

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0092-24

**DATE:** April 23, 2024

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 465 TITLED: "BADGES FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES ACT"**

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, would support the U.S. Senate Bill 465, titled "Badges for Native Communities Act".

**Final Authority:** Naabik'íyáti' Committee

**Vote Required:** Simple Majority

**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review the proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD Al M. Jr. III  
Website Posting Time/Date 4:55 PM 4/24/24  
Posting End Date: 4/29/24  
Eligible for Action: 4/30/24

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—SECOND YEAR, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

  
Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0092-24

AN ACTION  
RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;  
SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 465  
TITLED: "BADGES FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES ACT"

WHEREAS:

- A. The Naabik'iyati' Committee, established by the Navajo Nation Council as a standing committee under 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701 (A) (6), is empowered to coordinate and facilitate communication regarding proposed county, state, and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation.
- B. The Navajo Nation recognizes the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives crisis and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons ("MMIP") crisis, that impacts all of Indian Country.
- C. To address these crises, Tribes need access to federal data and need to coordinate their efforts with federal authorities to track and identify our missing people. Tribal law enforcement officers who suffer from emotional distress and burnout need access to culturally appropriate mental health and wellness resources. *See* Navajo Nation Washington Office Legislative Analysis on S.B. 465, attached as **Exhibit A**.
- D. The Navajo Nation agrees with Representative Ruben Gallegos from Arizona who stated: "Fore years, the federal government has failed to provide tribal communities with the resources needed to adequately ensure public safety and properly support

1 Tribal law enforcement agencies.” U.S. Senate Bill 465 addresses the federal  
2 inefficiencies that hurt law enforcement recruitment and retention at the Bureau of  
3 Indian Affairs, increases the effectiveness of federal missing persons resources, and  
4 gives resources to Tribes and states to combat the crisis of missing and murdered  
5 Indigenous persons. **Exhibit B.**

6 E. The Senate Bill 465 (“S.B. 465”) titled: “Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring  
7 Safety for Native Communities Act” - a.k.a. the “BADGES Act” - seeks to support  
8 Tribes in responding to the MMIP crisis by requiring federal law enforcement agencies  
9 to report cases of missing or murdered tribal members, addressing inefficiencies in  
10 federal criminal databases, improving tribal access to federal criminal databases,  
11 promoting recruitment and retention at BIA law enforcement agencies, providing  
12 tribes with resources to improve public safety coordination between their governments,  
13 states, and federal agencies, and mitigating federal law enforcement personnel  
14 mishandling and preservation of evidence crucial to securing conviction of violent  
15 offenders. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/465?s=1&r=35>; See  
16 Summary of the BADGES Act attached as **Exhibit C.**

17 F. The Navajo Nation supports granting all Tribes access to the National Missing and  
18 Unidentified Persons System (“NamUS”) so Tribes can enter MMIP information to  
19 assist in efforts to rapidly identify and locate missing relatives.

20 G. The Navajo Nation supports the creation of a Tribal Facilitator to coordinate with  
21 federal law enforcement, assist collection and access to information, thus helping with  
22 the identification and location of missing tribal persons.

23 H. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that reports documenting the limited resources of  
24 Tribal law enforcements agencies and courts, as well as documenting the shortage of  
25 U.S. Department of Justice employees assigned to criminal investigations and  
26 prosecutions in Indian Country, are a positive step forward, provided that such  
27 reporting lead to Congress taking swift action to address the unmet needs and limited  
28 staffing problems.

29 I. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that the demonstration project allowing the BIA to  
30 require background investigations of potential BIA law enforcement candidates, and to

1 enter into agreements with Tribes to access information necessary for those  
2 investigations, could expedite the evaluation process and reduce hiring barriers for  
3 candidates.

4 J. The Navajo Nation recognizes that \$1 million in funding for the creation of a State or  
5 Regional Center is insufficient and therefore requests additional funding so that Tribes  
6 can take full advantage of the opportunities provided by these Centers to document and  
7 track missing persons and other cases of interests.

