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THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-053

Title: In Support of President George W. Bush Reaffirming, Continuing, and Fully Implementing Executive Order No. 13096, American Indian and Alaska Native Education

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 and their way of life, 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 1994, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) began a collaborative national effort among Indian educators and tribal leaders to improve federal Indian education policy among the many federal agencies that administer or oversee schools and education programs for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students; and

WHEREAS, the culmination of this effort was the issuance in August 1998 of Executive Order No. 13096, entitled American Indian and Alaska Native Education, which made the improvement of Native Education the highest national priority; and

WHEREAS, in August 2001, NIEA and the National Congress of American Indians wrote Secretary Paige in the US Department of Education and Secretary Norton in the US Department of the Interior, and asked about the status of Executive Order No. 13096 under this Administration of George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, NIEA and NCAI have received an unsatisfactory response to their request about the status of Executive Order No. 13096; and

WHEREAS, NIEA has passed a resolution at the NIEA Board of Directors at the November 2-6, 2002 meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that requests that the Administration reaffirms, continues, and fully implements in consultation with Indian educators and tribal leaders Executive Order No. 13096.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby ask Secretary Paige, Secretary Norton, and President George W. Bush to reaffirm, continue, and fully implement Executive Order No. 13096; 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 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002 with a quorum present.



Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002.