



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2012:002

SUPPORT FOR S. 1763, THE STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE AND EMPOWER NATIVE WOMEN ACT FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women suffer from violent crime at a rate three and a half times greater than the national average, and nearly 40 percent of all AI/AN women will experience domestic violence; one in three will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, and 17 percent of Native women are stalked each year, twice that of other populations; and
- WHEREAS,** the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA), expired on September 30, 2011, and contains provisions that are critical to all AI/AN; and
- WHEREAS,** among other things, these provisions provide critical resources and tools to Indian Tribes to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Justice released and strongly supports a comprehensive legislative proposal that seeks to address the epidemic of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women by addressing the major gaps in the current system with solutions in the following three areas: 1) Tribal criminal jurisdiction; 2) Tribal civil jurisdiction; and 3) new federal criminal laws; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) held a hearing, "Native Women: Protecting, Shielding, and Safeguarding Our Sisters, Mothers, and Daughters," on July 14, 2011, and from that hearing has emerged S. 1763, the Stand Against Violence and Empower (SAVE) Native Women Act, a bill which contains VAWA amendments and other legislative proposals that will strengthen the ability of Indian Tribes and the United States to assist in reducing violent crime against AI/AN women; and
- WHEREAS,** among the important changes are the following: 1) recognition of concurrent Tribal criminal jurisdiction to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence both Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses, intimate partners, or dating partners, or who violate protection orders, in Indian Country; 2) improvement to the ability of Indian Tribes to respond to sex trafficking; and 3) provisions to create stronger accountability, coordination and consultation with federal agencies investigating and prosecuting violent crimes against women; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to work closely with the Senate Judiciary Committee to ensure that the proposals contained in S. 1763, the Stand Against Violence and Empower Native Women Act are included in the larger Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization bill currently in draft; and, be it further

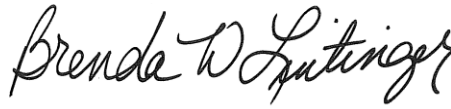
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors shall make addressing this issue a priority on Tribal lands as well as on the national level and urges its member Tribes to pass similar resolutions that support the Violence Against Women Act amendments and other legislative proposals contained in S. 1763, the Stand Against Violence and Empower Native Women Act.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, on Thursday, November 10, 2011.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”