

# National Indian Health Board



## National Indian Health Board Resolution 17-04

### SUPPORTING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IN INDIAN COUNTRY

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), established in 1972, serves all Federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal governments by advocating for the improvement of health care delivery to AI/ANs, as well as upholding the Federal government's trust responsibility to AI/AN Tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, there are unprecedented levels of domestic violence on Tribal lands and three out of five Native women will be assaulted in their lifetimes, and

**WHEREAS**, According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs at least 70% of the violent victimizations experienced by American Indians are committed by non-Indians and 59 percent of Native women were married to non-Native men; and

**WHEREAS**, violence not only results in physical injury or death but also has an under-recognized impact on women's reproductive health, leading to more complications of pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy, miscarriage and sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV; and

**WHEREAS**, The Violence Against Women Act provides Tribes the opportunity to exercise their sovereign power to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence both Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses or dating partners or violate a protection order in Indian country; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for domestic violence programs is woefully insufficient and these vital resources assist domestic violence survivors in attaining safety, exercising their legal rights, and other fundamental needs of surviving and reducing access to VAWA grants will lead to poorer outcomes for survivors; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Indian Health Board calls for the continued support of American Indian and Alaska Native victims of domestic abuse; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NIHB recommends full federal funding for VAWA implementation in Indian Country and that continued technical assistance be provided to Tribal communities in combating domestic abuse.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017.



Vinton Hawley  
Chairperson

**ATTEST:**



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Lisa Elgin  
Recording Secretary