
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2025

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW Room 8A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Chair Carr:

We write to recommend the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) consider adopting a new Emergency Alert System (EAS) event code specifically for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP).

We applaud the work of the FCC on the recent adoption of the EAS event code for Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP). However, we note that while in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the MEP event code, the FCC cited the devastating crisis of MMIWP, as Native communities “are at a disproportionate risk of experiencing violence, murder, or vanishing”, and “such cases have been historically underreported or misclassified”.¹ Despite this acknowledgement the FCC did not adopt a separate MMIWP EAS event code.

Unfortunately, the MEP alert has become an overarching alert covering all people not already covered by AMBER and Silver Alerts, and simply including American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) in the MEP alert does not appropriately address the disproportionate rates at which AI/AN go missing. A MMIWP-specific event code, if adopted, would utilize already established technical alert systems, such as the successful AMBER and Silver Alerts, with minimal fiscal impact, but the potential for significant impact for AI/AN families and communities to find their loved ones. To truly do its part in addressing the ongoing MMIWP crisis, we urge the FCC to adopt an MMIWP-specific EAS event code in consultation with federally recognized tribes.

We know these specific alert codes can make a real difference. The recent success of a specific EAS alert for missing AI/AN individuals in Washington, California, and Colorado illustrates the necessity and value of a specific MMWIP EAS alert^{2,3}. In Washington, where the Red Alert went into effect in 2022, a Chief of Police noted its effectiveness in the case of a missing youth who was quickly found through more than 15 tips in the first hour following the alert⁴. The naming convention of the current MEP alert system does not reflect a designated code that specifically identifies the AI/AN population, despite the naming convention being an essential part of the success of the state codes.

¹ Federal Communications Commission. (2024). In the Matter of Wireless Emergency Alerts Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System: NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING. Retrieved from: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-24-30A1.pdf>

² Radil, A. (2024). 2 years in, Washington's Alert System for Missing Indigenous People is Working. *Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB)*. Retrieved from: <https://www.opb.org/article/2024/10/19/washington-alert-system-missing-indigenous-people-crime/>

³ Bloom, M. (2023). Colorado's New Alert System is Helping to Locate Missing Indigenous People. *NPR*. <https://www.npr.org/2023/07/03/1185864048/colorados-new-alert-system-is-helping-to-locate-missing-indigenous-people>

⁴ Radil, A. (2024). 2 years in, Washington's Alert System for Missing Indigenous People is Working. *Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB)*. Retrieved from: <https://www.opb.org/article/2024/10/19/washington-alert-system-missing-indigenous-people-crime/>

An MMIWP-specific event code at the national level additionally acknowledges that many AI/AN trafficking victims are transported across state lines and that law enforcement and support services must be coordinated across jurisdictions⁵ including tribes.

This is an opportunity for the FCC to uphold its trust responsibility for public safety for AI/AN and address the crisis of MMIWP. Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

⁵ Logan, M. (2015). Human trafficking among native Americans: How jurisdictional and statutory complexities present barriers to combating modern-day slavery. *Am. Indian L. Rev.*, 40, 293.