



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #DEN-07-058

TITLE: Equity Assistance Center Support for Tribes

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, there are over 562 American Indian tribes that are federally recognized or are in the process of seeking federal recognition, and each of these tribes have inherited sovereignty over the education of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a clear and unambiguous obligation to provide for the education of tribal citizens based on the government-to-government relationships between the United States and tribes, protection of tribal aboriginal rights, treaty educational provisions, and subsequent federal Indian education legislation; and

WHEREAS, most tribes have received few if any services from the Equity Assistance Centers based on their status as tribes; and

WHEREAS, neither the federal Bureau of Indian Education nor the Office of Indian Education are Equity Assistance Centers, and are not officially charged with providing the types of services assigned to Equity Assistance Centers (formerly Desegregation Centers) under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request the United States Congress to direct the Equity Assistance Centers to provide services to all tribes, tribal education agencies, and tribal schools and school districts, at the same level they currently provide services to state schools, school districts, and other state or federal education agencies, and that the language of the authorizing legislation and the appropriations bills be modified to include tribes and funding to support additional services to tribes; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

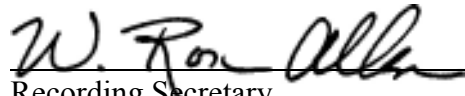
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2007 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado on November 11-16, 2007, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary