

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We write to express our concerns regarding the implementation of *Savanna's Act* (Public Law 116-165), bipartisan legislation that was signed into law in October 2020. *Savanna's Act* addresses the disturbing increase in murdered and missing Native American women. This law created new guidelines for responding to such cases and incentivizes various law enforcement agencies to implement them. *Savanna's Act* works to correct the historical lack of coordination, record-keeping, and communication between government agencies in Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) cases.

For decades, Native American and Alaska Native communities have struggled with high rates of assault, abduction, and murder of women. These communities consistently experience disproportionately high levels of violence. According to the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, Native women had the second highest homicide rate in the country in 2020.

While the U.S. Department of Justice has made strides in implementation of this law, further work is needed. There have been reports from around the country that cases of missing Native women continue to fall through the cracks. This is due to a continued lack of communication between law enforcement agencies and Urban Indian Organization regarding MMIP cases (GAO report 22-104045).

We look forward to continuing to partner with you to protect Native women.

We would greatly appreciate your timely responses to the following questions:

1. What barriers exist in the implementation of the processes and procedures signed into law under *Savanna's Act*?
2. How many law enforcement agencies across the country have submitted MMIP guidelines to the Department as of the date of this letter?
3. What actions can the U.S. Department of Justice take to encourage and improve communications between law enforcement agencies and local liaisons for MMIP?
4. Does the U.S. Department of Justice require further resources or authorities from Congress in order to fully implement *Savanna's Act*?

Thank you for your attention and dedication to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

  
Norma J. Torres

Member of Congress

  
Dan Newhouse

Member of Congress