



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Seventy-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 9-12, 2014
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 14-26

Title: Repeal Section 910 of the Violence Against Women Act as it Pertains to Alaska Native Women and Families

By: Seattle Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 29,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in March 2013; and

WHEREAS, the legislation included a special provision which singled out Alaska Native Tribes for exclusion from the benefits and clarifications of VAWA 2013; and

WHEREAS, VAWA now discriminates against Alaska Native women and families, providing disparate and inferior treatment when compared to Native people in the Lower 48 States; and

WHEREAS, VAWA now denies Alaska Native women and families equal protection of the law; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native women and families suffer from the highest incidence of domestic violence when compared to any other community in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Senators Begich and Murkowski introduced Senate Bill S.1474 which not only repeals Section 910 of VAWA 2013 but also encourages the State of Alaska to enter into inter-governmental agreements with Indian tribes in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Central Council supports the portion of the S.1474 that repeals the discriminatory treatment of Alaska Natives in VAWA, but also believes that enhanced recognition of tribal authority in Alaska to handle civil matters related to drug and alcohol offenses locally, through implementation of tribal laws and enforcement by tribal courts is a necessary adjunct to the bill's promotion of inter-governmental agreements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby finds that the Violence Against Women Act of 2013:

1. Diminishes the inherent rights and abilities of the Alaska Native Tribes to protect their women, children, and families.
2. In an integrated society where tribal members are married to non tribal members, violence and abuse against native women is no less impacting to the family and community and is not different than within the American community at large. No person, whether a tribal member or not, should be able to violate another person and escape prosecution because of race. The United States Constitution assures equal protection for all citizens; the VAWA now denies equal protection rights to Alaska Native women, clearly discriminates, and creates a separate and unequal class of tribal citizens.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 9-12, 2014, hereby urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to take all steps necessary to repeal Section 910 of Violence Against Women Act of 2013 in any appropriate bill that is moving through the 113th Congress, including but not limited to an amended Senate Bill#1474 [Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act] or Senate Bill#919 [Dept. of Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2013], thereby assuring equal protection of the law and the continued protection of all Alaska Native families in common with all other tribes in the United States.

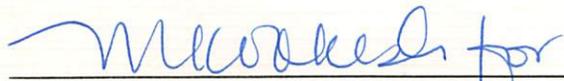
ADOPTED this 12th day of April 2014, by the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw