



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #DEN-07-089

TITLE: Support to Strengthen Native Education Provisions in the Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind

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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, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law is currently being reviewed by the United States Congress in anticipation of this key comprehensive legislation that affects all K-12 education, including Indian Education and related programs; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and membership is actively reviewing the NCLB and is making specific recommendations to strengthen the legislation to ensure Native students, staff, parents, communities and tribes receive equitable and equal consideration throughout the legislation; and

WHEREAS, specific provisions being addressed by the NIEA includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Improving and expanding Title VII – Indian Education, to address the unique cultural and educational needs of Indian students;
2. Improving cooperation among Tribes, States and the Federal Government;
3. Strengthen NCLB to provide support for instruction in Native American Languages;
4. Improving support for teachers of Native students in Title II and Title VII;
5. Improving opportunities for parents, families and Tribes and other Native communities to participate in the education of Native children;
6. Improving the measurement system for Adequate Yearly Progress;

7. Requiring the collection of data and research on the education of Native children;
8. Increasing Funding for NCLB, especially Title VII – Indian Education; and

WHEREAS, there is a also a need to address the unique issues and role of Native students, parents, communities and tribes under the NCLB provisions for Homeless Education, Migrant Education and Alcohol/Drug Prevention and Education; and

WHEREAS, these key legislative provisions promotes the sovereignty of tribes and will continue to strengthen the educational, social, health and economic well-being of our diverse Native communities and tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby advocate and promote the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians through NCAI legislative priorities to strengthen Native education under the No Child Left Behind legislation; and

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

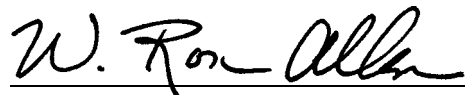
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was referred by the General Assembly at the 2007 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians to the Executive Committee, and adopted on December 5, 2007 by the Executive Committee, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary