

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Collaboration for the Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence

Resolution No. 24-01



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson
Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nation, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, as tribal nations, we are committed to providing comprehensive services to protect the safety and well-being of our citizens who have been victims of domestic violence, stalking, or harassment have received law enforcement response, emergency shelters, counseling, and programs in support of rebuilding lives and has an existing protective order; and

WHEREAS, financial barriers are frequently an obstacle to victims who need to quickly secure safe housing away from their abuser, and among these barriers are mandatory credit checks and deposits required by many utilities before setting up a new account; and

WHEREAS, to address this problem in the State of Oklahoma, the Legislature approved a law in 2023 that requires public utility providers to waive initial credit and deposit requirements for documented victims of domestic violence, stalking, or harassment; and

WHEREAS, that law made the oversight of omitting domestic violence shelters or programs operated by a federally recognized tribe from the list of entities; and

WHEREAS, a designated representative of a domestic violence shelter or domestic violence program operated by a federally recognized Indian tribe should be allowed to provide verification of the victim and able to identify qualified waiver recipients; and

WHEREAS, legislation is being introduced in the 2024 Oklahoma legislative session to correct this oversight.

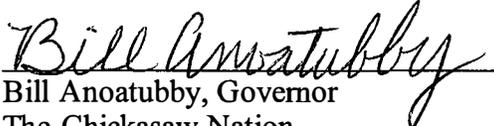
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes calls on the Oklahoma Legislature and Oklahoma Governor to approve the legislation authorizing representatives of tribally operated domestic violence programs to identify victims who qualify for utility deposit and credit check waivers.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges all federal, state, and local lawmakers, law enforcement officers, and government agencies to collaborate with tribal nations on our shared goals of supporting victims and preventing further incidents of domestic violence.

CERTIFICATION

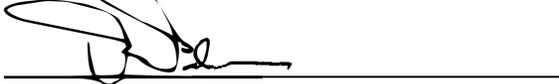
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 5th day of January, 2024, by a vote of 24 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hostetler Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Brian T. Palmer, Assistant Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma