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SENATE MEMORIAL 21

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION AND THE NAVAJO NATION TO REVIEW AND STUDY THE NEED FOR MORE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE NAVAJO NATION AND GAPS AND BARRIERS TO PROVIDING SERVICES.

WHEREAS, in the United States, violence against indigenous women has reached unprecedented levels on tribal lands and Alaska Native villages; and

WHEREAS, more than four out of five American Indian and Alaska Native women have reported that they have experienced violence, according to the Indian law resource center; and

WHEREAS, with the devastation caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, shelter-in-place orders and people out of work, domestic violence calls have increased dramatically on

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1 the Navajo Nation; and

2 WHEREAS, there are few dedicated resources for women and
3 children affected by domestic violence, and those resources are
4 often located at great distances from those who need them; and

5 WHEREAS, facilities and funding for victims of sexual
6 violence are not readily available to sustain needed services,
7 including comprehensive care and mobile facilities with twenty-
8 four-hour dedicated staff, examiners, advocates and nurses in
9 addition to Indian health service hospitals and emergency
10 rooms; and

11 WHEREAS, currently, people experiencing domestic violence
12 on the Navajo Nation in New Mexico have limited access to
13 services provided by battered families services, incorporated,
14 in Gallup and the home for women and children in Waterflow; and

15 WHEREAS, to ensure the safety of domestic violence
16 victims, information on the need for additional domestic
17 violence infrastructure in the Navajo Nation is required; and

18 WHEREAS, information on the gaps and barriers to providing
19 services to people experiencing domestic violence on the Navajo
20 Nation is also lacking; and

21 WHEREAS, issues such as appropriate and accessible
22 locations for additional domestic violence infrastructure need
23 to be studied; and

24 WHEREAS, the safety of residents of domestic violence
25 shelters and that of surrounding neighbors must be taken into

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1 account when considering locations appropriate for locating
2 domestic violence infrastructure;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the office of the governor, the children,
5 youth and families department, the department of finance and
6 administration and the Navajo Nation be requested to review and
7 study the need for additional domestic violence infrastructure
8 on the Navajo Nation and to identify gaps and barriers to
9 providing services; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that findings and conclusions of
11 the review and study be presented to the interim committee that
12 studies Indian affairs issues by November 1, 2021; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of children, youth
15 and families, the secretary of finance and administration and
16 the president and council members of the Navajo Nation council.