



July 10, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
House Committee on the Judiciary
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
House Committee of the Judiciary
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Nadler and Grijalva and Ranking Members Collins and Bishop:

I am the Director of the Washington State Women's Commission, a government agency focused on eliminating systemic barriers for women. I am writing in support of Savanna's Act (H.R. 2733), introduced by Representatives Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Norma Torres (D-CA), and Deb Haaland (D-OK). Savanna's Act is a bipartisan effort that will help address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) across the country. I also support holding a field hearing on the Yakama Nation Reservation.

In April 2019, two Native girls, Mary Gates (age 14) and Myra Queahpama (age 15), went missing from Yakima County in Washington state. Every day they are missing makes it more difficult to find them. Their families deserve to be heard. I am writing to support a field hearing on the Yakama Nation reservation to learn more from our Yakima Tribal members about this issue. Of the 56 missing Native American women in Washington, 20 are from Yakima County, according to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.

The Women's Commission shares the concern of many about the level of violence against women in the area. I respectfully request your committees hold a field hearing at the Yakama Reservation, and to support the passage of Savanna's Act.

Thank you for your consideration and for your strong leadership and advocacy for our nation's Native communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michelle Gonzalez'.

Michelle Gonzalez
Director

CC: The Hon. Dan Newhouse, U.S. House of Representatives
The Hon. Patty Murray, United States Senate
The Hon. Maria Cantwell, United States Senate
Casey Katims, Director of Governor Inslee's Washington, D.C. Office