[on TRIBAL STATIONERY]

*NCAI Draft Resolution language to be adapted into a Tribal Resolution. Please replace the brackets [ ] and the language in the brackets [ ] with your our Tribal language and/or customized formatting.*

[TRIBAL RESOLUTION NUMBER]

[TRIBAL PREAMBLE PARAGRAPH, if used]

**WHEREAS,** the Crime Victims Fund, administered by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within DOJ’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP), was initially established to address the need for victim services programs, and to assist governments in providing appropriate services to their communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Congress passed the Victims of Crimes Act thirty years ago and did not include Indian tribes in the original distribution of funds; and

**WHEREAS,** the Fund is financed by collections of fines, penalty assessments, and bond forfeitures from defendants convicted of Federal crimes, but until now, tribes have only been eligible to receive a very small portion of the discretionary funding from the Fund; and

**WHEREAS,** American Indians and Alaska Natives experience the highest crime victimization rates in the country:

* Murder rates of American Indian women on some reservations are ten times the national average.[[1]](#endnote-1)
* Nearly 61% of Native women are assaulted during their lifetime. One local study found that 1 in 12 Native women experience violence perpetrated by their husband every year.[[2]](#endnote-2)
* Approximately 34% of Native women are raped in their lifetime, and nearly half will experience sexual violence other than rape within their lifetime.[[3]](#endnote-3) When Native women are raped, they are more likely to experience other physical violence during the attack, their attacker is more likely to have a weapon, and they are more likely to have injuries requiring medical attention.[[4]](#endnote-4)
* Due to exposure to violence, Native children experience post-traumatic stress disorder at a rate of 22%—the same levels as Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans and triple the rate of the rest of the population.[[5]](#endnote-5) ; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs “due to a lack of victim service programs in Indian Country, there often is little or no response to family members of homicide victims, sexual assault victims, child abuse victims, and others”; and

**WHEREAS,** DOJ officials have recognized the great need to strengthen victims services on tribal lands and, have proposed dedicated funding to help meet that need; and

**WHEREAS,** Congress has tripled disbursements from the Crime Victims Fund in the last two years, with disbursements reaching $3 billion for FY 2016, and has not directed *any* of these funds to tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS,** Indian nations and tribal service providers require essential resources to respond to violence perpetrated against American Indians and Alaska Natives, in particular women and children, as well as to provide services to victims seeking assistance.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the [Tribal Government Name] does hereby call on Congress to end the unconscionable exclusion of tribal governments from the increase in the amount of money released from the Crime Victim’s Fund by including a dedicated funding stream for Indian tribes to meet the dire needs of victims on tribal lands; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the [Tribal Government Name] does hereby call for 10% of disbursements from the Crime Victims Fund to be directed to tribal governments in order to fund tribes and tribal government programs and non-profit, non-governmental tribal organizations, located within the jurisdictional boundaries of an Indian reservation, Alaska Native Villages, and Indian areas that provide services to Native crime victims; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this resolution shall be the policy of [Tribal Government Name] until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**[CERTIFICATION, if used]**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the [Tribe] […] with a quorum present.

[Tribal Authorizing Signatures]

1. *Legislative Hearing on S. 1763, SAVE Native Women Act Before the S. Comm. on Indian Affairs*, 112th Cong. 10 (2011) (statement of Thomas J. Perrelli, Associate Att’y Gen. of the United States), available at <http://www.indian.senate.gov/sites/default/files/upload/files/TranscriptRecord-2.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. R. Bachman, et al, "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice

Response: What is Known," (2008), *available at* <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223691.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 summary report . Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2011). [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. R. Bachman, et al, "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice

Response: What is Known," (2008), p. 36, *available at* <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223691.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, at 38, *available at,* <https://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/task-force-american-indian-and-alaska-native-children-exposed-violence>.. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)