

UTFAV Newsletter

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UNITING THREE FIRES
AGAINST VIOLENCE

EDUCATING
ADVOCATING
RESEARCHING

Michigan Legislation: House Bills 4505 and 4506

On December 28, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed into law two pieces of legislation that will benefit survivors of Sexual Assault.

House Bill 4505, sponsored by state Rep. Diana Farrington, modifies reimbursement for medical procedures and services related to sexual assault medical forensic examinations through amending the Crime Victims Compensation Act. Essentially, costs associated with sexual assault forensic examinations will be reimbursed at higher rates (Up to \$1,200 from \$600). It also amends a current provision to specify that for payments authorized, the administration to the victim of a sexual assault medical forensic examination satisfies the requirement, rather than the previous language of a victim's request for an

examination. It does not change the provision that specifies that a victim of sexual assault shall not be required to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement.

House Bill 4506, sponsored by state Rep. Sue Allor, modifies use of expenditures from the sexual assault victims' medical forensic intervention and treatment fund.

HB 4506 amends the Sexual Assault Victim's Medical Forensic and Treatment Act. Specifically, language would be inserted into the act to allow for the subcontracting of services (performing of sexual assault evidence kits) through agreements approved by the Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board.

Previous language did not allow for the

subcontracting with other entity's that may be approved to perform sexual assault evidence kits.

"Survivors of sexual assault deserve access to medical resources that will help them find healing and justice," Snyder said. "These bills enhance access to medical forensic examinations and other critical health care services, and I'm proud that Michigan continues to strengthen support for survivors throughout our state."

For more information on this legislation, or others, please contact UTFAV at 906-253-9775.

**Information and Statements from Governor Rick Snyder were obtained from www.michiganradio.org*



Inside this issue:

Michigan Legislation	1
UTFAV Updates	2

UTFAV Updates

UTFAV in 2019

We are very excited to begin 2019 and start working towards our goals for throughout the year. Very soon we will be sharing our 2019 Resource Calendar with you all, with updated pictures and information for each Tribal program. In addition, be on the lookout for Stalking Awareness and Trafficking Awareness materials for the month of January!

We're excited once again to send out Culture Care Kits to each individual Tribal program, which will include the sacred medicines and an informational brochure on the medicines/

smudging.

Finally, we are gearing up to begin selecting dates/events for the 2019 year, including the following: Two-Day Conference, Tribal Leadership Summit, Tribal

Youth Summit, and for the first time ever, a Survivor Retreat. We are excited to begin the planning and will be reaching out to Tribal programs in the near future to best determine specific needs and interests.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Staff at Uniting Three Fires Against Violence would like to wish Tribal Programs a very happy and healthy holiday! We look forward to continuing our work with you all for 2019!

Picture: Beautiful beadwork Christmas bulb by Anna Rogers-Stott, Bay Mills Indian Community Sexual Assault Counselor

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Uniting Three Fires Against Violence is Michigan's Native American Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition. Our mission is to support Michigan Tribes in promoting the social change necessary to address the disproportionate rates of violence impacting our communities. We are dedicated to providing resources, safety and advocacy to ensure the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being of Native Americans victimized by violence.

For more information about Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, please contact us at 906-253-9975.

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Or check out our website at www.utfav.org