8 K. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that S.B. 465 provides positive steps towards  
9 resolution of the MMIP Crisis, however more resources, funding, and further action are  
10 needed.

11 L. The Navajo Nation opposes the definition of Indian Tribe as defined in the Indian Self  
12 Determination Education Assistant Act, Section 4, as used in the BADGES Act. Rather,  
13 the Nation urges use of the definition of Indian Tribe in 25 U.S.C. § 5130.

14 M. For the reasons stated above, it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support  
15 the proposed BADGES Act, to urge that S.B. 465 be amended to use the definition of  
16 Indian Tribe set forth in 25 U.S.C. § 5130, and to call on Congress to do more to address  
17 the ongoing MMIP Crisis.

18  
19 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

20 A. The Navajo Nation urges Congress to pass the “BADGES Act” with an amendment to  
21 replace the definition Indian Tribe with the definition of Indian Tribe set forth in 25  
22 U.S.C. § 5130.

23 B. The Navajo Nation further urges Congress to appropriate additional funding for the  
24 Regional Centers described in the BADGES Act.

25 C. The Navajo Nation further urges Congress to fully fund public safety programs in  
26 Indian Country as identified in the “2023 Tribal Law and Order Act Report to  
27 Congress.”

28 D. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation  
29 Council, the President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate for the  
30 adoption of the BADGES Act, with the Indian Tribe definition used in 25 U.S.C. § 5130.

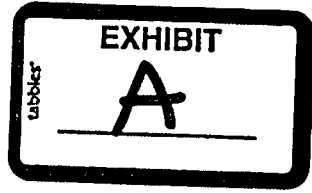


# THE NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE

PRESIDENT DR. BUU NYGREN


VICE PRESIDENT RICHELLE MONTOYA

## MEMORANDUM



To: The Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton, *Chair*  
**LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

The Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty, *Council Delegate*  
**25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

From:   
Justin Ahasteen, *Executive Director*  
**NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE**

Date: April 16, 2024

Subject: **Legislative Analysis on S. 465 – Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety for Native Communities Act (BADGES Act)**

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This memo serves as a recommendation from the Navajo Nation Washington Office to the Navajo Nation Council to support the Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety for Native Communities Act.

**Public Problem:** Tribes across the country are facing a murdered and missing peoples crisis. There are many steps necessary to resolve this crisis. One step is acknowledging that Tribes need better data and better cooperation from the federal government so we can better track our missing people and assist in their identification. Another step is improving culturally appropriate mental health and wellness resources for our Tribal law enforcement officers who suffer from emotional distress and burnout.

**Legislative Intent:** To make sure that Tribes have greater access to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, as well as other resources, which they can use to collaborate with State and Federal partners and strengthen public safety on their reservations.

**Targeted Population:** Indian Tribes as described in the Section 4 of the Indian Self - Determination and Education Assistance Act.<sup>1</sup> (*See analysis section for concerns on ISDEAA Definition of Indian Tribe*).

<sup>1</sup> "‘Indian tribe’ or ‘Indian Tribe’ means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians[.]”

**Status of Bill (Committee Actions):** Introduced to the Senate on February 16, 2023.

**Analysis:** It would be beneficial for the Nation to have access to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System on missing and murdered peoples, and to provide input into that System. This sharing of data would increase public safety for the Nation because we would be better positioned to identify criminals and to analyze trends and shortcomings in our public safety efforts, and to facilitate quicker responses to our own missing persons through submitting input into the System. Having access to this information would also increase our ability to help bring information and closure to our families who have had loved ones go missing.

The grants provided under the bill would help make it possible for some Tribes to take advantage of these opportunities. The grant amount requested in the bill is only \$1 million per year from FY 2023 through FY 2027. This amount is insufficient to establish the State or Regional Center described in the bill.

