



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Fourth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 10-12, 2019
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 19-23

Title: Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2019 (H.R. 1585)

By: Sitka Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 31,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, in states with restrictive land settlement acts, such as Maine or Alaska, “Indian Country” is limited, resources for local tribal responses are either non-existent or insufficient to meet the needs, and jurisdiction is unnecessarily complicated, increasing the already high levels of victimization of American Indian and Alaska Native women;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 10-12, 2019, hereby requests Congress add language to Findings Section 901 of the Violence Against Women Act to restore and enhance tribal capacity to handle violence against women to provide greater control, safety, accountability, and transparency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida finds there is a need to adopt a jurisdictional fix to the Indian Country issue and work closely with the Alaska delegation and the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center to ensure that the provisions added will address the unique needs of Alaska Native governments and to advocate that the following language be included as an amendment to Section 901 of H.R. 1585 and any subsequently introduced Section 901 of VAWA, “Findings” for H.R. 1585 and any subsequently introduced Senate bill:

“In States with restrictive land settlement acts such as Alaska, “Indian country” is limited, resources for local tribal responses either nonexistent or insufficient to meet the needs, jurisdiction unnecessarily complicated and increases the already high level of victimization of American Indian and Alaska Native women. According to the Tribal Law and Order Act Commission Report, Alaska Native women are over-represented in the domestic violence victim population by 250 percent; they comprise 19 percent of the State population but are 47 percent of the

reported rape victims. And among other Indian Tribes, Alaska Native women suffer the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence in the country.”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida strongly recommends that a Pilot Project be created for Alaska so that more than just 1 of the 229 federally recognized tribes can exercise Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (SDVCJ); the pilot phase could be like the Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction in the Violence Against Women Act 2013, could require application, participation in a similar Intertribal Working Group to SDVCJ and involve a planning phase for the development of written laws and ordinances, development of enforcement mechanisms, and tribal court structuring; upon conclusion of the planning phase the tribe would seek plan certification from the Department of Justice like the SDVCJ pilot phase, specifically, we support the following language be maintained or added to Section 903 for H.R. 1585 and any subsequently introduced Senate Bill:

“To create a pilot project to allow up to five Indian tribes in Alaska to implement special tribal criminal jurisdiction.” And broadens tribal governmental jurisdiction for this purpose.

(g) INDIAN COUNTRY DEFINED – For purposes of the pilot project described in subsection (f)(5), the definition of “Indian Country shall include:

- (1) Alaska Native-owned Town sites, Allotments, and former reservation lands acquired in fee by Alaska Native Village Corporations pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 23 U.S.C. 33) and other lands transferred in fee to Native villages, and
- (2) All lands within any Alaska Native village with a population that is at least 75 percent Alaska Native; and

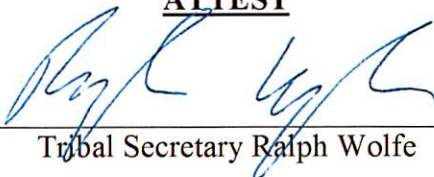
ADOPTED this 11th day of April 2019, by the Eighty-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe