

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 88

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN
District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Urges US Department of Justice to dedicate additional resources to solving cases involving missing or murdered Native American women and girls.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the United States Department of
 2 Justice to dedicate additional resources to solving cases
 3 involving missing or murdered Native American women and
 4 girls.

5
 6 **WHEREAS**, In the United States, violence against Native American
 7 women and girls has reached unprecedented levels on tribal lands,
 8 in indigenous villages, and within urban communities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Some areas have rates of murder against Native American
 10 women that are over 10 times the national average, with murder
 11 being the third leading cause of death among Native American
 12 women and girls; and

13 **WHEREAS** In 2016, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National
 14 Crime Information Center estimated the number of missing Native
 15 American women and girls to be approximately 5,712; and

16 **WHEREAS**, However, only 116 of the cases were logged in the
 17 Department of Justice's (DOJ) federal missing persons' database, a
 18 resource that allows law enforcement agencies to share information;
 19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, The unique position of Native American tribes as both
 21 sovereign and dependent creates problematic jurisdictional barriers
 22 that sometimes prohibit effective criminal justice responses from
 23 both federal and local authorities; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Federal efforts, such as the 1994 Violence Against Women
 25 Act and the STOP Violence Against Women Federal Grant
 26 Program, to date have not yielded adequate results in preventing
 27 violence towards Native American women and girls; and

28 **WHEREAS**, The federal government is endowed with the
 29 Constitutional responsibility to ensure the protection, health, and
 30 safety of all United States citizens; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The US DOJ was established with the aims of enforcing
 32 the law, ensuring public safety, seeking just punishment for the
 33 guilty, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice;
 34 and

35 **WHEREAS**, The US DOJ is uniquely situated to take action to promote
 36 the safety and visibility of Native American women and girls; now,
 37 therefore,

38
 39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

40
 41 1. This House urges the US Department of Justice to dedicate
 42 additional resources to solving cases involving missing or murdered
 43 Native American women and girls.

44
 45 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
 46 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the United
 47 States Department of Justice and to the Office of the United States
 48 Attorney General.

STATEMENT

This resolution urges US Department of Justice (DOJ) to dedicate additional resources to solving cases involving missing or murdered Native American women and girls.

In the United States, violence against Native American women and girls has reached unprecedented levels on tribal lands, in indigenous villages, and within urban communities. Some areas have rates of murder against Native American women that are over 10 times the national average, with murder being the third leading cause of death among Native American women and girls.

In 2016, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center estimated the number of missing Native American women and girls to be approximately 5,712. However, only 116 of the cases were logged in the DOJ's federal missing persons' database, a resource that allows law enforcement agencies to share information. The unique position of Native American tribes as both sovereign and dependent creates problematic jurisdictional barriers that sometimes prohibit effective criminal justice responses from both federal and local authorities. Federal efforts, such as the 1994 Violence Against Women Act and the STOP Violence Against Women Federal Grant Program, to date have not yielded adequate results in preventing violence towards Native American women and girls.

The federal government is endowed with the Constitutional responsibility to ensure the protection, health, and safety of all United States citizens. The US DOJ was established with the aims of enforcing the law, ensuring public safety, seeking just punishment for the guilty, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice. The US DOJ is uniquely situated to take action to promote the safety and visibility of Native American women and girls.