

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Native American communities have faced a tragedy against our people since contact with non-Natives. The act of taking women from their communities, raping them and/or murdering them has been a continued present day genocide that our people face. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirited people (MMIWG2S) have been at the forefront of this movement and have stated we face higher rates above the national average. Our Missing and Murded Indigenous Women (MMIW) for instance face murder rates that are 10 times the national average (from [cspanw.org](http://cspanw.org)). "Murder is the 3rd leading cause of death amongst American Indian and Alaska Native women" (Urban Indian Health Institue or UIHI), so I ask why has law enforcement and leaders overlooked these overwhelming rates and allowed this to continue? Why must our people continue to lose their mothers, daughters, aunties, grandmas, and relatives? Something needs to be done. This matter needs to be taken seriously. The public needs to feel comfortable reporting when our women and children go missing. We need a place to ensure our voices are heard and that our concerns will be taken seriously and that action will be taken.

I ask that you please help show support through aiding in the passing of the HB 2008 bill. This continued tragedy has gone on for far too long. Action needs to take place in order to help save our people.

Thank you,  
Alexandra Holder, Community Activist and University Student