

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 30, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 31

Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández

February 18, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 31, as amended, 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~~. *Act at an increased level of funding.*

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

1 WHEREAS, While some Family Violence Prevention and
2 Services Act funding stream set-asides are for tribes, most are
3 allocated to state governments, some federal territories, and state
4 and federal territorial domestic violence coalitions. The Family
5 Violence Prevention and Services Act excludes tribal domestic
6 violence coalitions entirely; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Increasing *the overall funding of the* Family
18 Violence Prevention and Services Act ~~support to~~ *in order to allow*
19 *increased support to* Native American tribes and ~~allowing~~ *in order*
20 *to allow* tribal coalitions access to Family Violence Prevention
21 and Services Act funds will help to focus on public awareness and
22 prevention of family violence, services for domestic violence
23 victims and their children, and training and resources for tribally
24 based programs and agencies that address these issues; and

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

32 WHEREAS, The Family Violence Prevention and Services
33 Act’s reauthorization *at a higher level of funding* will allow
34 communities across the country to continue to provide critically
35 needed direct services to victims of domestic violence and their
36 children. The reauthorization will also improve the delivery and
37 access of services to meet a broad range of diverse needs for tribes;
38 now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
40 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature calls upon the Congress

1 of the United States to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention
2 and Services ~~Act~~; *Act at a higher level of funding*; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
4 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
5 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each
6 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
7 United States.

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