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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto DATE TYPED 02/28/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Domestic Violence Services for Families SB 931

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$60.0			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 618, SB 759, SB 871
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Indian Affairs (DIA)
Children Youth and Families (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 931 appropriates \$60 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for the purpose of contracting for domestic and sexual violence crisis programming for adults and children in rural northwest New Mexico.

Significant Issues

The following is contributed by the Indian Affairs Department.

There is clearly a need for American Indian domestic violence shelters and services when crime victimization rates in the American Indian community are significantly higher than in the general U.S. population. As a result of these high rates of violence, American Indian women are at high risk of homicide, including domestic violence. In fact, homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for American Indian women. Of American Indian women murdered, over 75% were killed by a family member, an acquaintance, or someone they knew.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, American Indians are the victims of violent crimes at more than twice the rate of all U.S. residents. Further, this disparity in the rates of exposure to violence affecting American Indians occurs across age groups, housing locations, and by gender. There are few Federal programs such as the Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grant Program (STOP VAIW Program) that provide grants to develop and implement effective strategies to reduce the rates of domestic violence against women in Tribal communities. Federal grant funds are usually limited and insufficient to address the priority of reducing domestic violence.

More specifically, there is a need for programs to combat domestic violence in rural northwest New Mexico and the need for culturally relevant services to Native American victims is even higher. The Indian Affairs Department (DIA) is aware of only one viable program that provides culturally relevant domestic violence crisis intervention and prevention services to Native American victims of violence in northwest New Mexico. The Family Harmony Project provides direct services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims living in the six counties that make up the Navajo Nation Eastern Agency— San Juan, McKinley, Cibola, Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Socorro. The Family Harmony Project, which is housed within the Crownpoint Indian Health Care Facility, is one of the first hospital-based domestic violence programs within Indian country and serves as a model for the country.

Rural northwest New Mexico includes much of the eastern region of the Navajo Nation reservation or the Navajo Eastern Agency. The Navajo Eastern Agency is comprised of 31 Chapter communities and includes three separate Navajo Reservation lands (Ramah, Canoncito and Alamo), with a total estimated population of 34,382(1997) and a large remote land base of 3,363,519.68 acres. There are six counties that are included in the Navajo Eastern Agency— San Juan, McKinley, Cibola, Sandoval, Bernalillo and Socorro counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$60 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Consideration should be given to making the appropriation to either CYFD or DOH. CYFD is the lead state agency responsible for administering domestic violence programs and services contracts statewide. This bill shifts this responsibility to the Indian Affairs Department and creates the opportunity for duplication of services. The Department of Health currently administers funding for sexual assault programs.

MW/lg