

**2019 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HCR 3041**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Service Committee**  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HCR 3041  
2/6/2019  
32296

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature Nicole Klamann by: Elaine Stromme

**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:** A concurrent resolution urging congress to pass Savanna's Act.

**Minutes:**

Attachment: 1,2

**Chairman Weisz:** Opened meeting

**Representative Ruth Buffalo:** Introduced, in support, (See attachment 1)  
Stopped 03:00

**Representative Anderson:** Are most of these crimes committed on or off the reservation?

**Representative Buffalo:** If we look at the Native American population, there is a sense of transient population that moved from a reservation to a town or city. It's hard to say because there is a lot of work that has to be done on the data gap.

**Representative Schneider:** Are you thinking this will add to and support the congressional delegation as it garners support nationally for Savannas Act?

**Representative Buffalo:** Yes. We hope that this will show our congressional delegation that there is support back here in North Dakota.

**Representative Rohr:** Line 19, it says that there is hope to improve tribal access to federal crime information data bases, isn't that already occurring?

**Representative Buffalo:** My understanding is that there is work that needs to be addressed in gaining access and having that communication shared widely between the different levels of government.

**Danielle Finn, Standing Rock:** I am the delegated person to come and speak to you today on behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The Tribal Council men are actually stuck in Tribal Council. I am a judge down in Cheyenne River and also External Affairs Director, so I have a letter he would like me to read. See (Testimony # 2)  
7:30

There is currently 506 missing native women, that is on and off the reservation. Regarding shared data base. We don't always get federal information. We have to go through a TAP Program (Tribal Access Program) You have to qualify to get into that program, there is only certain tribes that have access to that program. Standing Rock recently got access to that program, so that way we do have shared data bases but not all tribes have that access.

**Representative Rohr:** What Criteria do you have to have to access the TAP program?

**Danielle Finn:** You have to have a skilled set of law enforcement, Proper training, where SORNA-Sex Offender Registration Information comes from, that has to be implemented as well into your tribe and you share that data base federally and tribally. You have to meet qualifications not all tribes can meet the qualifications, the tribes have different kinds of law enforcement whether it is BIA or they 638 it and they have their own tribal police.

**Representative Rohr:** Is there a cost for the tribes?

**Danielle Finn:** No

**Chairman Weisz:** Support?

10:00 **Dustin Peyer:** Former employer of the Three Affiliated Tribes. To create this standardization at a federal level is needed. The reservation has a lot of violence.

**Representative Tveit:** Are the limitations inside or outside the reservation?

**Dustin Peyer:** As a whole, creating a standardization so different jurisdictions can work together.

**Chairman Weisz:** Support?

**Tracey Elk-Wilkey:** Enrolled, grew up with Savannah's family. Support

**Richard Jensen:** I am a citizen of North Dakota I grew up in the Grand Forks area. I want to look at the big picture. Two 18-year-old girls, 1 white, one brown. Native American girl goes missing, nothing is done. 18-year-old Caucasian goes missing from college, National news is dispatched everyone is looking for her. There is a difference there, we have to change how we view and value, not just indigenous women but women as a whole.

**Melody Angel Monez:** Three Affiliated Tribes, Ft. Berthold: Tragedies happen on and off the reservation. When issues occur, jurisdiction becomes an issue. I got robbed and called the BIA for help, McLean county for help and it took 4-5 hours for jurisdiction to be determined.

**Joseph McNeil,** Former Standing rock council member: Tasked with bringing our tribe up to speed technology. We have three jurisdictions: Tribal Jurisdiction, County Jurisdiction and Federal Jurisdiction. Savannas Act will have the Federal government set forth rules and regulations that will allow for that cross sharing of data. Emergencies response takes a long

period of time. Once response occurs, BIA reports to Aberdeen which may take 4-7 days to response. This Act will allow the information to travel faster.