The culturally appropriate mental health and wellness programs provided under the bill for BIA and Tribal law enforcement would be helpful for our officers who overworked and overstressed, and have to deal with the trauma associated with murdered and missing persons investigations. It would, however, be preferable for the Nation to receive resources to strengthen its own resources or establish new resources rather than relying on the federal government to create “culturally appropriate” programming.

The Tribal Facilitator role would help realize the benefits of this Act, while making sure that Tribes have a point of contact to speed up the process of receiving information and providing input into the System. While the bill would establish at least one Tribal Facilitator, we believe it would be better if each BIA Region had at least one Tribal Facilitator.

The reporting requirements on unmet needs would appear to track some of the unmet needs for Tribal public safety already identified through the Tribal Law and Order Act reports, which Congress has consistently failed to address.

However, historically the Navajo Nation has supported the List Act Definition of an Indian Tribe under 25. U.S.C. 5130<sup>2</sup> over the ISDEAA Definition primarily on the basis that not every party listed under the ISDEAA is a tribal government.

Key provisions of the bill are summarized below:

## **Title I—Bridging Agency Data Gaps**

### **Section 101. National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Tribal Facilitator**

- (a) Requires the Attorney General to appoint one or more Tribal Facilitators for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System.**

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<sup>2</sup> The term “Indian tribe” means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe.

- (b) The Tribal Facilitator shall coordinate reporting of information to Tribes, including unclaimed remains cases of interest and unidentified remains cases; would further consult and coordinate with Tribes to address reporting, documentation, and tracking of missing persons cases of interest to Tribes; would require the Tribal Facilitator to develop and maintain working relationships with Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations; and would require the Tribal Facilitator to provide technical assistance and training to Tribes, relevant Tribal organizations, victim service advocates, medical examiners, coroners, and Tribal justice officials. The Tribal Facilitator would also coordinate with the Office of Tribal Justice, the Office of Justice Services, the Executive Office of for the United States Attorneys, and the National Indian Country Training Initiative.
- (c) The Tribal Facilitator would also submit annual reports to Congress for the three-year period from the passing of this Act. The reports would describe the activities of the Tribal Facilitator and summarize the number of missing persons cases of interest to Tribes, including unidentified remains cases, as well as the percentage of such cases that closed during the one-year period preceding the report. The statistical information will be made publicly available.

**Section 102: Report on Indian Country Law Enforcement Personnel Resources and Need.**

- (a) The Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act would be amended to requiring reporting on unmet needs of staffing for law enforcement, corrections, and court personnel, at Tribal and BIA justice agencies, as well as on the replacement and repair needs of Tribal and BIA correctional facilities, and on infrastructure and capital needs for Tribal law enforcement and court facilities.
- (b) The Department of Justice shall report annually on the number of full-time employees that are assigned to work on criminal investigations and prosecutions within Indian Country; and the Government Accountability Office shall complete a report on the unmet staffing needs of the Department of Justice for its work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian Country.

**Title II—Ensuring Safety for Native Communities**

**Section 201. Demonstration Program on Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Employment Background Checks.**

- (a) The Secretary of the Interior would establish a demonstration project to conduct and adjudicate personnel background investigations and security determinations for applicants for BIA law enforcement, and would be able to enter into agreements with Tribes to expedite the process of receiving and obtaining access to background investigation and security determinations.

**Section 202. Missing and Murdered Response Coordination Grant Program.**

- (a) The Attorney General would establish a grant program within the Office of Justice Program to make grants for Tribes, relevant Tribal organizations, and states working in a consortium with a Tribe(s) or relevant Tribal organization(s).
- (c) The activities eligible for this grant are establishing a statewide or regional center to document and track missing persons cases of interest, sexual assault cases of interest,

and death investigations cases of interest to Tribes, and for Tribes to input information regarding missing persons cases of interest to them, including unclaimed remains or unidentified remains cases, into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

**Section 203. GAO Study on Federal Law Enforcement Agency Evidence Collection, Handling, and Processing.**

- (a) The Comptroller shall conduct a study on the evidence collection, handling and processing procedures and practices of the Office of Justice Services and the Federal Bureau of Investigations exercising jurisdiction over crimes in Indian Country, on barriers to evidence collection, handling, and processing, and on the views of law enforcement officials at such agencies.

