



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #FTL-04-058

TITLE: Supporting Federal Legislation to Address State English Only Laws with Respect to Teaching of Native Languages in Public Schools

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of NCAI; and

WHEREAS, Arizona State Ballot Proposition 203 - English Language Education for Children in Public Schools was approved by Arizona voters on November 7, 2000 after being developed by "English for the Children" - an Arizona group claiming to be "grassroots," but funded by Ron Unz, a wealthy California computer entrepreneur; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Language Act of 1990, P.L. 101-477, declares the policy of the United States is to "encourage and support the use of Native American Languages as a medium of instruction" and further states "the right of Native Americans to express themselves through the use of Native American Languages shall not be restricted in any public proceeding, including publicly supported education programs;" and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the NCAI adopted resolution STP-00-010, opposing English-Only Language Education for Native Children in Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona's English only law has adversely affected WRUSD.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support a Federal legislative fix to state English only legislation and calls upon Congress to address this important issue.

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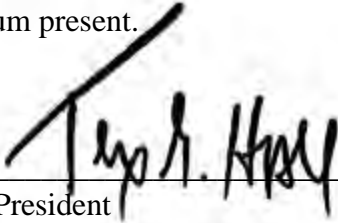
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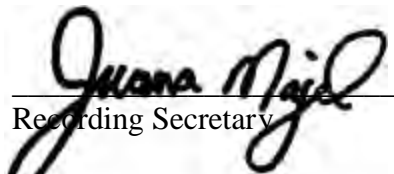
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 61st Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida on October 10-15, 2004 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2004 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held from October 10th to the 15th at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.