

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Crisis

We have a crisis on our hands. According to the National Institute of Justice, four out of every five Native American women have experienced violence—more than half within the last year. As a senior member and former Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Jon has taken a three-pronged approach to addressing the MMIW crisis focused on **1)** raising awareness, **2)** providing resources to support survivors, and **3)** empowering tribes to bring assailants to justice.

RAISING AWARENESS

On some reservations, Indigenous women face murder rates that are 10 times the national average. But most Americans are completely unaware of the daily risks that women in Indian Country face. That's why Jon is fighting to bring awareness to this crisis by:

- Demanding the Senate Indian Affairs Committee **hold a Congressional hearing on the MMIW crisis**. The hearing, which took place on December 12, 2018, brought together local activists and federal law enforcement officials to identify the problems causing this crisis and find ways to fix them.
- **Inviting Missoula MMIW activist Briana Lamb to be his guest at the State of the Union address**. Her presence in the House Chamber brought attention to the crisis nationwide.
- Introducing resolutions in 2016, 2017, and 2018 that designated May 5 as the **"National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls."**

SECURING RESOURCES

For too long, critical public safety resources have dried up before making it to Indian Country. That's why Jon has fought to secure funding to help native communities combat this crisis by:

- Reintroducing the **Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment (SURVIVE) Act**, which would create a 5 percent set-aside in the Crime Victims Fund specifically for Indian Country to assist survivors, increase crime fighting efforts, and prosecute criminals.
- **Securing a historic \$133 million** to help Native American communities assist survivors of violent crime through the Crime Victims Fund last year.
- **Securing additional federal grants** that provide funding for tribes to combat violence against women and provide support services for survivors.

EMPOWERING TRIBES

Prior to the 2013 reauthorization of the *Violence Against Women Act* (VAWA), tribes were unable to arrest and prosecute non-native offenders for sexual and domestic crimes. That's why Jon has fought to give tribes the legal authority to bring offenders to justice by:

- Securing language in the **2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act** that finally allowed tribes to prosecute non-native offenders. Since then, 18 tribes have used their new-found authority to arrest 143 offenders.
- Reintroducing **Savanna's Act** to improve information sharing between tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, standardize response protocols, and better track crimes against Native Americans.
- Introducing the **Studying the Missing and Murdered Indian Crisis Act** which would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a full review of how federal agencies respond to missing persons cases in Indian Country and recommend solutions based on their findings.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

 **JON TESTER**