

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Congress to Pass a Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act

Resolution No. 19-26



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (“ITC”) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing more than 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations are Indian Nations with a moral obligation and inherent sovereign right to protect their most vulnerable from the domestic violence epidemic by enabling their respective judicial systems to serve as beacons of hope and safety to their citizens; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments and the United States recognize that American Indian women experience alarming rates of violence, most commonly occurring at the hands of non-Native offenders, and even more alarming, American Indian women are less likely to receive the vital resources they need; and

WHEREAS, a 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice found that 84.3% of American Indian and Alaska Native women experience violence during their lifetime; 56.1% experience sexual violence; and 55.5% experience physical violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was enacted to help end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking against Native women; and

WHEREAS, the need for legislative protection is evident by Congress first passing VAWA in 1994 and with its reauthorizations in 2000, 2005 and 2013, including important provisions addressing the protection and support of Native women; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization of VAWA in 2013 closed the jurisdictional gap by providing tribal governments with the authority to hold non-Indian perpetrators who assault Native women in Indian country accountable for their crimes; and

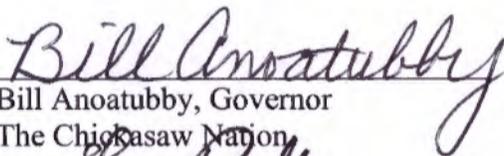
WHEREAS, the 2013 reauthorization of VAWA expired in February 2019 and has not yet been reauthorized by Congress.

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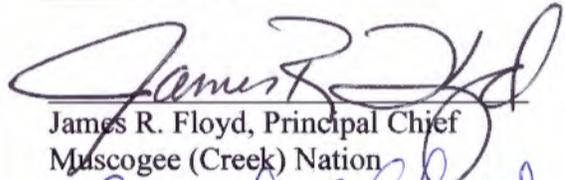
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to expedite a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act to ensure continued protection and services for Native women experiencing or at-risk of violence.

CERTIFICATION

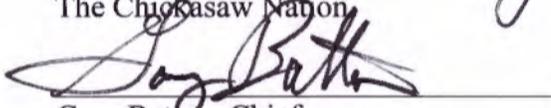
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 11th day of October, 2019, by a vote of _____ for _____ against and _____ abstentions.



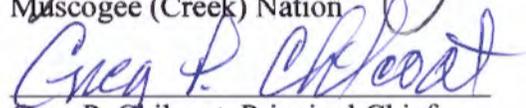
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



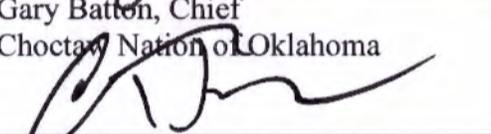
James R. Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma



Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation