

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 353

Expressing support for the designation of May 5, 2023, as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2023

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PORTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. STANTON, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. COLE, Mrs. BICE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. CASE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of May 5, 2023, as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls”.

Whereas, according to a 2016 study commissioned by the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) National Institute of Justice (NIJ), more than 4 in 5 (84.3 percent) American Indian and Alaska Native women experienced violence in their

lifetime, with 56.1 percent being a result of sexual violence and 55 percent being from intimate partner violence;

Whereas, according to 2017 data, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found homicide was the sixth-leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls under 44 years of age, with murder rates more than 10 times the national average;

Whereas approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center index throughout the United States, and approximately 2,700 cases of murder and nonnegligent homicide offenses have been reported to the Federal Government's Uniform Crime Reporting Program;

Whereas, according to a 2020 joint study completed by the State of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, 64 percent of human trafficking victims in Hawai'i identified as at least part Native Hawaiian;

Whereas the current local, State, and Federal funding available in Indian country is inadequate to address the basic, emergency, and long-term service needs of victims and negatively impacts Tribal governments' ability to distribute lifesaving resources;

Whereas, in 2019, Operation Lady Justice was launched through Executive Order 13898 which established the Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives aimed at mitigating the missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) crisis by improving the investigatory and prosecutorial capabilities of

Federal justice agencies and generating new guidelines for data sharing and law enforcement responses;

Whereas, in 2020, Savanna’s Act (Public Law 116–165) and the Not Invisible Act (Public Law 116–166) were signed into law which initiated a joint commission between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and DOJ to combat violent crime within Tribal communities and develop new law enforcement protocols when investigating MMIW;

Whereas, in 2021, DOI created a Missing and Murdered Unit within their Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Office of Justice Services to expand cross-departmental and interagency collaboration for the purposes of investigating cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people at the request of Tribal leadership; and

Whereas, in previous years, May 5 has been designated as the day of remembrance for “Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls” in honor of the birth date of Hanna Harris, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, who was murdered after being reported missing by her family in Lame Deer, Montana: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses support for the designation of a
3 “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Mur-
4 dered Indigenous Women and Girls”;

5 (2) calls on the people of the United States and
6 interested groups to—

7 (A) commemorate the lives of missing and
8 murdered Indigenous women and girls whose

1 cases are documented and undocumented in
2 public records and the media; and

3 (B) demonstrate solidarity with the fami-
4 lies of victims in light of those tragedies;

5 (3) recommends that the Department of Jus-
6 tice's National Institute of Justice commission a new
7 study on missing and murdered Indigenous women
8 and girls to ensure up-to-date statistics are made
9 public regarding the current state of the missing and
10 murdered Indigenous women and girls crisis given 7
11 years have passed since their 2016 study was pub-
12 lished; and

13 (4) recognizes that, despite the positive efforts
14 made, there is more work to be done to address this
15 nationwide crisis.

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