**Section 204. Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal Law Enforcement Officer Counseling Resources Interdepartmental Coordination.**

- (a) The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General shall coordinate with the Director of the National Institute of Justice to ensure that Federal training materials and culturally appropriate mental health and wellness programs are available to law enforcement officers working for the BIA or an Indian Tribes who are experiencing occupational stress.

**Impact to the Navajo Nation:** This bill would give the Nation access to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System on missing and murdered peoples and a Tribal Facilitator that would assist us in utilizing that System, which would help us increase public safety. The bill would provide much-needed additional culturally relevant mental health and wellness resources to our law enforcement officers.

**NNWO Recommendation:** The Navajo Nation Washington Office recommends that the Navajo Nation council *support* the Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety for Native Communities Act. However, any supporting resolution should note that the Navajo Nation supports the List Act definition of an Indian Tribe under 25. U.S.C. 5130 over the ISDEAA definition and request Congress to make that change.

**BACKGROUND**

**Timeline [E.g., notable dates]**

- May 1, 2024—anticipated hearing before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

**Primary Sponsor**

- Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

**Co-Sponsors**

- Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)



**Supporting Organizations**

- None.

**Opposing Organizations**

- None.

**Similar Bills**

- The companion bill is H.R. 1292.

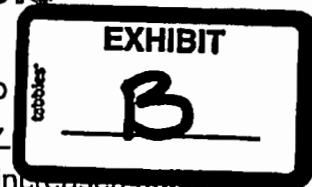
**Other Resources**

- None.

# Newhouse Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Tribal Law Enforcement, Address MMIW Crisis

March 2, 2023 Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), alongside Reps. Ruben Gallego (AZ) and Sharice Davids (D-KS), introduced the Bridging Agency Data Gaps & Ensuring Safety in Native Communities Act, a bipartisan bill that strengthens tribal law enforcement and increases public safety in Indian Country.



The legislation addresses federal inefficiencies that hurt Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement recruitment and retention, increases the effectiveness of federal missing persons resources, and gives resources to Tribes and states to combat the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

You can read the full text of the bill [here](#).

"Native American communities and law enforcement agencies face an uphill battle investigating cases of missing and murdered indigenous women due to lack of access to coordinated federal crime data," said Rep. Newhouse. "This legislation provides critical federal resources and access to criminal databases to tribal law enforcement so they can effectively investigate these cases and help end the MMIW crisis."

"For years, the federal government has failed to provide tribal communities the resources needed to adequately ensure public safety and properly support Tribal law enforcement agencies," said Rep. Ruben Gallego. "I'm proud to introduce this important legislation today, which will help recruit and retain Tribal law enforcement officers, address the unmet public safety needs of Tribal communities and improve coordination between Tribal, federal, and state agencies in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons cases. This is a widely supported, bipartisan effort, and I look forward to finally getting this bill passed."

"Increasing coordination between federal, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies will improve public safety in tribal communities and help address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples. I am once again proud to join my colleagues in introducing the bipartisan BADGES Act, which will provide additional support to tribal law enforcement officers as they protect tribal communities," said Rep. Sharice Davids.

