program
- **FVPSA Appropriations**
- **Victim of Crime Act (VOCA)**
- **NCAI FY 2023 Budget Book!**

Getting Involved!

- NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women
 - Email kkennedy@ncai.org to join the NCAI VAWA Task Force listserv.
- Tribal Consultations and Testimony Submissions
 - Keep an eye on the [NCAI Consultation Support Center!](#)
 - Annual Consultation on Violence Against Women: **September 21-22, 2022**

14

MMIW National Week of Action Partner Organizations

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center
Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence
Indian Law Resource Center
National Congress of American Indians
Pouhana O Na Wahine
StrongHearts Native Helpline
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

15



Gunalchéesh!
(Thank you!)

Kerri Colfer
Senior Native Affairs Advisor, NIWRC
kcolfer@niwrc.org

niwrc.org
515 Lame Deer Ave., Lame Deer, MT 59043 Phone 406.477.3896 Toll-Free 855.649.7299 Email info@niwrc.org

 [fb.com](https://www.facebook.com/niwrc)  [@niwrc](https://twitter.com/niwrc)  [niwrc](https://www.instagram.com/niwrc)

16