

# UTFAV NEWSLETTER



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT HOUSE BILL 1585 SENATE BILL YET TO BE INTRODUCED

### UNITING THREE FIRES AGAINST VIOLENCE

Training | Resources | Support

The Violence Against Women Act expired on September 30, 2018. While funding has been appropriated until September 30, 2019 Congress has yet to authorize a new version of the bill, which is up for reauthorization every 5 years. With each reauthorization, Congress has the opportunity to add meaningful changes to the legislation. When VAWA was last reauthorized in 2013, a significant provision impacting Indian Country was

included, which returned some jurisdiction (Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction aka SDVCJ) over Non-Indians to Tribal Nations. Since 2013, several barriers and gaps related to violence within Indian Country have been recognized. The Reauthorization of VAWA in 2019 provides an opportunity to close some of those barriers and gaps. On March 7th, 2019, Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced HR 1585, which reaffirms tribal jurisdiction over crimes of

domestic violence and dating violence committed by non-Indian perpetrators in Indian Country (SDVCJ). HR 1585 goes further and **extends** tribal jurisdiction to crimes involving assault on a law enforcement or correctional officer, obstruction of justice, sexual violence, sex

by a 9-16 vote, following party lines.

It is expected that the bill will be voted on by the House during the week of April 1st.

Currently, there is only one Republican Co-Sponsor. Ironically, all Michigan Representatives that have

#### WHAT ABOUT A SENATE VERSION OF VAWA?

- Senators are currently writing their own VAWA bill right now.
- Advocates across the Country are urging the Senate version to include the same meaningful protections that are included in the House version.
- Currently, there are fears about whether the provisions regarding jurisdiction within Indian Country will be included in the Senate version.
- More information to come...

trafficking, and stalking committed by non-Indian perpetrators in Indian Country (including Maine and Alaska, which were previously left out of the SDVCJ provision.

HR 1585 was referred to the House Judiciary Committee and was marked up on March 13. While the bill was advanced by the committee, Rep. Sensenbrenner (R-WI) attempted to amend the bill to remove the language that authorizes SDVCJ. Thankfully, his amendment was rejected

Indian Country within their borders are Republican. It is important that all Representatives that have Indian Country understand the impacts of meaningful VAWA legislation, including the authority for Tribal Nations to promote healing, safety and justice within their communities. Tribal Leaders and advocates alike have the opportunity to reach out to their representatives to educate them not only about the disproportionate rates of violence impacting our communities but also the current limitations we

as Tribal Nations face when pursuing healing, safety and justice.

Uniting Three Fires Against Violence will continue to update Tribal Leaders and Tribal Advocates as VAWA legislation progresses through newsletters and email updates.

For immediate assistance with VAWA legislation, or any other forms of legislation regarding violence impacting our communities, please contact UTFAV at 906-253-9775.

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# UTFAV UPDATES

## UTFAV YOUTH SUMMIT DATES

UTFAV is excited to announce our third annual Tribal Youth Summit. The Summit will take place on July 29-31st, at the Cran Hill Ranch located in Rodney, Michigan. UTFAV has funds available to sponsor two Tribal youth from the 12 Federally recognized Tribes within Michigan. In addition to the Tribal Youth, UTFAV can sponsor the attendance of a chaperone to transport the youth to the venue and join in on the planned activities during the entire summit!

Presenters from the Native Wellness Institute are providing information on the following topics: Native Youth Wellness, Healthy Relationships, and Empowerment.

Youth and chaperones will also have the opportunity to engage in Cultural teachings and projects, as well as camp activities including: Horseback Riding, River Tubing, Swimming, and More!

Registration details will be announced soon. If you would like to request more information, please contact UTFAV Training Coordinator Vanessa Owaski-Patzwald at [vpatzwald@utfav.org](mailto:vpatzwald@utfav.org)

## UTFAV TRIBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT TENTATIVE DATES

UTFAV hopes to officially announce our annual Tribal Leadership Summit very soon, but please mark the week of September 23rd in your calendars. The Leadership Summit is expected to occur on Mackinac Island and follow the previous years' format of day one starting in the afternoon followed by a full day of information sharing for the second day. The Tribal Leadership Summit is intended for Tribal Leaders and those involved in responding to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and other gender-based crimes impacting our communities. UTFAV

will sponsor the attendance of four individuals from each Tribal community, with preference given to members of Council and/or Board of Directors.

UTFAV will share an announcement when the final dates and location are secured!

## OGICHIDAA KWE WARRIOR WOMEN GATHERING

UTFAV is in the planning stages of a new and exciting initiative to provide Tribal women an opportunity to come together and partake in traditional and holistic healing activities and workshops meant to educate and empower those who have been impacted by domestic and sexual violence from throughout Michigan. Dates and location will be announced soon. If you are interested in joining a planning committee for our Women's Gathering, please contact UTFAV Training Coordinator Vanessa Owaski-Patzwald at [vpatzwald@utfav.org](mailto:vpatzwald@utfav.org)

## UNITING THREE FIRES AGAINST VIOLENCE

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Uniting Three Fires Against Violence is Michigan's Native American Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition. Our mission is to support Michigan Tribes in promoting the social change necessary to address the disproportionate rates of violence impacting our communities. We are dedicated to providing resources, safety and advocacy to ensure the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being of Native Americans victimized by violence.

For more information about Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, please contact us at 906-253-9775.

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