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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

	ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/06		
SPONSOR	Begaye	LAST UPDATED	2/2/06
		HB	246/aHCPAC
SHORT TITLE	NATIVE AMERICAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES		SB
		ANALYST	Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: HB 12, HB 58, HB 55, HB 534, HB 506, HB 492, HB 477, HB 249, HB 213, HB 147, HB 108, SB 7, SB 393, SB 277, SB 221, SB 152, SB 143, SB 124

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Synopsis of HCPAC Amendment

The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee amendment changes the appropriation from the Indian Affairs Department to Children Youth and Families.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 246 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for the purpose of providing services to and outreach for Native American victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and training to the people who provide such services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The prevalence and incidence of violence against Indian women is high when compared to other races. To reduce violent crimes against women, some tribes and organizations have established

domestic violence and victim services programs. However, there is still a great need for culturally sensitive support and services for Indian women and their children.

There are few Federal programs such as the Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grant Program (STOP VAIW Program) that provide grants to Indian tribal governments to develop and implement effective strategies to reduce the rates of domestic violence against women in their respective tribal communities. Federal grant funds are usually limited and insufficient to address the tribal priority of reducing domestic violence.

Crime victimization rates in the American Indian community are significantly higher than in the general U.S. population. As a result of these high rates of violence, American Indian women are at high risk of homicide, including domestic violence. (College of Emergency Physicians Report in 1995). Homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for Native women. Of Native American women murdered, over 75% were killed by a family member, an acquaintance, or someone they knew. (Homicide and Suicide Among Native American 1979-1992.).

A 1999 study by the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics reports:

- The frequency of battering in Indian Country is believed to be much higher than the national norm. American Indians, in general, experience per capita rates of violence that are more than twice those of the resident population.
- American Indian women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States, nearly 50% higher than that reported by black males.
- American Indian women stand a high risk of losing their children in instances of physical and sexual abuse.
- Three-fourths of American Indian women have experienced some type of sexual assault in their lives.
- American Indians are committed by persons not of the same race- a substantially higher rate of interracial violence than experienced by white or black victims. 75% of the intimate victimizations and 25% of the family victimizations involved an offender of a different race.
- Indian victims of intimate and family violence are more likely than others to be injured and need hospital care.
- 47% of all women will be raped in their lifetime.
- 50% of all women will be battered by their spouse/partner.
- 40% of women in prison for felonies are there because they killed an abusive partner/spouse.
- Women of color are 64% of the female prison population and serve longer sentences for the same crime as do white women or men of color.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Consideration should be given to making the appropriation to Children youth and Families since this agency handles most domestic violence issues.

MW/mt