

A RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH FOR THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE, a resolution proclaiming the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation") is a sovereign entity that has inherent authority to establish our own codes, laws, and policies in accordance to our traditional norms and values;

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time to draw attention to the crime of sexual assault which can happen to anyone regardless of gender, race, education, religion, sexual orientation, economic or educational class;

WHEREAS, a colonial legacy of violence against American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women and girls has led to conditions where AI/AN women and girls experience disproportionate rates of violence with more than 1 in 2 AI/AN women (56.1 percent) having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime;

WHEREAS, crimes of sexual assault occur when sexual activity is unwanted, forced, coerced, consent is unclear, not given, withdrawn, or unable to be given due to age, drug and/or alcohol intoxication;

WHEREAS, we currently live in a society where the actions and the attire of sexual assault victims are questioned rather than the criminal actions of their perpetrators;

WHEREAS, traditionally, the safety and protection of AI/AN women and girls were of utmost importance due to their vital and necessary roles in family, community, and ceremonial life; and

WHEREAS, when the safety and protection of our AI/AN women and girls are jeopardized it impacts our entire native community.

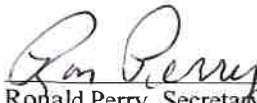
WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Nation is committed to establishing a legacy of protection and support for our women and girls by recognizing the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Nation encourages each of our citizens to take a stand against sexual assault by believing, protecting, and helping victims as well as actively supporting the work of tribal programs and staff who assist victims of sexual violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma hereby recognizes sexual assault as a threat to our people and communities.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that twelve (12) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on April 13, 2019. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CR-02 -19 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.


Ronald Perry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Delton Cox, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Gary Patton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 4-17-19

Purpose/Need of Council Bill: This resolution proclaims the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women experience disproportionate rates of violence with more than 1 in 2 AI/AN women (56.1 percent) having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. This resolution shows the Nation is committed to establishing a legacy of protection and support for members by holding offenders accountable and helping bring awareness to this issue.

Title of Council Bill: A RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH FOR THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Agency: Children & Family Services

Budget: NA

Match Required: NA

Request by Project Director: Karen Lyons, Children Family Services Advocate/Social Worker; Teresa Jackson, SEO