

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 31**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández**

February 18, 2016

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 31—Relative to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 31, as introduced, Roger Hernández. Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

This measure would call upon the Congress of the United States to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

Fiscal committee: no.

1       WHEREAS, Native women experience domestic violence and  
2 sexual assault at epidemic rates. American Indians and Alaska  
3 Natives are 2.5 times as likely to experience violent crimes, and  
4 at least two times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault  
5 crimes, compared to all other races; and

6       WHEREAS, Thirty-four percent of American Indian and Alaska  
7 Native women will be raped in their lifetimes and 39 percent of  
8 American Indian and Alaska Native women will be subjected to  
9 violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and

10       WHEREAS, The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act  
11 continues to be the federal government’s only funding source  
12 dedicated to supporting lifesaving services provided by domestic  
13 violence programs and shelters; and

14       WHEREAS, While some Family Violence Prevention and  
15 Services Act funding stream set-asides are for tribes, most are

1 allocated to state governments, some federal territories, and state  
2 and federal territorial domestic violence coalitions. The Family  
3 Violence Prevention and Services Act excludes tribal domestic  
4 violence coalitions entirely; and

5 WHEREAS, It is important for tribal coalitions to have equal  
6 access to Family Violence Prevention and Services Act fund stream  
7 set-asides. Tribal coalitions across the country are grassroots  
8 initiatives and they understand the inner circles of providing  
9 services to victims in their tribal communities. The purpose of  
10 tribal coalitions is to enhance the capacity of survivors, advocates,  
11 Indian women's organizations, and victim services providers to  
12 form nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal domestic violence and  
13 sexual assault coalitions to advance the goal of ending violence  
14 against American Indian and Alaskan Native women; and

15 WHEREAS, Increasing Family Violence Prevention and  
16 Services Act support to Native American tribes and allowing tribal  
17 coalitions access to Family Violence Prevention and Services Act  
18 funds will help to focus on public awareness and prevention of  
19 family violence, services for domestic violence victims and their  
20 children, and training and resources for tribally based programs  
21 and agencies that address these issues; and

22 WHEREAS, The overarching goal of tribal coalitions is to  
23 increase dedication to improving systemic and community  
24 responses to victims and to raise awareness, educate, and provide  
25 technical assistance, training, and supportive services for victims  
26 of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and  
27 sex trafficking, including cultural and unique barriers facing Native  
28 American women; and

29 WHEREAS, The Family Violence Prevention and Services  
30 Act's reauthorization will allow communities across the country  
31 to continue to provide critically needed direct services to victims  
32 of domestic violence and their children. The reauthorization will  
33 also improve the delivery and access of services to meet a broad  
34 range of diverse needs for tribes; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
36 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature calls upon the Congress  
37 of the United States to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention  
38 and Services Act; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
40 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United

- 1 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each
- 2 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
- 3 United States.

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