

Exhibit No. 7Date 3-22-11Bill No. HB 230

March 22, 2011

Senate Finance and Claims

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Statement opposing HB 230

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes respectfully oppose HB 230, moving the Board of Crime Control from the Department of Justice to the Department of Corrections. The Tribes believe this move is unnecessary, puts essential federal funds at risk, and potentially diminishes the Boards focus on funding for victims services.

The Tribes have received recurring funds from the Montana Board of Crime Control to fund personnel within the Victim Assistance Program. The Victim Assistance Program assists victims of domestic abuse, stalking and sexual assault with obtaining Orders of Protection through Tribal Court. The MBCC funds have traditionally been utilized to pay a portion of the manager position within the office. We also currently have an MBCC Recovery Grant which pays a .5 FTE domestic violence prosecutor position. Other Office of Violence Against Women funds from the Department of Justice (federal) are used to pay personnel, provide housing assistance and pay a 1.0 FTE domestic violence investigator.

The MBCC funding is critical to the ongoing operations of the Victim Assistance Program. If funds must be deobligated, there could be a suspension of services for victims of violent crimes on the Flathead Reservation. Please table HB 230 to ensure that we can consistently maintain important victims' services for our tribal members.