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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/19/06

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE WOMEN & FAMILIES ADVOCACY SERVICES SB 7

ANALYST Weber

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

### SUMMARY

Senate Bill 7 appropriates \$40 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for the purpose of providing legal advocacy and counseling services for women and families who have low incomes or are subjects of domestic violence in New Mexico communities of the Navajo nation.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Indian Affairs Department contributed the following:

The prevalence and incidence of violence against Indian women is high when compared to other races. To reduce violent crimes against women, some tribes have established domestic violence and victim services programs. However, there is still a great need for culturally sensitive support and services for Indian women and their children. The Shiprock domestic violence shelter addresses the needs of women

and children who are victims of domestic violence living in the Four Corners area of New Mexico. The shelter provides safety, shelter, advocacy, education, networking, and referrals for victims and their children.

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.<sup>1</sup> Further, this disparity in the rates of exposure to violence affecting American Indians occurs across age groups, housing locations, and by gender.

There are a few Federal programs such as the Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grant Program (STOP VAIW Program) that provide grants to Indian tribal governments to develop and implement effective strategies to reduce the rates of domestic violence against women in their respective tribal communities. Federal grant funds are usually limited and insufficient to address the tribal priority of reducing domestic violence. 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. (College of Emergency Physicians Report in 1995). Homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for Native women. Of Native American women murdered, over 75% were killed by a family member, an acquaintance, or someone they knew. (Homicide and Suicide Among Native American 1979-1992.).

A 1999 study by the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics reports:

The frequency of battering in Indian Country is believed to be much higher than the national norm. American Indians, in general, experience per capita rates of violence that are more than twice those of the resident population. American Indian women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States, nearly 50% higher than that reported by black males. American Indian women stand a high risk of losing their children in instances of physical and sexual abuse.

Three-fourths of American Indian women have experienced some type of sexual assault in their lives.

Violence against American Indians is committed by persons not of the same race- a substantially higher rate of interracial violence than experienced by white or black victims. 75% of the intimate victimizations and 25% of the family victimizations involved an offender of a different race. Indian victims of intimate and family violence are more likely than others to be injured and need hospital care.

Other facts include:

1. The life expectancy of Native women in the US is 47 years.
  2. 47% of all women will be raped in their lifetime.
  3. 50% of all women will be battered by their spouse/partner.
  4. 40% of women in prison for felonies are there because they killed an abusive partner/spouse.
  5. Women of color are 64% of the female prison population and serve longer sentences for the same crime as do white women or men of color.
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**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The bill does not define low income or what entity will determine eligibility and may need clarification on these points.

MW/mt