



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #REN-08-012

TITLE: Support for S. 1956 and H.R. 4688 - Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Access Act of 2007

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Jacqueline Johnson
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

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, in 1981 Congress enacted the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Act, which provides entitlement funding for foster care and adoption assistance services for income eligible children placed by states; and

WHEREAS, Title IV-E only provides this funding to states and tribes that have agreements with states, providing no opportunity for tribes to apply for and directly administer this program without an agreement with a state; and

WHEREAS, only 70 tribes nationwide have been able to develop these Title IV-E agreements, with some agreements only allowing partial access to these federal entitlement funds and being problematic for states and tribes in other ways; and

WHEREAS, S. 1956 and H.R. 4688 amend Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide tribal governments the option to apply directly to the federal government for these funds, as well as continue agreements if the tribe chooses so; and

WHEREAS, S. 1956 and H.R. 4688 also allows tribes to designate their own service population, use their own foster care standards, apply as part of a tribal consortium and use a variety of funding sources to help meet match requirements of IV-E; and

WHEREAS, NCAI has previously supported through resolution direct funding from Title IV-E for tribal governments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the passage of S. 1956 and H.R. 4688, the “Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Access Act of 2007” in the 110th Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

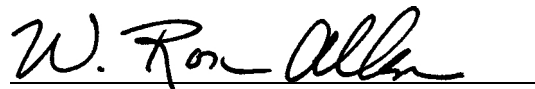
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2008 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at John Ascuaga’s Nugget Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada on June 1-4, 2008, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary