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\*\*\*\* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \*\*\*\*  
INTRODUCED BY \*\*\*\*  
BY REQUEST OF THE \*\*\*\*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN MONTANA'S RESERVATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America, through the Treaty and Supremacy Clauses, acknowledges Indian nations and tribes as prior sovereigns; and

WHEREAS, through treaties, agreements, statutes, and executive orders, Indian nations and tribes came under the protection of the United States while reserving original sovereign authority and self-government over tribal members and territories; and

WHEREAS, through treaties, agreements, statutes, and executive orders, the United States undertook a federal trust responsibility, among other responsibilities, to assist Indian nations and tribes in providing public safety, law and order, and the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Montana's reservations have seen drug and alcohol abuse become epidemic as methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, and other drugs have overtaken tribal lands, causing violent crime, domestic disturbance, and trouble among youth; and

WHEREAS, generations of Montana's Native Americans have mourned a missing or murdered family member or loved one, experienced unacceptably high levels of violence, and been victims of violent crime at rates much higher than national averages; and

WHEREAS, justice has eluded many Native American victims, survivors, and families, while criminal jurisdiction complexities and insufficient funding have left many injustices unaddressed; and

WHEREAS, levels of federal funding for tribal public safety, law enforcement, and tribal courts have consistently remained insufficient to fully fund the necessary public safety activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF

1 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the 68th Legislature of the State of Montana:

3 (1) urges Congress to support full funding of public safety and law enforcement agencies, programs,  
4 services, and activities within Montana's reservations;

5 (2) urges the federal Justice Department to develop a plan to cooperatively administer its Indian  
6 Country public safety, law enforcement, and administration of justice programs and services together with the  
7 Department of the Interior;

8 (3) urges the federal Justice Department to conduct government-to-government consultation with  
9 Indian tribes to determine how best to provide the administration of programs and services and to allocate  
10 appropriated funds to meet the various needs of tribal justice systems, including funding for tribal law  
11 enforcement, courts, detention facilities, indigent counsel, victim services, juvenile justice, rehabilitation and  
12 reentry programs, and crime prevention efforts;

13 (4) invites each of the tribal governments of the federally recognized Indian tribes in Montana to send  
14 their own resolutions to the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate urging Congress  
15 to fully fund law enforcement and public safety programs and services on Montana's reservations.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Speaker  
17 of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of  
18 Representatives and the United States Senate, the members of the Montana Congressional Delegation, and  
19 the tribal governments of each of the federally recognized Indian tribes in Montana.

20 - END -