

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1257

Expressing support for the designation of May 5, 2026, as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2026

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. CASE, Mrs. FEDORCHAK, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, and Mr. CRANE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of May 5, 2026, as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls”.

Whereas, according to 2017 data, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found homicide was the sixth-leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls under 44 years of age, with murder rates more than 10 times the national average;

Whereas approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the Na-

tional Crime Information Center index throughout the United States, and approximately 2,700 cases of murder and nonnegligent homicide offenses have been reported to the Federal Government's Uniform Crime Reporting Program;

Whereas, according to a 2020 joint study completed by the State of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, 64 percent of human trafficking victims in Hawai'i identified as at least part Native Hawaiian;

Whereas, in 2020, Savanna's Act (Public Law 116–165) and the Not Invisible Act (Public Law 116–166) were signed into law, which initiated a joint commission between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the DOJ to combat violent crime within Tribal communities and develop new law enforcement protocols when investigating MMIW;

Whereas, in 2021, the DOI created a Missing and Murdered Unit within its Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services to expand cross-departmental and inter-agency collaboration for the purposes of investigating cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people at the request of Tribal leadership;

Whereas, in 2022, the DOI fulfilled a provision in the Not Invisible Act requiring the establishment of the Not Invisible Act Commission by filling membership with law enforcement, Tribal leaders, Federal partners, service providers, family members of MMIW, and survivors and held their first meeting;

Whereas, in 2023, the Not Invisible Act Commission submitted recommendations to the DOJ, DOI, and Congress

to address the epidemic of missing persons and the murder and trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples;

Whereas, in response to the commission’s recommendations, the DOJ highlighted the MMIW regional outreach program to aid the U.S. Attorney’s Offices to update Savan-
na’s Act guidelines to provide further training and technical assistance to State agencies and provide uniformity in guidelines across jurisdictions;

Whereas, despite progress that has been made, in 2024, 5,614 Indigenous Women and Girls were reported missing. Of these 5,614 reports, 4,179 victims were under the age of 18, and at the end of 2024, there were 628 active missing person records;

Whereas research data shows that national averages hide the extremely high rates of murder against Indigenous women and girls present in some counties comprised primarily of tribal land; and

Whereas, in previous years, May 5 has been designated as the day of remembrance for “Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls” in honor of the birth date of Hanna Harris, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, who was murdered after being reported missing by her family in Lame Deer, Montana: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) expresses support for the designation of a
- 3 “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Mur-
- 4 dered Indigenous Women and Girls”;
- 5 (2) calls on the people of the United States and
- 6 interested groups to—

1 (A) commemorate the lives of missing and
2 murdered Indigenous women and girls whose
3 cases are documented and undocumented in
4 public records and the media; and

5 (B) demonstrate solidarity with the fami-
6 lies of victims in light of those tragedies;

7 (3) recommends that the Department of Jus-
8 tice's National Institute of Justice commission a new
9 study with focused data on missing and murdered
10 Indigenous women and girls to ensure up-to-date
11 statistics are made public regarding the current
12 state of the missing and murdered Indigenous
13 women and girls crisis given 9 years have passed
14 since their 2016 study was published; and

15 (4) recognizes that, despite the positive efforts
16 made, there is more work to be done to address this
17 nationwide crisis.

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