

UTFAV Newsletter

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VAWA 2018: Reauthorization

UNITING THREE FIRES
AGAINST VIOLENCE

EDUCATING
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In the past, when the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was reauthorized, certain “marker” bills or “standalone” bills were used to inform reauthorization. The related smaller marker or standalone bills can be incorporated and allow legislators to streamline the process, as each smaller bill is discussed, drafted and reviewed separately.

The current bills that may potentially be included in the reauthorization of VAWA include: SURVIVE, Savanna’s Act, Justice for Native Survivor’s Act, and The Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act.

These bills, while separate, all have broad support amongst Tribes and NCAI.

SURVIVE, if passed, will require that 5% of the Crime Victims Fund be provided to Indian Tribes for tribal crime victim services. Before FY 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill was passed, Tribes did not have direct access to the Crime Victims Fund. This bill would provide the fix necessary to allow Tribes access to a significant pot of money intended to provide services for victims. **Savanna’s Act**, if passed, will improve the response to missing and

murdered Native women by improving tribal access to the federal criminal information databases, requiring data collection on missing and murdered Native people, and by directing the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address

would amend 25 USC 1304 to *reaffirm* tribal inherent authority over sexual assault, trafficking, and stalking crimes committed by non-Indians

“Marker Bills”

- **SURVIVE (S. 1870/HR 4608)**
- Senate bill reported favorably without amendment by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- House bill referred to Judiciary Committee
- **Savanna’s Act ((S. 1942/H.R. 4485)**
- Legislative hearing in the Indian Affairs Committee was on October 25, 2017
- House bill referred to the Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs.
- **Justice for Native Survivor’s Act ((S. 1986)**
- Referred to the Indian Affairs Committee
- **The Native Youth and Tribal Office Protection Act (S. 2233)**
- Referred to the Indian Affairs Committee

missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. The bill was named after Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, who had pregnant and was reported missing by her family in North Dakota. Savanna was found murdered and her infant was subsequently recovered from the individuals who had murdered Savanna.

Justice for Native Survivor’s Act, if passed,

offenders can freely assault and batter law enforcement officers, bailiffs and children without facing charges in Tribal court. This bill would rightfully add those protections.

If you would like more information on the 2018 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act or any of these other standalone bills, please contact UTFAV at 906-253-9775.

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against Indians in Indian country. It would also amend 1304, to remove the exceptions to jurisdiction that require the defendant to live or work in the Indian country of the tribe or be in a relationship with a qualifying Indian.

The Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act, if passed would amend 25 USC 1304 to reaffirm tribal inherent authority over child abuse and crimes that are committed against certain official within the criminal system exercising SDVCJ like assaulting an officer or bailiff. Currently,

Uniting Three Fires Against Violence Updates!

UTFAV New Website To Launch Mid-July!

UTFAV is excited to announce that our new and updated website will be launched in Mid July 2018. Viewers will have direct access to our website with information about our services, upcoming events and links to important reports, data, and resources.

Also included within the website will be links to register to any upcoming trainings we're hosting, along with access to archived UTFAV newsletters and blog updates from UTFAV Staff.

We're very excited to launch, so please be on the lookout for email and facebook announcements.

Tribal Leadership Summit

UTFAV is excited to announce our fourth annual Tribal Leadership Summit the week of September 10th, 2018. Advocates are

encouraged to invite their Tribal Leaders to this important meeting. Presenters will include: Former US Attorney Tribal Liaison of New Mexico David Adams, Victoria Sweet, a leading expert of the intersections of domestic violence and child welfare, and UTFAV staff. We are currently working on securing our final speaker and will share more details as they become available. Please notify your Tribal Leaders and request their attendance at the Summit. Registration is available at: <https://goo.gl/forms/tyDvE3XmZ9WTm27Q2>

Expert Witness Training

On June 12-13, Michigan Tribal advocates were able to participate in an Expert Witness Training provided by Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, in partnership with National Indian Country Training Initiative's Leslie Hagen. Along with Leslie, participants

learned from esteemed national trainer Herb Tanner. Over the two days, advocates were not only able to learn the basics of providing testimony, but also able to learn concrete skills through mock trial testimony in the Federal Court Room in Marquette, Michigan.

UTFAV would like to thank the staff and volunteers involved with the Expert Witness Training including: Leslie Hagen, Herb Tanner, Cheryl O'Neill, Public Defender Beth Lacosse and Western District of Michigan's Judge Timothy Greeley.

Pictured below, Leslie Hagen begins questioning



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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.