

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

JENNIFER WOODS INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE a Resolution proclaiming October as domestic violence awareness month for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma provides that the Tribal Council (the “Council”) shall enact legislation, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution for the general good of the Choctaw Nation and for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Choctaw Nation;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious and pervasive crime affecting countless families and communities in the United States every year;

WHEREAS, the origins of domestic violence and abuse of Native women, men, children and elders can be traced to colonization, including the introduction of alcohol, forced removal of children, boarding schools, and loss of land, culture, language and traditional ways of life;

WHEREAS, Native American families and communities experience a significantly disproportionate rate of intimate partner violence compared to other groups in the United States;

WHEREAS, there are limited resources across Tribal Nations to help our relatives who are survivors of domestic violence and their children to live a lifestyle free of violence, and hold offenders accountable;

WHEREAS, domestic violence can have life-long consequences emotionally, mentally, socially, spiritually and physically; violence harms the core of the human spirit and jeopardizes the future well-being of our nations, villages and communities;

WHEREAS, violence against all members of the Family, including women (the “Givers of Life”), men, children and elders, is not the tradition of our People and our Ancestors have taught the People that our Families are sacred and are to be protected and honored. Therefore, no one should have to deal with domestic violence;

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the “Nation”) emphasizes the importance of Family where everyone’s opinions are valued, and all members of the Family shall be treated with great respect, gratitude and love;

WHEREAS, because the Nation puts great emphasis on its core values of Faith, Family, and Culture, an integral portion of the Nation’s traditions, history and culture is treating all members of the Family (including women, men, children, and elders) gently, respectfully, with love and compassion, and protecting them in accordance with those core values;

WHEREAS, ending domestic violence requires the leadership of survivors, support of Tribal Leaders, the collaborative efforts of Law Enforcement, the Tribal Justice System, public health officials, Tribal

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Members, and members of the broader communities within the Nation's Reservation, and requires that everyone commit to our Indigenous lifeways of non-violence, respect, honor, love, and compassion;

WHEREAS, the Nation strongly encourages all Choctaw Tribal Members to respect, love, take care of, and protect all of their Family members (including women, men, children and elders) living within Indian Country and the Nation's Reservation. The Nation also strongly encourages all Choctaw Tribal Members and members of the broader communities within the Nation's Reservation to help report instances of domestic violence to the appropriate law enforcement authorities in order to hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable to the full extent of the law and to further deter others from committing acts of domestic violence;

WHEREAS, intimate partner violence remains one of the most prevalent, yet underreported crimes in the Nation's Reservation and in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in order to educate and spread the message to all Choctaw Tribal Members and members of the broader communities within the Nation's Reservation that all Family members, including women, men, children and elders, are to be highly revered and that all acts of domestic violence are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for officially proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, honoring domestic violence survivors and advocates for putting a stop to domestic violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for the Nation and its Tribal Leaders, Members, Law Enforcement, Organizations, Health Officials, and all Tribal Programs within the Nation's Reservation to stand united in our commitment to end all forms of domestic violence in Indian Country and the Choctaw Nation Reservation – the Ancestral Home of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for the Nation to call upon all Tribal Leaders, Members, Law Enforcement, Organizations, Health Officials, and all Tribal Programs within the Nation's Reservation to speak out against domestic violence and actively support local efforts in Indian Country to assist our relatives who are survivors of violence to be safe and live their lives free from violence, to hold abusers and systems accountable, and return our Nation to its traditional ways of respect, honor, love, and compassion.

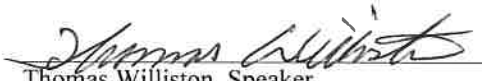
CERTIFICATION

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 July 13, 2024. I further certify that the foregoing Council Resolution CR- 22 -24 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of Twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.

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Ronald Perry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 7/19/24

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Purpose/Need of Council Resolution: The purpose of this Resolution is to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month within the Choctaw Nation Reservation in order to recognize all Choctaw Family members, including women, men, children and elders, that have suffered from domestic violence. Further, this Resolution seeks to educate and spread the message to all Choctaw Tribal Members and members of the broader communities within the Nation's Reservation that all acts of domestic violence are unacceptable and will not be tolerated, as well as strongly encourage all Choctaw Tribal Members and members of the broader communities within the Nation's Reservation to help report instances of domestic violence to the appropriate law enforcement authorities in order to hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable to the full extent of the law. This Resolution also asks all Tribal Leaders, Members, Law Enforcement, Organizations, Health Officials, and all Tribal Programs within the Nation's Reservation to stand united in the Choctaw Nation's commitment to end all forms of domestic violence in Indian Country and the Choctaw Nation Reservation. This Resolution will meet the Nation's Strategic Goal to support service delivery to improve quality of life through bringing education and awareness to all Choctaw Tribal Members and members of the broader communities within the Nation's Reservation that domestic violence is a serious issue affecting countless families and needs to be stopped in accordance with the Nation's core values of Faith, Family and Culture.

TITLE: A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Agency: Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Request by: District 6 Tribal Council Representative Jennifer Woods

Suggested Legislative Committee Review: Health Services Committee and Member Services Committee