

-Oversight Hearing-

Reviewing the Trump Administration's Approach to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Crisis.

OPENING STATEMENT

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Thank you, Chairman Gallego.

Today's hearing is the second part of the discussion this subcommittee began in March of this year.

At that hearing, the subcommittee received testimony detailing a painful situation that has plagued Native communities for too long.

Crime and violence, tragically, are not a new phenomenon in Indian Country. Four out of five native women are affected by violence, with the U.S Department of Justice finding that American Indian women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average. American Indians are victims of violent crimes at a higher rate than the general population, which has led to the Department of Justice emphasizing the importance of law enforcement in Indian Country.

In April, the House of Representatives passed the Violence Against Women Act which included many key provisions to protect Native American women such as improving tribal access to federal crime information databases and reaffirming tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators of violence against women. I'm looking forward to these provisions becoming law.

It is important that we all work together to address these horrific crimes and find a way to end this unprecedented violence against native women.

I am pleased that we have some representatives from the Administration here today and I am looking forward to hearing what they are doing to combat the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.