



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2025

**25th Navajo Nation Council stands in solidarity with the historic signing of
Emily's Law at the AZ State Capitol**



Arizona tribal leaders attended a signing ceremony at the Arizona State Capitol for House Bill 2281 also known as Emily's Law.

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, along with other state and tribal leaders, attended the historic signing ceremony of House Bill 2281, also known as Emily's Law, which establishes the Turquoise Alert system for missing Indigenous people in the state of Arizona.

"This is a historic victory for all Arizona tribal nations," said Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, who chairs the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force. "The bill ensures that missing Indigenous people won't go unnoticed or unheard."

Chairwoman Crotty said the Turquoise Alert system will provide services to families, especially for search and rescue, awareness, and sharing accurate information about missing persons. "The Navajo Nation is extremely grateful for Arizona State legislators who voted in favor of this alert system. Their support proves that tribal efforts are being seen and grassroots advocacy is being answered," she said.

Governor Katie Hobbs spoke on important aspects of the bill and stated that the Turquoise Alert system will be implemented within six months. She thanked tribal leaders, advocates, and the bill sponsor for their unanimous support for the bill.

Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis shared that the bill's name, Emily's Law, was voted on by Arizona state legislators to honor the life of Emily Pike, the 14-year-old San Carlos Apache child whose remains were found on February 14.

Her story became global news, moving communities across the world and bringing attention to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People movement. Her story and life are personified in the bill. The state's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force and other tribal leadership worked collaboratively to honor the life of Emily Pike and bring awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous people.

During the signing ceremony, Emily Pike's family were given time to speak and expressed they were honored to have the bill named after their child. They expressed their pain and loss in losing their child and hope that Emily's killer will be brought to justice.

During the ceremony, Chairwoman Crotty elaborated on jurisdictional gaps and challenges and urged the federal government to act on their trust responsibility by providing funding to services for search and rescue, victim support services, and cultural healing services to Indigenous families.

"The MMDR Task Force and the Navajo Nation will never forget the lives of all our missing Indigenous children," said Chairwoman Crotty. "Emily's Law shows the commitment from all tribal nations to addressing this epidemic, and the continued collaborative work with state lawmakers and tribal leaders."

With Emily's Law, the MMDR Task Force will ensure that Diné people are properly reported missing with accurate information being shared. The Task Force is committed to building stronger MMIP initiatives both in tribal lands and state jurisdiction to address this crisis of missing Indigenous people.

###