



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-088

### **TITLE: Urge Congress and US Federal Agencies to Support Native Parents of Children with a Disability through Tribally-Driven Organizations and Service Providers**

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#### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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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**, at 28%, American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have the highest ratio of disability than any other race and have a tremendous need to access culturally-appropriate services; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAI has a longstanding policy to support the unique needs of AI/ANs living with a disability, and that Native parents of children with a disability need this support as they work with public/tribal/government school systems to provide educational opportunities that are essential in order for their children to become independent and self-sufficient; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAI recognizes that for too long services have been provided to AI/ANs by non-Indian organizations that lack the cultural understanding to effectively work with Native peoples, and the NCAI also has a longstanding policy to support the need for full exercise of tribal self-determination and self-governance in caring for the needs of our own people collectively through the services of tribally-driven organizations and service providers; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAI recognizes that by supporting programs serving AI/ANs to be administered and operated by tribally-driven organizations it alleviates the unfortunate, but inevitable, culture clashes that often arise when differing value systems and management methods collide.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI urges Congress and federal agencies that authorize and award grants meant to serve tribal communities and AI/AN parents of children with a disability to take action in respect for the principles of self-determination and self-governance by ensuring that these grant recipients are tribally-driven organizations and/or service providers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI urges Congress and federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to ensure that programs serving AI/AN parents of children with a disability are administered and operated by tribally-driven organizations that provide services in a culturally-appropriate manner, so as to improve the opportunities and resources for those living with disabilities, and that they may freely strive to realize their full potential; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI urges federal agencies to exercise their fiduciary responsibility and seek to recruit and retain qualified AI/AN candidates to direct and carry out the day to day delivery of services to AI/AN parents of children with disabilities within the auspices of a tribally-driven organization; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI urges tribal nations to support tribally-driven programs and organizations that seek to serve AI/AN parents of children with a disability; and

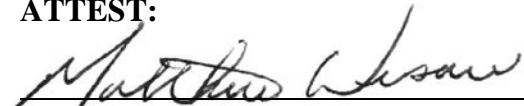
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.

  
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President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Recording Secretary