



24th Navajo Nation Council

Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation Council Commends VAWA Passage out of US House, Urges Senate to Consider Bill

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation Council commends the US House of Representative for advancing H.R.1585 the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 to the Senate by a 263-158 vote.

In March, a group of council delegates met with Asst. US House Speaker Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) in Red Rock Chapter and expressed their strong support for the reauthorization of VAWA.

Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tséaináoz't'l'i), who participated in the March meeting, commended the House's passage.

"I would like to thank Congressman Luján for meeting with the council and acting on our concerns. This bill extends support for the direct services our government provides as well as grant opportunities for expanding sexual assault and domestic violence prevention work," stated Delegate Crotty.

Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) also expressed his appreciation for the bill's passage out of the House.

"I appreciate the members of the Navajo Nation's congressional delegation who voted to advance VAWA to the Senate's consideration, especially the assistant speaker and Representatives Haaland (D-NM) and O'Halleran (D-AZ). They have listened to the concerns of the Navajo people and we urge the Senate to do the same," said Speaker Damon.

Representative Debra Haaland offered two successful amendments to establish victim advocate services for Native Americans in state courts and improve data sharing to protect survivors of domestic violence via the Tribal Access Program criminal information database.

The March meeting with Representative Luján included Delegates Mark Freeland (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse'ii'ahí, Whiterock), Rickie Nez

(Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, T'iis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland), and Wilson Stewart, Jr. (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill).

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