



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #FTL-04-101

TITLE: Reintroduction of the American Indian Welfare Reform Act

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, a number of no-cost Tribal provisions are necessary to maintain and enhance Tribal TANF programs including: increasing incentives for state contributions to Tribal TANF programs by providing a 3-to-1 credit for states toward meeting their maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement; authorizing Tribes to use up to 20% of TANF funds for new construction (similar to Tribal Child Care); establishing a national Tribal entity to advise the Administration for Children and Families; re-examining TANF data collection and reporting requirements; de-linking BIA General Assistance eligibility criteria and benefit levels from State General Assistance and TANF programs to affirm Tribal sovereignty over General Assistance programs; requiring State consultation with Tribes prior to implementation of the Indian Country non-employment disregard rate (which should drop from 50% to 20%); requiring federal consultation with tribes on the funding of faith-based initiatives in Indian Country; and treating Alaska Tribes and Native Alaskans equally to other federally-recognized tribes with regard to their eligibility to administer federal programs (like TANF) and program flexibility; and

WHEREAS, demonstration grants for Tribes to administer Food Stamps/Medical programs and authorization for Tribes to receive direct Title IV-E funding to provide foster care and adoption assistance will further improve Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, Tribes should be eligible to receive TANF caseload reduction credits, performance bonuses, and access to the Contingency Fund.

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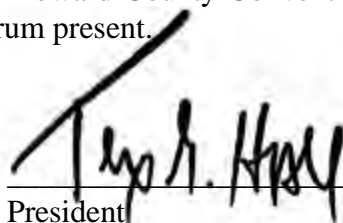
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support reintroduction of the American Indian Welfare Reform Act, the addition of no-cost provisions as stated, and the inclusion of additional funding and provisions for Food Stamp/Medicaid demonstration grants and direct Title IV-E funding to Tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports the tribal prioritizing of economic development, Tribal capacity building, training and technical assistance for Tribal TANF funds; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI strongly supports increasing incentives for State funding of Tribal TANF programs by providing a 3 to 1 credit for states to meet the MOE requirements.

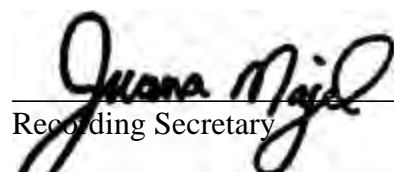
CERTIFICATION

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.