



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

**The National Congress of American Indians  
Resolution #ABQ-03-124**

**Title: Opposition to Senate Bill 1585 Section 109; Field Hearings in Alaska to Review the Battering, Rape and Stalking of Alaska Native Women**

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**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska is home to 232 federally recognized tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, 165 communities in Alaska are off road communities, of which 90 of these Alaska Native Villages have no form of law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, funding from the Office of Violence against Women, United States Department of Justice, provides critical services to Alaska Native Villages and resources needed to build tribal infrastructure and strengthen traditionally based approaches to address violence against Alaska Native women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, S.B. 1585 , section 109, of the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2004 would prevent individual tribes in Alaska, with the exception of the Annette Island Reserve, from obtaining direct funds for tribal court and local police; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 109 of the proposed legislation would redirect funding currently given directly to Alaska Native Villages to the Alaska State government; and

**WHEREAS**, S.B. 1585, section 109 would set a dangerous precedent of redirecting tribal funds to state governments that would impact all Indian tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, this provision could place many Alaska Native women and children at the mercy of domestic violence victimizers and rapists without timely access to tribal police or courts and will endanger the lives of many women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, all tribal sovereign nations honor, respect and hold sacred our Indian women; and

**WHEREAS**, this provision could place all American Indian and Alaska Native women in tribal communities in danger and without the necessary resources to respond to crimes of domestic violence, rape and stalking; and

**WHEREAS**, Native women are battered, raped and stalked at far greater rates than any other group of women in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska reported 83.5 rapes per 100,000 females compared to the U.S. average of 31.7 rapes per 100,000. Alaska has one of the highest per capita rates of physical and sexual abuse in the nation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby request that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs oppose S.B. 1585 Section 109 because the bill is genocidal in nature and an attack on the sovereignty of Alaska Native Tribes and their ability to protect women and children; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby request that the U.S. Congress oppose S.B. 1585 Section 109 because the bill is an attack on the sovereignty of Alaska Native Tribes and their ability to protect women and children; and

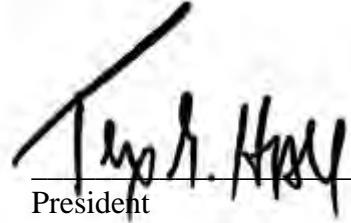
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby request that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hold field hearings in Alaska to review the battering, rape, stalking and murder of Alaska Native women and children and the lack of response to these crimes by the federal and state governments; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI supports the development of legislation that will strengthen and uphold tribal authority to address the battering, rape, stalking and murder of Alaska Native women and children; and

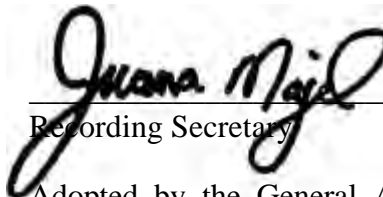
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.