



**Committee:** House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 588 – Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native Women and Girls – Day of Awareness and Reporting Requirement

**Hearing Date:** March 17, 2026

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 588 – Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native Women and Girls – Day of Awareness and Reporting Requirement*. This legislation ensures that Maryland will recognize the disproportionate violence American Indian and Alaskan Native women and girls face through the establishment of a recognized day of awareness and improved data collection and reporting.

By enacting this legislation, Maryland would join other states in taking action to recognize the widespread and often underreported violence that disproportionately affects these women. With more than 80 percent of American Indian and Alaskan Native women experiencing violence, and more than half experiencing sexual violence, intimate partner violence, or psychological aggression in their lifetimes, it is vital to raise awareness and gather information on this issue.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to increasing awareness, House Bill 588 would enhance Maryland’s ability to respond effectively to this crisis. Improved data collection and reporting will help law enforcement, health care providers, and community organizations better understand the scope of violence to better support survivors.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncai.org/section/vawa/overview/key-statistics>