



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PDX-11-026

### **TITLE: Support the Immediate Completion and Distribution of the Department of Education's Report of Consultations with American Indian and Alaska Natives on Education in Tribal and Urban Communities**

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**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**, that the NCAI supports education efforts that increase the opportunity for Indian students, families, tribes, and communities to improve their lives economically, academically, socially, and culturally; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has a federal trust responsibility to educate Native Americans through the provision of funding, programs, and other assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the education of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students is an issue of national importance as well as an issue of paramount importance to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Education (U.S.DOE) has held meetings, consultations, and public hearings across the country over the past three years regarding the state of AI/AN education; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. DOE has held meetings, consultations, and public hearings in urban areas over the last three years regarding the state of AI/AN education for individuals living in these urban centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. DOE has represented to the general public, witnesses in attendance, and the AI/AN population that the comments, suggestions, and recommendations presented as testimony at these meetings, consultations, and public hearings would be summarized and presented in a report that is made available to the general public regarding the state of AI/AN Education; and

**WHEREAS**, information about the state of AI/AN education is vital to be able to acknowledge best and promising practices, to better reach and teach our American AI/AN students, and to understand the areas that need to be improved; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for the immediate completion and release to the general public of a report now overdue by the U.S. DOE on the meetings, consultations, and public hearings which have occurred over the last three years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI respectfully urges the U.S. DOE to immediately complete and release a report to the general public on the meetings, consultations, and public hearings which have occurred between the U.S. DOE and AI/AN on the state of AI/AN education across the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2011 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon on October 30 – November 4, 2011, with a quorum present.

  
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President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Recording Secretary