

# UTFAV Updates

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## S. 2233: The Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act (NYTOPA)

UNITING THREE FIRES  
AGAINST VIOLENCE

EDUCATING  
ADVOCATING  
RESEARCHING

On December 14th, U.S. Senator Tom Udall, (D-N.M) introduced Senate Bill 2233, The Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act (NYTOPA). The bill would essentially enhance the Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction provision of the Violence Against Women Act which was reauthorized in 2013.

The bill would expand protection of Native victims to youth victims and officer victims of violence in response to domestic violence. The Inter-Tribal Working Group (ITWG) suggests that the Tribes that

have implemented SDVCJ report that the vast majority of the cases involving domestic violence involve children. Non-Indians are not being held accountable for those actions, thus limiting the scope of SDVCJ provision itself. Further, officers arriving on a scene of domestic violence and who are assaulted in process also have little to no protection against Non-Indian offenders as well.

Senator Udall said in a press release, "There are far too many desperate stories

illustrating how Native American women, children and law enforcement are caught up in acts of domestic violence while the perpetrator goes unpunished. The failure to shield these individuals from violence should outrage us all,"

Senators Lisa Murkowski, (R-Alaska), and Catherine Cortez Masto, (D-Nev.), are cosponsoring the bill. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

For more information, email [rcarr@utfav.org](mailto:rcarr@utfav.org)



## UTFAV Upcoming Events for 2018

UTFAV is currently planning several events and conferences for the 2018 calendar year. Up first in January, UTFAV is hosting Lenny Hayes of Tate Tapa Consulting, Kurt Begaye of the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition and Mattee Jim, consultant to provide a 2-day training event titled "Broadening Our Perspective to Include the Native LGBTQ/Two-Spirit Community into Victim Services". The two-

day training will take place in Mount Pleasant, MI at the Comfort Inn and Suites. If you are interested in attending, please reach out as soon as possible.

In February, UTFAV will host the first of four MTVAC (Michigan Tribal Victim Advocate Consortium) meetings. Exact date and location is TBD. (Watch for an email poll to determine best date/location).

New this year, UTFAV, in

partnership with Leslie Hagen (USDOJ National Indian Country Training Coordinator) is planning a statewide 2-day Expert Witness training. This exciting training opportunity will give advocates a chance to enhance their testimony skills, while learning hands on through mock trials/examples.

For the second year in a row, UTFAV is planning a youth summit for late June. If you are interested in

joining a planning committee to assist in planning, please contact UTFAV at 906-635-253-9775.

Finally, along with our Tribal Leadership Summit, UTFAV is available to respond to and plan trainings based on specific requests. If your community is in need of training specific to your community needs, please contact UTFAV at 906-253-9775.