

House Community & Regional Affairs

Oversight Hearing on The Indian Law and Order Commission's Report, "A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer"

March 11, 2014



FACTS

- 75 Alaska villages have no police presence.
 - AK has the highest incidence of rape in the US, and it is the worst in rural areas.
 - The majority of Alaskan women have been victims of intimate partner violence or rape.
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- Alaska is the only state with its own chapter in the six chapter ILOC Report.
 - Georgianna Lincoln and Wilson Justin served on the Commission's advisory committee.
 - The nine-member bipartisan Commission was headed by former US attorney for Colorado, Troy Eid, a Bush appointee.

FINDINGS

Alaska's approach to criminal justice issues is fundamentally on the wrong track.

Problems with safety in tribal communities are severe across the US – but they are systematically the worst in Alaska.

Domestic violence and sexual assault are more severe public safety problems in Alaska Native communities than in any other tribal communities in the United States.

Alaska's strongly centralized law enforcement and justice systems do not serve rural Native communities adequately, if at all.

The State of Alaska's approach to criminal justice creates and reinforces discriminatory attitudes about Alaska Natives and the governing capacities of Alaska Native Tribes.

CONCLUSIONS

Reform will not happen without local control over justice and self-governance.

There is still only limited collaboration with tribal and other local governments, which could be the State's most valuable partners in public safety.

Alaska's approach to rural justice comes with high litigation costs, and could be avoided if State-Tribal relations were characterized by respect, recognition, and partnership.

Alaska can root out inefficiencies and wasteful spending in its current organization, taking advantage of cost-savings from the increased use of alternatives to detention and other innovations in community-based service provision.

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Report available at:
<http://www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc/report/>

