



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PSP-09-064

TITLE: Request Timely Notice of Head Start Consultation and an Appropriate Response to Questions and Issues Raised

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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, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of Head Start (OHS) recently conducted a round of consultations with tribes and tribal programs in various locations around the country, consistent with the U.S. government's unique trust obligation to Indian Tribes and the requirements of the Head Start Act; and

WHEREAS, this consultation process is of great importance to tribes and tribal programs, but due to short notice, participation in these consultations varied substantially from session to session; and

WHEREAS, the value of the sessions depends in no small part on the reports prepared by DHHS and OHS from prior consultations; and

WHEREAS, last year's reports principally summarized prior consultations and did not provide adequate responses from DHHS and OHS to the key questions and issues raised by consultation participants.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby urge that DHHS and OHS follow the minimum notice timeline for future Regional consultation to provide adequate time for tribal leaders and tribal programs to make necessary arrangements and to be prepared; and

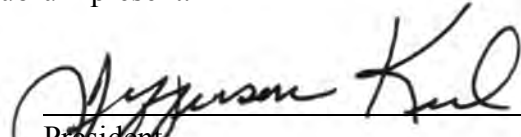
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby urge DHHS and OHS to provide comprehensive responses in their written reports to issues raised by consultation participants, whether or not the comments are accepted or rejected, and make readily available the comments made at these sessions to tribal participants; and

BE IT FINALLY 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 2009 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs, California on October 11-16, 2009, with a quorum present.

ATTEST:



President



Recording Secretary