

UTFAV Newsletter

April 2018
Volume 4, Issue 4

UNITING THREE FIRES
AGAINST VIOLENCE

EDUCATING
ADVOCATING
RESEARCHING

Michigan Legislation: Sexual Assault Bills

Throughout the last several months, over 30 pieces of sexual assault legislation has been introduced and/or passed through Michigan Legislature. Most of this legislation has been inspired by the Larry Nassar case sexual abuse case. This section will include information about some of the most prominent legislation.

HB5793-5796: These bills would require medical professionals to keep records of any contact involving vaginal or anal penetration for at least 15 years. Also, these bills require minor children to have parental consent before vaginal or anal penetration. Failure to do so could be a felony.

HB 5658: This bill would make it easier for jurors to hear about past accusations of sexual assault against a perpetrator, even if the perpetrator was never charged/convicted.

HB5785-HB5791: These bills would enhance sexual education requirements for students to include adding information about dating violence, sexual assault and harassment.

HB5786: This bill would require public schools to keep records regarding why an employee left or was fired from their employment. This information would be reviewable if that individual sought a new position within a new school.

HB 5797: This bill would add: k-12 and university coaches; athletic volunteers; and all university employees to the group of mandatory reporters.-

SB 871: Under this bill, if someone was the victim of second degree criminal sexual conduct while they were under the age of 18, there would be no limit on when they can seek charges. If they were the victim of third degree criminal

sexual conduct while under the age of 18 they would have at least 30 years to seek charges or any time DNA evidence is obtained.

SB 872: This bill would give victims of sexual assault as minors until age 48 to file for damages, and would apply retroactively to any sexual assaults that happened after 1996.

SB 876: This bill would eliminate the statute of limitations completely for sexual misconduct against minors in lawsuits brought against the state.

This section only included a small handful of the 30 some pieces of legislation introduced.

If you would like more information about this group of bills or other legislation not discussed, please call UTFAV at 906-253-9775. or email rcarr@utfav.org.



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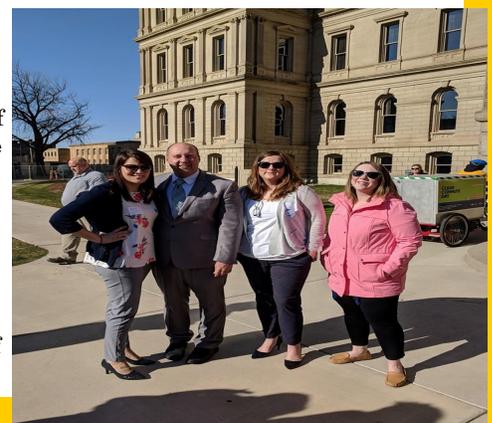
April 26: Survivor and Ally Empowerment Day

In recognition of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Michigan Senators. Curtis Hertel, Jr. and Tonya Schuitmaker celebrated Survivor and Ally Empowerment Day, a day of advocacy and empowerment for survivors of sexual assault. Survivors and ally were encouraged to embrace their voice and recognize their power. Hertel noted

“Together, survivors and allies have the power to effect change through legislative action like Yes Means Yes (SB 620)” which is an affirmative consent bill introduced by Sen. Hertel and co-sponsored by Sen. Schuitmaker” UTFAV staff were invited and took the opportunity to meet with legislators to educate them on both the disproportionate

rates of sexual violence impacting our communities and also the lack of resources available in Indian Country.

Pictured on the right: UTFAV staff with Senator



Uniting Three Fires Against Violence Updates!

Tribal Youth Summit



SAVE THE DATE!!

We are hosting our second annual youth wellness summit to educate our tribal youth on healthy relationships, bystander intervention, and cultural wellness. Our event will be hosted on July 16-18 at Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake, MI, which features lake access, firepits and meeting space.

Each Tribe will have the opportunity to send 2 youth to the tribal youth summit. Tribal youth may be accompanied by adult chaperones. Each chaperone will be requested to submit to Central Registry Clearance Requests through DHHS.

The summit will begin the afternoon of July 16 at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude May 18, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. Uniting Three Fires Against Violence will provide the cost of lodging and meals for each participant and chaperone. Registration information will be shared soon! If you know of Tribal youth who may be interested in attending, please contact vpatzwald@utfav.org.

Expert Witness Training Registration Still Live!

There is still time to register for our Tribal DV Expert Witness training for June 12-13 in Marquette, MI. Please contact vpatzwald@utfav.org to register.

Tribal Leadership Summit

SAVE THE DATE

The Tribal Leadership Summit is set for September 25th-26th. The summit will begin on Tuesday September 25th with a start time of 12:00pm. Featured speakers for this year's Tribal Leadership Summit will include David Adams, of Parnall and Adams Law and Victoria Sweet, Assistant Director of Tribal Law and Justice Consulting at The Whitener Group, LLC. Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

For the first time in our Tribal Leadership Summit history, meals will be provided for participants. The meals were graciously donated by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians!! **Chi Miigwetch to the Pokagon Tribal Council!!**

Please keep a look out for registration!



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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 906-253-9975.