

1 **** JOINT RESOLUTION NO. ****

2 INTRODUCED BY ****

3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****

4
5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
6 MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
7 AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN MONTANA'S RESERVATIONS.

8
9 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America, through the Treaty and Supremacy
10 Clauses, acknowledges Indian nations and tribes as prior sovereigns; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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28 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.

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