



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #FTL-04-029

**TITLE: Supporting Amendments to the No Child Left Behind Act in Regard to
Credentialing Individuals that can Teach Native Languages**

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, Native Language and culture experts and elders are needed in the schools for the preservation, and revitalization of endangered indigenous languages; and

WHEREAS, Native Language and culture experts and elders are needed in the schools for the preservation, and revitalization of endangered indigenous languages; and

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act requires two years of college to be considered a qualified paraprofessional/teacher aide (Title I Sec. 1119 page 1505) and it is not a credential generally attained by many of the elders who are working to teach and maintain American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages; and

WHEREAS, states have enacted legislation that allows for tribally recognized elders and scholars to serve as paraprofessionals and fully certificated teachers in classrooms which has proven to be effective in promoting improved academic performance and social well being among American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children; and

WHEREAS, NCAI member Tribes would like similar amendments made to the No Child Left Behind Act.

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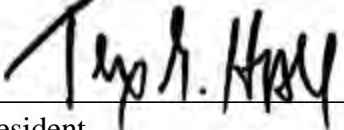
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson
Tlingit

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request that the No Child Left Behind Act be amended to exempt tribally recognized American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian tribal elders and scholars, including traditional language and culture experts from tribes and communities that have provided some form of tribal certification or evidence of a person's language and cultural competence including but not limited to oral histories, legends, and traditional knowledge from the two year higher education requirement for paraprofessionals who assist with the teaching of native languages and culture.

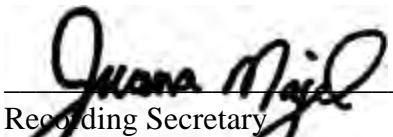
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 61st Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida on October 10-15, 2004 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2004 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held from October 10th to the 15th at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.