**Sheridan McNeil** Citizen: I am here to support Savannas Act; I am from Cannonball but I live in Bismarck. Native women are murdered at ten times the national average and 84% of native women have experienced violence in their life time according to the national crime information center in 2016 there were 125 cases of missing native women in North Dakota alone, numbers are likely higher since there is no prodigal that currently exists to collect data and cases of missing native women, ultimately native women will continue to go missing and murdered as a result of a system that is broken, with inaccurate or unaccounted data and lack of training. We cannot expect any organization to adequately respond to any violence that it does not tract. In this day and age everything is data based and number based and if we can't actually see accurate data or if no data is actually collected there is no way that we can expect a response from law enforcement, or anyone else for that matter to keep our women and children safe. Creating a system of accountability accuracy and adequate training will help bring these cases to justice and will decrease the number of victims, In order to create a stronger healthier nation we must come together.  
25:00

Opposition:

**Chairman Weisz:** closed hearing

**Representative Devlin:** Motion made to Do Pass HRC 3041

**Representative Rohr:** Seconded

Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes 13 No 0 Absent 1

Motion Passes. Place on the Consent Calendar

**Representative Rohr:** will carry HCR 3041

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3041**

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Devlin Seconded By Vice Chairman Rohr.

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Robin Weisz - Chairman	X		Gretchen Dobervich	X	
Karen M. Rohr – Vice Chairman	X		Mary Schneider	X	
Dick Anderson	X				
Chuck Damschen	X				
Bill Devlin	X				
Clayton Fegley	X				
Dwight Kiefert	A				
Todd Porter	X				
Matthew Ruby	X				
Bill Tveit	X				
Greg Westlind	X				
Kathy Skroch	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Vice Chairman Rohr

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3041: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3041 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

**2019 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HCR 3041**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee  
Red River Room, State Capitol

HCR 3041  
3/20/2019  
Job # 34015

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Justin Velez

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A Concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass Savanna's Act.

## Minutes:

Attachment #1

**Madam Chair Lee opens the hearing on HCR 3041.**

**Representative Ruth Buffalo, District 27 introduces HCR 3041 and gives a brief description. Please see Attachment #1 for written testimony.**

**(03:10-03:50) Cara Hall, testifying in support of HCR 3041.** Testimony is as follows: I appreciate your time this morning and the attention that you are giving to this matter. I applaud Representative Buffalo as well for bringing this forward and being so courageous. I just ask your support for this bill.

**(4:30-4:53) Melanie Moniz, Testifying in support of HCR 3041.** Testimony is as follows: I have just come to support HCR 3041 Savanna's Act. This bridge a lot of gap and I ask that you support this bill.

**Madam Chair Lee:** Any questions for Mrs. Moniz? If not, thank you.

**(05:11-05:40) Thorton Bears Tail. Testifying in support of HCR 3041.** Testimony is as follows: I also do support HCR 3041. The importance and prevention that comes with it is also a really great thing. I urge you to support as well.

**(05:55-06:18) Matthew Lone Bear. Testifying in support of HCR 3041.** Testimony is as follows: I stand in support of this bill and appreciate you guys putting it on the board here.

**Madam Chair Lee:** Any questions for Mr. Lone Bear? If not, thank you. We appreciate the commitment of you all coming and traveling here to give your testimony.

**Madam Chair Lee closes the hearing on HCR 3041.**



# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Red River Room, State Capitol

HCR 3041  
3/20/2019  
Job # 34026

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Justin Velez

## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

A Concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass Savanna's Act

## **Minutes:**

No Attachments

## **Madam Chair Lee opens the discussion on HCR 3041.**

**Senator Hogan:** Representative Armstrong said that he is also looking at doing this on the house side in congress. He is pretty passionate about this initiative and I was deeply pleased by that.

**Madam Chair Lee:** Is there any further discussion on the bill?

**Senator Anderson:** I move a **DO PASS**  
**Seconded by Senator O. Larsen**

**ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN**

**6 YEA, 0 NAY, 0 ABSENT**

**MOTION CARRIES DO PASS**

**Senator O. Larsen will carry HCR 3041 to the floor.**

Date: 3/20/19  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3041**

Senate Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Anderson    Seconded By O. Larsen

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Sen. Judy Lee	x		Sen. Kathy Hogan	x	
Sen. Oley Larsen	x				
Sen. Howard C. Anderson	x				
Sen. David Clemens	x				
Sen. Kristin Roers	x				

Total (Yes) 6    No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. O. Larsen

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3041: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3041 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**2019 TESTIMONY**

**HCR 3041**

#1  
HCR 3041  
2/6/19  
pg. 1

HCR 3014  
Testimony  
Representative Ruth Buffalo  
District 27

It's important our North Dakota legislative assembly supports the passing of Savanna's Act. The legislation Savanna's Act is named to honor North Dakotan's own Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind who was abducted and ruthlessly murdered in Fargo last year. She was eight months pregnant when she went missing. Savanna was a member of the Spirit Lake Nation and descendant of the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa tribe.

