



# 31<sup>st</sup> ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs

Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky  
Chair  
State Capitol, Room 416  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907.465.4942

Rep. Bryce Edgmon  
Rep. Sarah Vance  
Rep. John Lincoln

Rep. Dan Ortiz  
Rep. Chuck Kopp  
Rep. Dave Talerico

---

### House Resolution 10 Sponsor Statement

*“Urging the United States Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 without an exemption for tribal governments in the state and to support Savanna’s Act and highlight the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women.”*

The crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls has finally come to the forefront of community activism and awareness.

Disproportionate rates of violence against Alaska Native and American Indian women, inadequate public safety resources that leave abusers unaccountable, and gaps in reporting nationwide contribute to normalizing violence against Indigenous women. According to a November 2018 report by the Urban Indian Health Institute, of 5,712 cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women reported in 2016, only 116 were logged in the Department of Justice database. Alaska, even with our relatively low population, ranks fourth among states and Anchorage ranks third among cities in the country with the highest number of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

HR 10 raises awareness of the depth of the crisis and calls for the U.S. Congress to make change to federal law, including the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which empowers local governments and communities to keep their families safe. This resolution also calls to support Savanna’s Act, sponsored by Senator Lisa Murkowski, which aims to increase coordination among all levels of law enforcement, improve data collection and information sharing, and empowers tribal governments with the resources they need to address cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, wherever they occur.

Federal, State, and Tribal governments in Alaska must unite to address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, which occurs in communities across the state. Adequate public safety services for all women, children, and families is a right that should be afforded to every Alaskan, no matter where they live.