"The Gila River Indian Community supports Rep. Gallego's efforts to increase the safety of tribal communities by providing the data, access and resources needed to ensure we can retain law enforcement officers and that our law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to keep our communities safe. As a sovereign nation, there is no greater obligation than the safety of our members and all those who enter our Community. The "Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety" (BADGES) for Native Communities Act will strengthen tribal law enforcement agencies, and provide the

data and resources to keep our Communities safe. The Community appreciates Rep. Gallego's leadership in introducing this bipartisan bill and looks forward to working with Rep. Gallego as the bill moves forward," said **Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River Indian Community.**

"Inefficient data sharing, poor recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers, and the lack of coordination among Federal, state, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies remain significant barriers to justice for Native women and children experiencing disproportionate levels of violence," said **Lucy R. Simpson, Executive Director, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC).** "The Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety (BADGES) for Native Communities Act will help to address some of these inefficiencies by supporting data systems and law enforcement coordination efforts, as well as empowering Tribes with the resources needed to find our missing relatives and end this crisis of violence."

"Ensuring the safety of our Native communities is critical, which is why NCAI applauds the introduction of the Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety for Native Communities Act (BADGES) that is a meaningful step forward to ending the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Relatives across the country. We urge Congress to pass this legislation and help keep our people and our families safer," said **Larry Wright, Jr., Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians.**

"As a society, it is crucial that we recognize and honor the unique needs and sovereignty of each tribal community," said **Angel Charley, Executive Director, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women.** "Legislation that protects the rights and safety of our communities is necessary to address the systemic inequalities we face and promotes justice and equity for communities most impacted by violence. By supporting the BADGES for Native Communities Act, we demonstrate our commitment to building a more accountable, inclusive, and respectful partnership that uplifts the needs of survivors."

"I am grateful for the leadership of Congressman Gallego and Senator Cortez Masto for championing the BADGES Act. Our people deserve improved law enforcement coordination when reporting their loved ones missing. By increasing resources for tribes and urban Indian organizations, the federal government upholds its responsibility to establish public safety in Indian Country," said **Esther Lucero, President & CEO, Seattle Indian Health Board.**

"Violence against Indigenous women is a human rights crisis in the United States. Ensuring tribal law enforcement have the resources and data they need to address this crisis is an important step in responding to—and preventing—violence against Indigenous women. We urge Congress to swiftly pass the BADGES Act and help end this epidemic of violence," said **Tarah Demant, Interim National Director, Programs, Government Relations and Advocacy, Amnesty International USA.**

"The reintroduction of the Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety for Native Communities Act is a vital step towards addressing the longstanding issue of missing, unidentified or murdered Native people in our country. This is a major issue for Native people both on and off reservation, including in urban areas. This legislation establishes an avenue for Tribes and urban Indian organizations to directly communicate and coordinate with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System and supports

information sharing between Tribes and urban Indian organizations and law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and regional levels. This legislation is one way to help bring justice and closure to Native families and communities and hopefully will make it so fewer Native families have to suffer this terrible burden in the future. We must continue to advocate for policies that prioritize the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous communities, and the passage of this Act is a critical step in that direction," said **Francys Crevier (Algonquin)**, CEO for the **National Council of Urban Indian Health**.

### **Background:**

The BADGES for Native Communities Act includes provisions to do the following:

- Increase Tribal access to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) by requiring Tribal facilitators to conduct ongoing Tribal outreach and serve as a point of contact for Tribes and law enforcement agencies, as well as conduct training and information gathering to improve the resolution of missing persons cases.
- Require a report on Tribal law enforcement needs, including staffing, replacement and repairs for corrections facilities, infrastructure and capital for tribal police and court facilities, and emergency communication technology.
- Allow the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to conduct its own background checks for law enforcement officer applicants in order to improve officer recruitment.
- Establish a grant program to support states, Tribes, and Tribal organizations in the coordination efforts related to missing and murdered persons cases and sexual assault cases.
- Evaluate federal law enforcement evidence collection, handling, and processing crucial to securing conviction of violent offenders.
- Ensure BIA officers and Tribal police have access to culturally appropriate mental health and wellness programs.

This legislation is endorsed by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, the Seattle Indian Health Board, the National Council of Urban Indian Health, and Amnesty International.

