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AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
Administration
Pouch 219, Bethel, AK 99559



Akiachak
Akiak
Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Bill Moore's Sl.
Chefornak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuloonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Goodnews Bay
Hamilton
Hooper Bay
Lower Kalskag
Upper Kalskag
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mtn. Village
Napaimiut
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunakauyak
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogamiut
Oscarville
Paimiut
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Platinum
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Tuluksak
Tuntuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut

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WESTERN ALASKA TRIBES NOT CELEBRATING PASSAGE OF VAWA

The Association of Village Council Presidents, (AVCP) a Native non-profit representing 56 federally-recognized Tribes in Western Alaska, is outraged by the continual disregard by Congress of the discriminatory nature of the exclusionary provisions of the newly passed Violence Against Women's Act.

"We were hopeful the House would take up fairer language, but our concerns fell on deaf ears," said Myron Naneng, AVCP President. "We were not consulted on the first draft of the senate bill, nor were we contacted after it was referred to the House. The lower 48 Tribes are celebrating. Our women are crying out for protection."

The provisions being targeted, referred to as the "Alaska savings clause," was approved by the Senate and endorsed by the House by an overwhelming vote. Full Tribal civil jurisdiction is granted to Tribes in the lower 48 over the issuance and enforcement of protection orders, including the right to exclude violators from Tribal land. Alaska Tribes, with the exception of the Metlakatla Indian Community, are deprived of that authority.

"We already face challenges because of our remote location," Naneng continues.

- * At least 51 out of every 100 Native women are sexually assaulted in our region
- * Emergency calls can take up to 24 hours, depending upon weather.
- * The closest state court is in Bethel, accessible only by air, boat or snow machine
- * Airfare can cost up to \$800 round trip, depending upon the village.

"It is ironic that our Governor pledges to "take every step necessary to stop the epidemic of domestic violence" in his "Choose Respect" campaign," Naneng states, "but chooses to fight against providing rural Alaska the very tools to accomplish that goal."

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