SENATE MEMORIAL 21

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

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto

A MEMORIAL

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
the Navajo Nation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the safety of residents of domestic violence shelters and that of surrounding neighbors must be taken into
account when considering locations appropriate for locating
domestic violence infrastructure;

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

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

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

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