# **BADGES for Native Communities Act**

## **(Bridging Agency Data Gaps & Ensuring Safety for Native Communities)**

EXHIBIT

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C

**Indian Country Law Enforcement Data.** Collecting and sharing criminal justice data in Indian Country is a well-known barrier to ensuring public safety for many Native communities. Congress has attempted to increase interagency coordination between federal, state, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) over the past several decades, but criminal case information is still largely fragmented and compartmentalized between different LEA data systems.

- **Federal Database Coordination.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) operates two databases that track missing person cases – the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database for law enforcement and the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), a publicly accessible data clearinghouse. These two databases do not share information with each other and, for cases of missing adults, federal, state, Tribal participation in these two reporting systems is optional. As a result, LEAs may be unable to access other LEAs' missing person case information.
- **Tribal Access to Federal Databases.** Congress authorized Tribal access to the FBI's NCIC with passage of the *Tribal Law and Order Act* in 2010, but Tribes were unable to access NCIC until DOJ launched a pilot initiative – the Tribal Access Program (TAP) – in 2015. To date, TAP serves 47 Tribes, and many are on the TAP waiting list.

**Law Enforcement in Indian Country.** Officers working for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Justice Services (OJS), the DOJ, and Tribes are responsible for policing more than 200 reservations covering 56 million acres of land. However, Indian Country's police staffing is insufficient to meet national police coverage standards. In FY2010, Tribes had only 1.9 officers per 1,000 residents compared to an average of 3.5 officers per 1,000 residents nationwide. Upon reviewing this data, the Indian Law and Order Commission estimated that Indian Country had a 50% staffing shortfall for law enforcement personnel.

**Need for Legislation.** Legislation is needed to address statutory barriers and codify Tribal and Administrative initiatives that are currently improving the efficiency of LEA data sharing and officer recruitment and retention.

**Statutory Barriers.** Current federal law disallows certain actions that would increase the efficiency of federal criminal database coordination and Indian Country officer recruitment. For example, DOJ cannot link NCIC and NamUs without statutory authorization.

**Codifying Existing Initiatives.** Tribes would like to ensure continuation of existing Administrative initiatives (e.g., DOJ's TAP pilot) and/or practices (e.g. BIA's directive requiring direct-service LEAs to input cases into NamUs) by codifying them in law.

**Proposed Legislation.** This bill addresses critical public safety needs in Indian Country by:

### **1. Title I— Bridging Agency Data Gaps.**

- Addresses inefficiencies in federal criminal databases;
- Increases Tribal access to federal criminal databases; and
- Improves public data on missing and murdered Indigenous women cases and Indian Country law enforcement staffing levels.

### **2. Title II— Ensuring Safety for Native Communities.**

- Promotes more efficient recruitment and retention of BIA law enforcement;
- Provides Tribes with resources to improve public safety coordination between their governments, States, and federal agencies; and
- Mitigates against federal law enforcement personnel mishandling evidence crucial to securing conviction of violent offenders.

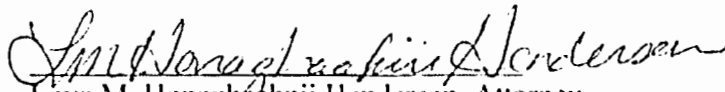
Office of Legislative Counsel  
Telephone: (928) 871-7166  
Fax No.: (928) 871-7576



Honorable Crystalyne Curley  
Speaker  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Hon. Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Council Delegate  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

FROM:   
Loya M. Honaghahni Henderson, Attorney  
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: April 23, 2024

SUBJECT: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;  
SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 465 TITLED:  
"BADGES FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES ACT"

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees' powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

Please ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0092-24\_

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting the United States Senate Bill 465 Titled: "Badges for Native Communities Act"**

***Date posted:*** April 24, 2024 at 4:55PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

**Please note:** This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*