Savanna's premature death and murder unfortunately highlighted what many communities across the nation have experienced. Native women are murdered at ten times the national average, and 84 percent of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. In 2016, North Dakota had 125 reported cases of missing Native women according to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), but numbers are likely much higher as no protocol exists to collect the data and cases are underreported. NCIC also reported that in 2016, there were 5,712 national reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, but only 116 of those cases were logged though the US Department of Justice's federal missing persons database.

Savanna's Act will improve cooperation between all levels of government including tribal, state and federal by enhancing tribal access to federal crime databases, create protocol for responding to missing Native Americans and establish an annual report to Congress. This legislation is necessary to address the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in the United States.

We understand fully the decisions we make today will not only affect us today but seven generations ahead. We urge you to vote for a do pass recommendation for this very important resolution urging members of the United State Congress to pass Savanna's Act which is co-sponsored by our US Senators Cramer and Hoeven. We ask you to fortify Savanna's legacy by protecting future generations of women and girls from the same tragedy.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the House Human Services Committee. I will stand for any questions.

#2  
#CR 3041  
2/6/19  
Pg. 1

TRIBAL COUNCIL  
AT LARGE

Mike Faith  
Chairman



- Joe Archambault
- Charles Walker
- Dana Yellow Fat

Debra Taken A...  
Vice Chairman

Shirley Agard  
Secretary

- John... District
- Brandon... District
- ... District
- Delray Demery... District
- ... District
- ... District
- ... District
- Samuel B. Harrison... District

February 6, 2019

House Standing Committee: Human Services  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Re: Support from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe regarding Savannah's Act

Chairman, Vice Chairwoman, and Legislative Members:

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe wants to express their support in urging Congress to pass Savannah's Act. We applaud U.S. Senator Cramer for sponsoring Savannah's Act and for U.S Senators Murkowski and Cortez Masto's reintroduction of Senate Bill 227. As People of the Oceti Sakowin, we know that women are the backbone, the strength, of our Nations; we value women immensely. With the high numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women on the rise, we need Congress to pass Savannah's Act. We will forever remember Ms. Savanna Greywind and hope this legislation prevents even one woman from going missing or murdered. In conclusion, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe feels Senate Bill 227 provides a framework for everyone, from law enforcement to Tribal Nations, to do better work for missing and murdered Indigenous People.

Sincerely,

Mike P. Faith, Chairman  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

HCR 3041

3/26/19

#1 pg. 1 March 20, 2019



## North Dakota House of Representatives

State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

### Representative

Ruth Buffalo

District 27

P.O. Box 9763

Fargo, ND 58106-9763

C: 701-491-8175

rbuffalo@nd.gov

### Committees:

Agriculture

Secretary

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Ruth Buffalo and I represent District 27 in south Fargo.

It's important our North Dakota legislative assembly supports the passing of Savanna's Act. The legislation Savanna's Act is named to honor North Dakotan's own Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind who was abducted and ruthlessly murdered in Fargo last year. She was eight months pregnant when she went missing. Savanna was a member of the Spirit Lake Nation and descendant of the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa tribe.

Savanna's premature death and murder unfortunately highlighted what many communities across the nation have experienced. Native women are murdered at ten times the national average, and 84 percent of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. In 2016, North Dakota had 125 reported cases of missing Native women according to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), but numbers are likely much higher as no protocol exists to collect the data and cases are underreported. NCIC also reported that in 2016, there were 5,712 national reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, but only 116 of those cases were logged though the US Department of Justice's federal missing persons database.

Savanna's Act will improve cooperation between all levels of government including tribal, state and federal by enhancing tribal access to federal crime databases, create protocol for responding to missing Native Americans and establish an annual report to Congress. This legislation is necessary to address the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in the United States.

We understand fully the decisions we make today will not only affect us today but seven generations ahead. We urge you to vote for a do pass recommendation for this very important resolution urging members of the United State Congress to pass Savanna's Act which is co-sponsored by our US Senators Cramer and Hoeven. We ask you to fortify Savanna's legacy by protecting future generations of women and girls from the same tragedy.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. I will stand for any questions.