

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 3099 (Ramos) - SUPPORT

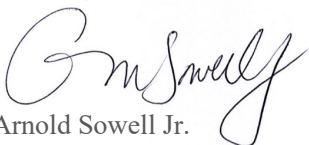
Dear Chair Gonzalez,

NextGen California respectfully requests your support of AB 3099 (Ramos), which will help to address the alarming rise in violent crimes against Native American women and girls. AB 3099 directs the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies with tribal lands within and/or near their jurisdictions. Such assistance will consist of training, reporting, and other procedures relating to crimes in Native American communities, particularly crimes involving homicides and missing persons cases against Native American women and girls. The bill also requires the DOJ to coordinate education and outreach efforts between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

There is a perception that crimes against Native American people go unpunished, in part due to the uncertainty among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies regarding their respective authority and jurisdiction governing tribal lands. As a result, crimes against Native American people are often perpetrated by offenders who come from outside the tribal area. Sadly, Native American women and girls are victimized at a rate twice that of other racial groups and this issue must be addressed immediately and systematically.¹

NextGen California supports policies and programs that further the safety and well-being of all communities in the state, especially those which traditionally have been the most marginalized. AB 3099 takes an important first step in improving the coordination between law enforcement agencies which will lead to increased public safety protections for Native American women and girls. For these reasons, we ask for your “aye” vote on AB 3099.

Sincerely,



Arnold Sowell Jr.

Executive Director, NextGen California

¹ US. Dept. of Justice “Violence Against American Indians and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice Response” August 2008 Document #223691.