



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-03-056

Title: Request for Tribal Amendments on TANF Reauthorization

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 Senate Finance Committee approved its version of TANF reauthorization legislation on September 10, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Finance includes some improvements for the Tribal TANF programs over current law including \$100 million per year for capacity building, economic development, technical assistance and research; and

WHEREAS, a number of no cost Tribal provisions is necessary to maintain and enhance Tribal TANF programs including: increase incentives for state funding of Tribal TANF programs by providing a 3 to 1 credit for states to meet their MOE requirement, authorization for Tribes to use of to 20% of TANF funds for new construction (similar to Tribal Child Care), establish a national Tribal entity to advise the Administration for Children and Families, re-examine the data collection and reporting requirements, amend the Child Support Enforcement regulations in reference to the waiver of matching funds, de-link BIA General Assistance from State Assistance and TANF to affirm Tribal sovereignty over general assistance programs, require consultation with Tribes prior to implementation of any faith-based program on or near reservation communities, education of the Indian Country non-employment disregard rate from 50% to 20%, and equal treatment of Alaska Tribes and Native Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, demonstration grants for Tribes to administer Food Stamp/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 allow Tribes to receive caseload reduction and performance bonuses.

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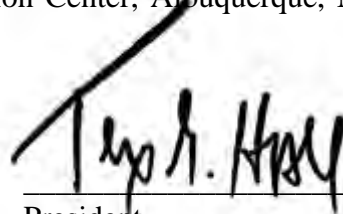
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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby strongly support the Indian provisions in the Senate Finance bill, request Senate floor amendments for the no-cost provisions as stated and include additional provisions for Food Stamps/Medicaid demonstration grants and direct Title IV-E funding to Tribes; and

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

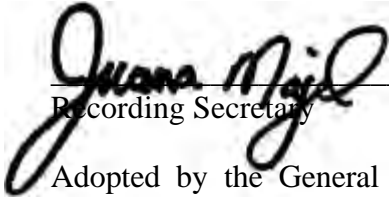
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.